



Land Surveying Division

Sr Dr Conrad Tang LSD Council Chairman

Meeting with Probationers

Chairman Sr Edmond Yu and Vice Chairman Sr Kenneth So of the Land Surveying Divisional Education Council gave a detailed talk and answered many difficult enquiries from 20-plus probationers during a meeting on the afternoon on 6 August at PolyU. Their important message was that the LSD (but not many other divisions) allows its probationers to continue their APC procedures beyond eight years. Such probationers would have to complete a probationer's form to declare the continuation of their training, while they are urged to step up their work. Extensions are granted or denied by the LSD Council on an annual basis.

There are cases of difficulty in the recognition of a probationer's professional training experience, especially one who is later employed in a non-professional capacity in the public sector. A probationer has to be approved not only by his/her supervisor and counselor, but also by his/her employee. A couple of cases stated that probationers intended to seek supervision from land surveyors in the public sector and queried if government departments could allow their employees to supervise candidates who were not in their departments. Should a government employee wish to perform outside work (as a supervisor), even if unpaid, s/he would have to be approved by his/her department. The LSD



appreciates the extra efforts from colleagues who serve in the public sector and still commit to help their industry train up new professionals.

Replace Reciprocal Agreement by Unilateral Membership Route

It was reported here in March that the Mutual Recognition Agreement has been vehemently debated within the LSD. The fact that the agreement with ICES expired last August and the RICS agreement ended in 2014 should not stop the LSD Councils from continuing to detach from this connection.

On 6 May, a working group (WG) was formed with nine LSD Councils, together with the convener of the WG, Sr Edmond Yu, and the notetaker, Sr Maris Lo. Following that, three meetings were convened on 13 May, 20 June, and 21 July. The WG arrived with five recommendations for the LSD:

1. The terms, 'reciprocal' or 'recognition', were widely misused by the surveying and construction industry as equivalent qualifications to HKIS certification. This misuse has damaged our professional members' reputation. Thus, those two terms should be avoided in future membership intake drives.
2. The WG found few, if any, HKIS LS members who sought RICS or ICES membership. There is no actual need for a reciprocal agreement.
3. The WG recommends a unilateral membership route (UMR) for RICS members who fulfill the following conditions:
 - a. Possession of an RICS-accredited degree.
 - b. Completion of a 24-month postgraduate structured RICS training programme.

- c. Completion of a 12-month relevant local post-qualification experience programme. This experience has to be endorsed by an HKIS LS corporate member before it begins (from the date of application) and after it ends.
 - d. Completion of 20 CPD hours.
 - e. A pass on a professional interview organised by the LSD.
4. The WG considered that the ICES graduate route did not meet HKIS standards. The WG did not accept that an endorsement from one's employer could replace the three-year professional training programme. Thus, the UMR route is not considered for the time being.
5. The WG did not discuss matters related to associate membership.

During the August LSD Council meeting, the WG recommendations were endorsed. To carry out this new membership route, these recommendations will be tabled in the coming General Council meeting by the LSD delegates. As duly pointed out by a WG member, Sr Ricky Lai, the HKIS By-law has only stated two membership entrance routes: by APC or by the Mutual Recognition Agreement. Will our UMR be counted as a route under the Mutual Recognition Agreement? We look forward to a favourable decision by the General Council.

LSD Surveying Conferences in November

There are two upcoming conferences that land surveyors should consider. The Guang Dong Survey Bureau will host the Guang Dong-Hong Kong-Macau Surveyors Meeting in Mei-chau (梅州) from 1-4 November. The first and last days will be used for travel to and from the venue. The second day is for the conference and the third day for a technical visit. The conference fee will be nominal. Members who have time in

early November should take advantage of this opportunity to meet with old friends and make new ones. Please e-mail me at lstang@hkis.org.hk if you are interested.

The 8th Cross-Strait Geomatics Conference (<http://www.2016cgc.com>) will be held in Xiamen, Fujian, from 23-25 November. Members who seek opportunities in the One-Belt-One-Road initiative and want to learn new technological developments in our industry should mark the dates.

Planning for the 2016-2017 LSD Council

Serving as a council member is a form of volunteer work that contributes plenty of leisure time. Council members often seek satisfaction in their contributions to the profession. Not only have senior council members told me that they wanted more peaceful hours, our younger members also hoped for a few more nights off to spend with their families.

I have decided to run for the office in the coming year. Thus, I urge my fellow professional members to come forward and contribute to the work of the LSD Council.

Not intending to overload the individual councils, after having observed the LSD's work for years, I want to see four distinct task groups in the next LSD Council. They should comprise four members of the land boundary service to promote the Land Survey Ordinance; four members of the BIM, Smart City group to promote SDI; four members from membership benefits to handle the entrance route, China connection, and international organisations; and four members to organise CPDs, conferences, the Annual Dinner, and the webpage. If you are willing to devote some of your precious free time to serve your profession, please e-mail me.