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Why Register as an RPS(LS)?

Many LSD members may ask why they need to register as Registered Professional Surveyors (Land Surveying), or RPS(LS). In order to answer this question, one must first understand the role of an RPS. Technically speaking, an RPS is a professional surveyor registered under the Surveyors Registration Ordinance (Cap 417) enacted in 1991, which allows only registered professional surveyors to advertise themselves as RPS.

In addition to being eligible for HKIS professional membership, a surveyor who applies for an RPS designation must fulfill the following criteria:

1. Possess a high level of professional competence as a member of one or more recognised institutions;
2. adhere to a high standard of professional integrity;
3. have sufficient and relevant local experience;
4. reside in Hong Kong ordinarily; and
5. be regulated by the Surveyors Registration Board (SRB), whose objectives include safeguarding the interests of the general public.

Moreover, an RPS must ensure that the first four criteria above remain valid every year in order to renew his/her annual RPS registration. Only then can an RPS title holder give the general public and prospective employers assurance of his/her technical and ethical competence.

From a practical point of view, an RPS(LS) qualification is mandatory for land surveyors employed under certain contracts for construction work.

- Some major capital works projects require the land and engineering surveyors they hire to hold this qualification.

- A surveyor who submits a land boundary plan for record purposes to the Lands Department's Survey and Mapping Office must hold this qualification.
- It is the desired qualification for employment at the management level in land surveying, project management, property development and valuation, building surveying, quantity surveying, construction, property and facility management, and building maintenance.

For those qualified LSD members who have not registered as RPS(LS), please consider registering and equipping yourselves with a legally recognised qualification for your future careers.

Members Corner Needs Contributions from You!

Editorial Board invites articles for the Members Corner, a regular column in *Surveyors Times* for members to share their views on current topics and future trends, implications of new technologies and recent court decisions, the sharing of lessons learnt in members' professional practices, the highlights of new practice notes, the introduction of practical apps and ideas gained during members' recent gatherings with fellow professionals, good-natured and industry-related humour, etc.

An article need not be restricted to the professional practice of a surveyor, but neither is it intended to express a member's views on everything. It should connect or have implications for fellow members, be they serious thoughts on the constitution or future of the profession or simply as a gadget or trick that can benefit the day-to-day practices of surveyors. Articles should not be political or directly related to one's personal benefit for fear of litigation from individuals or organisations. The sensitivity and security of information presented also need to be borne in mind.

House rules:

- Articles should not be academic.
- Articles from the same author(s) will not be published consecutively for more than two issues within a six-month period.
- The final decision on publication or otherwise rests with the *Surveyors Times* Editorial Board.
- Word limit: 1,300 words
- Format: Word file via email to steditor@hkis.org.hk
- Credential: Author's name, designation (FHKIS/MHKIS, not any other*), division affiliation(s)

*For HKIS corporate members' submission only