

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Dear Registered Professional Surveyors,

It gives me great honor to serve the Surveyors Registration Board (SRB) as the Chairperson for the year 2011 and it is my pleasure in presenting this Annual Report for your perusal.

We held five meetings of the main Board and numerous meetings of the Administration Committee, Registration Committee and Promotional Group. With the support from all Board members and co-opt members, the Board therefore could carry on discharging its functions according to the Surveyors Registration Ordinance (SRO) and following the proven procedures established by previous Boards.



Registration

The primary objective of the Ordinance is to assure the public that those who claim to be professionally qualified surveyors have received appropriate training and are competent to practice in Hong Kong. The Board is charged with the duties of upholding the qualification standards for registration of members as Registered Professional Surveyors (RPS).

Registration Committee is designated to process applications and make recommendations to the Board on the acceptability of each applicant as per the requirement stipulated in the SRO. Members of the Committee this year included myself, Dr. T C Cheung, Dr. Lawrence Poon, Mr. Henry Chan, Mr. Francis Lau, Dr. K W Lam and Mr. Antony Man and co-opt members Mr. Alex Ng and Mr. Evenlyn Kwok.

In year 2011, the number of RPS recorded a steady growth of 4.45% to 2,601 while 175 professional surveyors were newly registered, an 1.16% increase as comparing with 2010.

Administration

Administration Committee, convened by Mr. Simon Kwok with Messrs Robin Leung, Joseph Ho, Kenny Chan and Sam Cheng as members helped to put the administration matters of the Board into order, including but not limited to the renewal of Insurance on SRB's Directors and Officers, renewal of Management Agreement with Surveyors Services Ltd and renewal of the retainer agreement with the Legal Advisor. Administration Committee also submitted the proposed procurement guidelines for Board members' consideration this year.

Promotion

Promotional Group continued to seek full recognition of surveyor registration from government department and statutory bodies. During the year, convened by Mr. Stephen Lai and supported by Messrs Kenneth Yun, Thomas Tang, Eric Tang, K S Wong and Donald Reader, Promotional Group had set its schedule to review and upgrade the web site, sent promotional letters to quasi government organizations and placed advertisement in the HKIS Surveyors Times August issue.

Regarding the registration requirements for Registered Inspectors under the Mandatory Building Inspection Scheme, Promotional Group contacted Buildings Department to introduce the competence of RPS in divisions other than BS and QS.

On 29th August 2011, the Building and Construction Authority of Singapore visited the SRB.

I and Vice Chairman, Mr. Stephen Lai met with Mr. William Tan Yong Keh, Director (Business Development Division) and his team and introduced the establishment and operation of the SRB.

Disciplinary Proceedings

SRO provides disciplinary control of professional activities of RPS in order to maintain professional standard and to provide a measure of consumer protection. Within the year, there was neither complaint made nor disciplinary action taken against any RPS.

Nowadays, public is more conscious on the conduct and professional practices of all professions. RPS should make every endeavor to comply with a high level of professionalism including their ethical development.

Due to a published Judicial Review application between HKIS and its members, certain enquiries from media had been received. Public and media are referred to the SRO for the established complaint handling as well as disciplinary procedures.

Legal Support Fund from the Government

As a follow up of the proposal of setting up a legal support fund from the Government for registration boards to cater for potential appeals in court to decisions or rejection of applications and disciplinary actions made by the registration boards, I and Registrar together with representatives from other registration boards had attended a meeting chaired by Permanent Secretary for Development (Works) to discuss the issue on 1st April 2011. After the meeting, registration boards agreed to consider and submit further information to facilitate the discussion.

Recommendation to Buildings Department

Based on the request from Buildings Department, the Board submitted a list of RPS for the Department's consideration to include in its Inspectors Registration Committee Panel and Inspectors Registration Committee under the Buildings Ordinance.

Financial Account

Monitored by our Honorary Treasurer Mr. Simon Kwok, the Board has a healthy balance at the close of the calendar year. The account of the Board for this term has been audited by our Honorary Auditor and presented under separated cover. Thank you again for Mr. So Wai Chiu to act as our Hon. Auditor.

Closing Remarks

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to all the Board members and co-opt members for their endeavor and valuable time in handling the issues of the Board during the year. My special thanks also go to Mr. David Tong, representative from Development Bureau for his advice and observations to the Board and Ms. Kiny Hung, our Registrar for working against resource and time constraints all the time.

Serena Lau

Chairperson, Surveyors Registration Board 2010/11