

Extraordinary General Meeting for Proposed Affiliate Membership

An Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) for the Resolutions in respect of the proposed establishment of affiliate membership will be held on 20 June 2017. Notice of the EGM and its details have been sent to all corporate members by post. Members may download the related EGM papers at:

http://www.hkis.org.hk/en/newsroom_event_details.php?id=4099.

The General Council organised a discussion forum on 24 May to explain the rationale behind the Resolutions.



*From left:
Sr Tony Chan, Honorary Secretary
Sr Thomas Ho, President
Sr Stephen Lai, Chairman, Mainland Affairs Committee
Sr Prof Barnabas Chung, Chairman, Board of Membership*

Background

The HKIS is prepared to invite qualified professionals and practitioners from the building and real estate industries to serve as HKIS affiliates (香港測量師學會附屬會員; hereafter referred to as “affiliates”) to mutually exchange surveying knowledge and expertise outside Hong Kong.

This invitation is available mainly to middle managers in established and up-and-coming building and real estate industries in major cities outside Hong Kong. Its purpose is two-fold. First, it is to arouse interest in propelling China to First World status. Second, it is to build up a pool of surveying professionals in China to facilitate partnering with HKIS members who practise there. Hopefully this will create more outreach opportunities for local surveying professionals and graduates.

Qualifications

HKIS affiliates shall possess the prerequisite academic and professional qualifications commensurate with those of fellow members of the Institute. These include:

- (1) A bachelor’s degree or equivalent
- (2) Relevant practical experience of not less than seven years, with the last three years at senior level
- (3) At least 20 hours per year of continuous self-learning

Application and Admission

Each applicant shall provide documentary evidence of his/her qualifications, which shall be duly verified. A candidate who satisfies the minimum requirements will be invited to demonstrate his/her professional competence at an interview conducted by the Institute. Once his/her application is satisfactorily processed, he/she will be admitted as an affiliate of the Institute.

Privileges and Obligations

Affiliates will be designated by the abbreviation, “AffilHKIS,” and are entitled to describe themselves as “Affiliate of HKIS” or “香港測量師學會附屬會員”.

Affiliates are not corporate members of the Institute. They will be attached to the Institute’s relevant Mainland Forums for close liaison purposes. They will receive the Institute’s relevant publications and may participate in its conferences and social activities.

Affiliates should constantly enhance their professional knowledge and expertise by undertaking self-learning activities of not less than 20 hours per year. They shall also pay annual subscription fees to the Institute to sustain their affiliation.

Implementation

To promote the notion of affiliates at the Institute, it will be necessary to amend the HKIS Constitution and Bye-Laws to create such a mandate and provide for the relevant requirements.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: *Was there any members' consultation before the Resolutions were put to an EGM?*

A: Urged by the HKIS Mainland Affairs Committee in mid-2014 and supported by the General Council, Committee members agreed to study the possibility of establishing a new membership category to absorb mid-managers in China and overseas. A task force was set up in 2015. Since then, five meetings (on 20 May 2015, 6 August 2015, 27 April 2016, 17 June 2016, and 15 February 2017) have been held. Each division's views were fully deliberated and considered. The views from three Mainland Forums (Beijing, Shanghai, and Guangzhou) and members stationed in China were also obtained. A proposal of "affiliate membership," which was noted and supported by the Board of Membership, was then proposed to the General Council. Legal advice was also obtained for the proposed amendments of the HKIS Constitution & Bye-Laws.

Q: *Is affiliate membership an indiscriminate issuance of membership qualifications?*

A: **Affiliates are not corporate members of the Institute.** They do not have a right to vote in any General Meeting whether in person or through proxies. Affiliates shall attain the prerequisite academic and professional qualifications commensurate with those of fellow members of the Institute before they are considered for admission.

Q: *Is affiliate membership open to mid-managers in Hong Kong (and overseas)?*

A: According to the proposed amendments to the Constitution and Bye-Laws, affiliate membership is not restricted by location. Mid-managers who fulfil entry requirements and are interested in building connections with the HKIS and its members are eligible to apply to become affiliate members.

Q: *How would the HKIS assess academic qualifications at the bachelor's degree level or equivalent?*

A: The HKIS believes that applicants should demonstrate that they have reached at least Level 5 of the Hong Kong Qualifications Framework.

Q: *How would the HKIS determine if an applicant is at a "senior level"?*

A: An applicant is required to attend an interview arranged by the Board of Membership/Mainland Forums. The interviewers shall be able to determine whether the applicant has attained a senior level upon verification of his/her working experience.

Q: *How many years (and hours) of continuous self-learning will the applicant have to provide?*

A: An applicant should demonstrate that he/she has undertaken at least 20 hours of continuous professional development over the past year before submitting his/her application.

Q: *Can affiliate members apply for corporate membership of the HKIS?*

A: Affiliate members may be considered for admission to corporate membership provided he/she has fulfilled all the entry requirements including the completion of the Assessment of Professional Competence Scheme (APC). A prospective member has to obtain a recognised academic qualification, join the HKIS as a probationer, and undergo the relevant divisional APC.

Q: *How many members will need to be present at the EGM for a quorum? Will proxies be allowed?*

A: According to the Constitution, there should be a minimum of 100 corporate members present for a quorum to amend the Constitution or the Bye-Laws relating to membership. Voting by proxy is permitted. At least 75% of the votes, including those from members physically present and by proxy, are required for a valid resolution to be passed.

Q: *Can proxies be sent by fax?*

A: For members resident in Hong Kong, the proxy form must be returned by post or in person. A photocopy of the form bearing the member's original signature is also acceptable. For members with registered residential addresses outside Hong Kong, the form may be returned by fax (852-2868 4612) or e-mail (egm@hkis.org.hk).