



## Land Surveying Division

Sr Dr Conrad Tang LSD Council Chairman

# Memorandum of the Mutual Recognition of Membership (MMRM)

The Land Surveying Division Council, along with the Geomatics Professional Group of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS), endorsed the MMRM in September. The LSD forwarded a questionnaire by e-mail to all LSD corporate members on this issue in August, while the HKIS Information Technology group polled members by e-mail within the first two days of the survey. The questionnaire stayed open for two weeks and eventually 12 fellows and 37 corporates cast their votes: 28 for, 17 against, and four neutral on the proposed MMRM – a 90% response rate. A few left comments to show their concerns over the MMRM, which I feel obligated to address.

RICS Geomatics members who have practiced over a year in Hong Kong could apply for HKIS corporate membership, after which one would have to pass the LSD professional interview conducted by the LSD Board of Membership (BoM). The LSD welcomes experienced land surveyors to enhance its wide spectrum of professional services including engineering surveying, geodesy, photogrammetry, remote-sensing, GIS, utility, BIM, and all other relevant land surveying specialties. It upholds professional standards in a way that helps HKIS land surveyors feel easy about and even honoured to have colleagues with particular skills as their peers. The HKIS prefers candidates who have acquired substantial professional experience in Hong Kong.

There were concerns over the replacement effect of the Institute's Assessment of Professional Competence (APC) system on the RICS's professional training programme. Hence, I hereby emphasise that the intention behind the signing of this MMRM is not to open a convenient door for HKIS probationers to bypass the APC system.

The BoM strictly upholds the entrance professional standards through professional interviews. Also, should it report an alarming situation, the LSD can consult with its RICS counterparts to consider changing the entrance requirements, such as raising the years of experience for certain professional services providers.

On 20 September, the HKIS General Council endorsed this MMRM. The Presidents of both institutes would then sign on the MMRM in October. A press conference has been scheduled for November, when the UK RICS delegates come to Hong Kong.

# HKIS LSD PASS Upcoming Exhibition cum Visit to Pakistan

In the August 2018 issue of *Surveyors Times*, the LSD announced the start of the Professional Services Advancement Support Scheme (PASS) project to promote its land surveying technologies to Belt & Road countries. The PASS working team organised the first exhibition cum visit to Pakistan. COMSATS University; its local liaison in Pakistan, will accommodate the HKIS as an exhibitor at its coming international conference on the Frontier of Information Technology 2018 (FIT 2018 <http://fit.edu.pk>). The event will be held in the capital, Islamabad, in December 2018. The LSD's representatives will present their latest land surveying technologies to their Pakistani counterparts. Furthermore, in order to exchange the latest land surveying practicing rules and market information, as well as create collaborative opportunities between Pakistan and Hong Kong, COMSATS will organise a three-day visit to its campus, the Pakistan Survey Department, and local surveying firms.

The visit will last from 16-20 December 2018. The HKIS cordially invites its corporate members to join this tour. If you are interested, please

e-mail [lsd@hkis.org.hk](mailto:lsd@hkis.org.hk) for further information and arrangements. Participants are responsible for their own airfare and local accommodation costs.



COMSATS University, Islamabad, Pakistan



<http://fit.edu.pk>

## CPD on the Geotagged Community

Sr Victor NG Wai-tak delivered a CPD talk, "Keeping Pace with the Geotagged Community," on 12 September. He shared with participants the importance of spatial data in people's everyday lives. Victor's introduction of versatile web map services developed by the Lands Department (LandsD) allowed participants to improve their spatial awareness and realise the increasing need to share spatial data. They also discovered the significance of having access to reliable, accurate, and timely spatial data for turning Hong Kong into a smarter city. Victor also enlightened the participants on the establishment of common spatial data infrastructure (CSDI), which the Government currently promotes. To conclude his talk, he interactively explored the issues of map API and the sharing of utility information.



Sr Paul TSUI Presents a Souvenir to Sr Victor NG Wai-tak

## 2018 Guangdong, Hong Kong, and Macau Geomatics Conference

Following the visit by the Guangdong National Land Resources Bureau's Vice Director, Young Lin, to the HKIS in February, the Bureau has organised a geomatics conference in Yuen Fu City (雲浮市) from 2-3 November 2018. The conference will cover Guangdong, Hong Kong, and Macau.

On the morning of the first day, there will be opening speeches and reports on the aforementioned three regions. A forum will be held on that afternoon to discuss the geomatics industry and smart cities. The day will include a visit to the New Technology Park in Yuen Fu.

The second day's schedule will include visits to the Guangdong Geomatics Society, Guangdong Wan's Group of Food Production Corporations, and the Tang Dynasty Buddhist Temple in Wai-Nan.

The LSD will charge a conference fee, but with a cost-recovery principle. Basically, members will pay for two nights of hotel accommodation, but at a discount, as well as contribute to the group's travel costs from 1-4 November. The conference fee is set at HK\$1,000 for corporate members and HK\$500 for probationers and student members.

This conference is worth 10 CPD hours. If you are interested in joining it, please e-mail [lsd@hkis.org.hk](mailto:lsd@hkis.org.hk) or contact the activity secretary, Dr Zhang Hao Dong, at 3705 5922 or [zhang@cta.com.hk](mailto:zhang@cta.com.hk).