



Property & Facility Management Division Chairman's Message



Sr Dick Kwok PFMD Council Chairman

From 20th to 22nd October, I joined the “2013 Mainland and Hong Kong Construction Industry Forum” in Ningbo with the President, OBs, and other divisional representatives of the HKIS. This annual event is organised by the Development Bureau and participants hailed from 11 various construction-related professional institutions like the HKIS, HKIA, HKIE, HKIP, HKILA, CIC, etc. The main theme this year was “發展高質創新建造，推動企業「走出去」”。 Speakers, including Hong Kong and Mainland construction professionals and entrepreneurs, presented and exchanged their views and visions on how to collaborate and embrace these emerging business opportunities in the near future. Of course, opportunity always comes with difficulty, and one of the major issues is how to get the different corporate cultures, legal issues, shared structures, etc., to mesh. Nevertheless, there was a broad consensus from both sides on the need to make every effort to consolidate our mutual cooperation.

On 26th October, I joined the airport visit cum talk organised by the Hong Kong Coalition of Professional Services. It was a fruitful visit, as we received a very detailed and informative presentation on the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) studies for the Airport Authority's (AA) three-runway system. The AA also shared many environmental initiatives with us and the efforts made in respect of energy savings, air quality, noise control, pollution, ecology preservation, etc. Our visit to the Integrated Airport Centre was an eye-opener. Our host explained how it functioned and, notably, how it reopened after a typhoon hit. We should all be proud of such a world class airport in Hong Kong. The AA also introduced its RFID luggage-tracking system. This is a highly efficient system and only two airports in the world use it. The major benefit of RFID is that it reduces the time required to track a missing piece of luggage and is also capable of identifying and locating a specific piece of luggage anywhere inside the cargo hold of an aircraft or warehouse in real time. One very important bit of advice for travelers who check their luggage and are late to the boarding gate is that their checked luggage will be easily identified and unloaded immediately upon the expiry of the “buffer time” using the RFID system.

As previously reported, the Home Affairs Department (HAD) invited the HKIS's BSD and PFMD to discuss the Proposed Pilot Scheme on the Provision of Professional Advice to Owner's Corporations on the Appointment of APs for Building

Maintenance Works. Recently, we held another meeting to discuss in detail the way forward on this matter. It was confirmed that besides the HKIS, the HKIE and HKIA will also participate in the programme. The proposed scheme will not merely provide a one-off meeting, but will also include a limited number of follow-up meetings to enhance the service rendered. It is the first time that three professional institutions will join hands to help owner's corporations handle their building maintenance works. Although there is still much work to accomplish, especially in arriving at a consensus on a standard of service and guidelines for all advisers, the HAD expects to launch the programme in 2014.

Members are reminded that the PFMD's Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be held on 19th November 2013. Please mark this on your diaries. At the coming AGM, we need to elect new Council Members of the PFMD for 2014. Please attend and cast your vote. 

