

## **Mutual Recognition of Professional Qualification with Supervision Engineers in Mainland**

Progress was held up by some national activities in the past few months. The ETWB of HKSARG has arranged a meeting with the Ministry of Construction in Beijing on 9 Nov. Raymond Chan and Alex Wong represented BSD. We are now drafting the basis and criteria of mutual recognition for further negotiation. It is targeted to sign the mutual recognition agreement in Jan or Feb 2006. Meanwhile, representatives from the China Association of Engineering Consultants (中國建築學會) have spent a day in HK on 10 Nov to study how we run the APC Practical Task. They admired the amount of assessors being mobilized and assessment arrangements.

## **Conversion of two Assistant Director posts in the Buildings Department from BS discipline to bi-discipline posts**

BSD Council is supportive to the Buildings Department Local Building Surveyors' Association in objecting to the proposed conversion because it is against public interests. Our President, the General Council and HKIA share similar concern. Members who wish to know more about the issue may visit <http://www.legco.gov.hk/english/index.htm> (under Committees > Panels > Planning, Lands and Works > Meetings > 25 Oct 2005) and refer to the papers submitted by the Buildings Department and staff associations of the two disciplines.

## **General Practice Division Chairman's Message**



Mr. Kam Hung  
GPD General Chairman

**T**his Council has been serving the General Practice Division for almost two years since our Annual General Meeting election on 21 Nov 2003. In the past two years, with your support, we have enjoyed our work. We truly believe that our concerted efforts have realized a number of goals that we set at the beginning. We hope that we have paved the way for the success of subsequent GPD Councils by laying a foundation with an established structure and operational traditions.

We have emphasized "Concerns, Communications and Commitments". In our Council, we have Council members, co-opted members from different types of organizations and Panel members in 16 different strategic panels. Altogether, we have more than 80 active members who have been continuously participating in various areas. We are pleased to share with you some of our achievements.

The Assessment of Professional Competence (APC) continues to be the qualification regime for probationers. Similar to previous years, a workshop session has been organized to assist probationers in achieving the best results and to enhance the transparency of the assessment. Coping with the development of Business Valuation, we have introduced the same in the APC starting from 2005.

Following the publication of the Business Valuation Standard in August 2004, we have continued to work with

other professional institutes in promoting and improving the Standard. A Memorandum of Understanding among the HKIS, the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors and the Hong Kong Society of Financial Analysts was signed in September 2005 to record the mutual understanding and agreement among the member institutes on the formation of the Hong Kong Business Valuation Forum. It is a recognition of our effort, and has gained support from the Securities and Futures Commission, The HK Stock Exchange, professional and government organisations.

Regarding the valuation standards, the new HKIS Valuation Standards on Properties and the Guidance Notes on Valuation of Properties for Mortgage Purpose (Second Edition) were in effect from January 2005 and July 2005 respectively. We expect these new tailor-made standards will meet the latest requirements in respect of listing rules, accounting principles and investment analysis, and for us to keep pace with rapid changes in the new era.

In response to the concern of the Hong Kong Stock Exchange and Securities and Futures Commission, we have introduced a list on "the Valuers for undertaking Valuations for Incorporation or Reference in Listing Particulars and Circulars, and Valuations in connection with Takeovers and Mergers", which shows the valuers suitably qualified for undertaking valuations relating to listing exercises. We expect the listing procedure can reinforce the regulations

in respect of valuations published in IPO prospectuses, and strengthen the confidence of the public.

Regular communication has been kept with various Government Departments and quasi-governmental organisations such as the Urban Renewal Authority, Lands Department, Housing Department and Rating and Valuation Department. As a gesture of our Institute's commitment to the community, we have been actively expressing our opinions on various government policies and ordinances from the viewpoint of general practice surveyors in the past year. The publication of our position paper on the Land (Compulsory Sale for Redevelopment) Ordinance in August 2005 is one example.

We have made continuous efforts in promoting our profession to both the public and private sectors. Luncheon meetings with private developers, government departments and companies of other professions have been organized, and our profession has been introduced to some famous names including Lands, Planning, R&V, KCRC, MTRC, URA, HKICPA, Cheung Kong, SHK, Henderson, Hang Lung, Wharf, Heng Sang Bank, Deloitte, PriceWaterHouse, KPMG, Baker & McKenzie and Linklaters, etc.

On mainland affairs, communication with the China Institute of Real Estate Appraisers (CIREA), the China Real Estate Valuer Association (CREVA) and the China Appraisal Society (CAS) has been maintained. In October 2005, a conference jointly organized by the CIREA, the International Federation of Surveyors Commission 9: Valuation and Management of Real Estate (FIG Commission 9) and our Institute was held in Xian with success. Visits from mainland institutes and exchange activities with government authorities and private real estate developers in the mainland have also been arranged. We expect these bilateral connections will become more frequent in the coming years.

In respect of international affairs, we have visited the Japan Association of Real Estate Appraisal in March. We have also participated in the Conference on International Valuation Standards held in Rio de Janeiro by the International Valuation Standards Committee.

Membership matters are always our concern. We are grateful to share that we have 57 newly-qualified GP Surveyors in 2005. To advance our professional development, we have arranged 12 CPD events on different topics. With the formation of the Property and Facility Management division, relevant members of GP division have been encouraged to join this newly-formed

division in support of the long-term development of the Institute. The response was satisfactory.

Last but not least, this year, the yearly ceremony of Best Marketing Award is scheduled for 6 Dec. We have introduced this yearly campaign to recognize the outstanding performers in marketing new real estate developments, and it has attracted huge popularity from the press and the general public. The participants in the Awards were all of high quality, private developers are becoming more and more customer-oriented in designing and marketing their property developments nowadays.

Before saying goodbye, in my position as the Council Chairman, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our Council members, co-opted members and Panel members for their enthusiasm and valuable contribution to the future of our Industry. In particular, special thanks are sincerely sent to six of them for their outstanding performance which has been consistent throughout the two years term.

Simon Wang

- Further innovation in Assessment of Professional Competence

Sapphire Lo

- Our Hon Secretary

Ronald Cheung

- the great success on the yearly "Property Marketing Award"

CK Lau

- Supported GPD in serving its inherent functions of making continuous contributions to the Government Practices and Local Affairs

Lawrence Pang

- First Draft of our Property Valuation Standards

Joseph Ho

- First Draft of our Business Valuation Standards

The AGM had been scheduled for 21 November 2005 when a new Council for the next two years would be elected. We look forward to the full support of all GPD members.