

The Hong Kong Institute of Surveyors
Land Surveying Division
Chairman's Report for the year 2016-2017

Time passes quickly; it is the end of our council year. We mentioned four major tasks back in the beginning of the council year in December 2016. We now have to review what has been done and what would be done later.

In Smart City, our working group has voiced out to several calls from the media, participated in various professional conferences and forums, and contributed ideas on the formal and social meetings with the Secretaries and Directors of the Government. Smart City is now a stated policy in our Government. We shall continue pushing for the Spatial Data Hub concept within the implementation of the Smart City policy. Albeit an advisory role, we see that LSD has served as an important catalyst in the promotion of the new technology and seeking of new working opportunities. Should our members see that in any other ways that LSD could serve, please raise your voice and the Council should ponder and make decision on it.

LSD helps our members who are working in the GIS, BIM, spatial data capturing and model formation sectors to promote spatial professional services. We wish to form specific task groups in the promotion and nurturing of our new services. Well, if we do not have participations and co-operations from our industry, we may waste a good promotion platform as HKIS and lose in the coming new markets. Having said that, in the imminent future, it is my personal wish that LSD should be led by a Chairman who comes from the GIS or BIM industry.

In land boundary aspects, we should put the service quality to the society as our first aim. We all know that our system is not without loopholes. Whereas in the rest of the developed world, land boundary issues are just a long solved problem through the adoption of titles registration and survey law in the technical sanction of land boundaries. The Land Boundary Committee of the HKIS has taken up the role of promoting the amendment of Land Survey Ordinance [Cap 473] with the clause on legal sanction of lot boundary. So far, the Committee has contacted officials in Development Bureau, Planning, Buildings and Lands Department. We received sincere replies from our Government. The issue has well been noticed, yet the Government would not be able to put forward the legal amendment work in the near future. We should keep lobbying and let our society know about the land boundary system solution.

We had a delightful achievement this year. Buildings Department has included the determination of site area by the Authorized Land Surveyors. The new guideline has now functioned and helped solving the uncertainty of the Gross Floor Area in a land development project.

Survey and Mapping Office supplies comprehensive land boundary information and manages our practicing system. Many of our practitioners raise concerns on the access of previously deposited survey record plan and report. SMO, like any other government units, inevitably bounds by the law. In particular, the Personal Data (Privacy) Ordinance [Cap 486] limits the SMO not to disclose information without the necessary authorization. LSD would continue communicating with SMO on this issue. In fact, SMO is always working on the improvement of the survey information dispatch. The survey folder information would soon be made available for web access starting early next year.

On the membership task, our Land Surveying Division Education Council has continually accessed 14 candidates. 9 of them have passed the Part II Assessment and the Professional Interview in one-go. Our Continuous Professional Development group has organized 15 professional talks and has a record of attracting over 1100 members in attendance.

In the foreseeable future, LSD would have the Assessment of Profession Competence as the only route to achieve the corporate membership. To ease the path and thus attract senior personnel in the geo-spatial industry, LSD always seeks suitable ways to acknowledge the academic and professional experience in replace part of our training requirements. This work will be continued.

On our promotion, job opportunity, market sharing and other house-keeping issues, the concerns on the site resident staff in local engineering projects surfaced and gained attention even to our President. The Council of LSD well understands the issue of insufficient number of land surveying professional posts in various mega-projects. There is a wish from our engineering field practitioners that a reasonable ratio between engineers and surveyors should be adopted. It is a task, especially to our engineering surveyor councils, to be dealt with in the near future.

Dear members, we look forward to your direct participation in our matters and certainly welcome you to join our activities. See you in our coming activities.

Sr Dr Conrad Tang

Chairman

Land Surveying Division Council 2016-2017

7 November 2017