



Planning & Development Division  
Sr Prof James Pong PDD Council Chairman

## Re-accreditation of the Bachelor of Arts in Urban Studies (BAUS) Programme

Once every five years, the HKIS assesses the relevant programmes at Hong Kong's various universities before renewing their accreditation. I am honoured this year to be appointed the panel chairman to assess the BAUS course administered by the University of Hong Kong. On 27 April, I led the assessment panel, which included the PDD's past chairmen, Sr Edwin Tsang and Sr Francis Lam, as well as its Hon Secretary, Sr Victor Ng, to meet Prof Rebecca Chiu, Prof Anthony Yeh, Prof Tang Po Sin, and Prof Roger Chan of HKU, together with other BAUS teaching staff, to review their programme. During our discussion, we gained a better understanding of the instructors' beliefs and the directions in which they wanted to take their courses (i.e., the courses aimed to exclusively produce PDD surveyors, not planners). The BAUS programme has not been accredited by the Hong Kong Institute of Planners (HKIP). Furthermore, we were told that BAUS graduates do not have an edge in obtaining places in HKU's Master of Science in Urban Planning programme, which is HKIP-accredited. On the day of our visit, we had the opportunity to meet with BAUS students and see their studio work. They were of a very high quality and, at the students' request, the PDD council will endeavour to find summer internships for them. At the moment, there are already three offers and I am confident that there will be more to come in the near future.



## Re-accreditation of the Courses Administered by the Department of Real Estate & Construction at the University of Hong Kong

I was also honoured to be a member of the panel led by Sr Raymond Kong to assess the Bachelor of Science in Surveying, Master of Science in Project Management, and Master of Science in Real Estate courses at HKU. On 18 April, we visited its Department of Real Estate & Construction and met with Sr Prof Chau Kwong Wing and his faculty members. We also had the opportunity to meet some of their third year undergraduates, who were scheduled to graduate in May 2018. They were top scorers in their DSEs in secondary school. During the meeting with the students, they expressed doubts over the benefits gained by memorising all the case names before sitting for the examinations on the law of contract and land law. I concurred with their views and recommended to Sr Prof Chau that the Department should have open book examinations for all law-related courses in the future.



## Visit to an Aluminum Window Factory (a PDD CPD)

On 6 May, I led a team of 30-odd HKIS members and some friends from the window industry to visit an aluminum factory near Daya Bay in China. It was a very large factory and gave attendees a firsthand experience of how aluminum ingots were melted in a 650°C furnace and then molded into expanded aluminum strips for fabrication into window frames. We also witnessed how a double-glazed window was produced and how tempered glazing went through a heat-soaked test in an electrically-heated chamber. The visit was very successful and was well-received by participants. I take this opportunity to thank all participants and the organisers of this wonderful event, who include Sr Victor Ng, the Hon Secretary of PDD, and helpers Miss Kaga Chan and Miss Eugene Deng.



## CPD Event

On 17 May, we invited Sr Dr Lesly Lam to conduct a CPD on the “Positioning of Developers with Various Backgrounds in the Changing Competitive Landscape of the Hong Kong Real Estate Market”. Sr Dr Lam is the Vice-President of the HKIS, as well as a Vice General Manager of Logan Property Holdings Company, Ltd.

During the event, Sr Dr Lam shared his experiences with the positioning of developers in recent competitive environments. Some senior managers representing local developers/consultancy firms also came to hear him speak. In all, over 100 members participated in the event, which received some healthy feedback during the Q&A session.

A sincere thanks goes to Sr Dr Lesly Lam for sharing his expertise with us.



## Upcoming CPDs

The following are PDD CPD events scheduled for June-July 2017. We look forward to seeing you then.

### 10 June 2017 (Sat), 10 am–12:30 pm

CPD Talk by Mr Rickson Chow

Drone Applications and Development Relations between Industries (Series 1) – Second Class  
(A Joint PDD-YSG CPD)

### 24 July 2017 (Mon), 7–8:30 pm

CPD Talk by Mr Paul Pong

Topic: The Effects of the Interest Rate Hike Cycle on the Property Market of Hong Kong