



THE HONG KONG INSTITUTE OF  
**SURVEYORS**

11 March 2010

Ir Dr the Hon Raymond HO Chung-tai, MBE, JP  
Rm 1801-1804  
18/F, China Merchants Building  
152-155 Connaught Road Central  
Sheung Wan  
Hong Kong

By Fax & Mail

Dear Ir Dr Ho,

Thank you for your letter of 27 February 2010 and we are pleased to note that you have, through your means of transport analogy, rightly pointed out that it is a fact that a building surveyor is **equally competent** to assess structural safety problem for buildings as a structural engineer.

A fortiori, we wish to draw your attention that in the website of HKIS Building Surveying Division, **diagnose building defects**, under the heading of "**After Completion**" is one of the expertise of building surveyors. Building Surveyors are competent in assessing structural implication of cracks according to their types, locations, size, aging, etc. and structural engineers' advice will only be sought for critical cases. Once again, we would like reiterate that structural defect is only one kind of building defects and on the contrary it does not cover all aspects of building safety.

Notwithstanding the above, we have grave concern that even though you have not specifically mentioned the term "測量師" during the RTHK TV programme "City Forum" held on 31 January 2010, de facto damage has already been done to our members. Members of the public might have already been misled by the statements in "明報" together with your subsequent openly expressed views at "City Forum" on 31 January 2010. Our observation is not unjustified since the Secretary for Development in Legco Debate held on 3 February 2010 said that "所以這件事情發生後，有人認為屋宇署的屋宇測量師沒有足夠的專業知識領導樓宇勘測的工作，我實在不能認同。"

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Last but not least, we totally concur that we should avoid disharmonies in the society, in particular, the surveying and engineering professions. We trust that you, as the Legco representative of the engineering profession, would definitely convey our message to the engineering profession that building surveyors are professionally competent to provide professional advice and services on structural safety for buildings to the general public, by whatever means you feel appropriate. We look forward to working with the engineering profession jointly in safeguarding the public from the peril of the structural building defects.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'KW Chau', is written over a horizontal line. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

K W Chau  
President

cc The Hon Patrick Lau, Legislative Councillor