

## Proposal to Overhaul Criteria for Admission to Membership

**Premise 1:** The level of basic education of young people in Hong Kong has been raised in the past decades. The preparatory education for a professional or technical career has been pegged at Level 5 and Level 4 of the Qualification Framework established by the Education Bureau of HKSAR. It is considered that the HKIS should continue to base its membership admission criteria at such levels.

**Premise 2:** The Institute should continue to require cognate academic training as the primary entry threshold to the profession and continue to require the fulfillment of the basic post-qualification professional training and assessment for admission to membership.

**Premise 3:** It is acknowledged that many young entrants to the surveying profession do not have prior relevant academic training. They only develop their aptitude for the profession after graduation and wish to develop their career with the relevant professional qualifications. The Institute should continue to accept holders of any graduate degree and sub-degree to enter the profession if they have not less than one year engagement in surveying practices immediately prior to their applications.

**Premise 4:** It is also acknowledged that many mature practitioners in the surveying profession have not received cognate surveying academic training but have developed both their aptitude and expertise by on-job training and practice at professional or technical levels. The Institute should welcome such genuine surveying practitioners and technicians into membership if they can demonstrate their competence in the specialized surveying practices through the Assessment of Professional Competence.

**Premise 5:** For the proper administration of the Assessment of Professional Competence (APC), it is prudent to review the respective Divisional APC Rules and Guide to provide clear guidelines on the different requirements for technical candidates, mature candidates and Associate Members. It may also be prudent to enlist assessors with different expertise and seniority for the assessment of technical candidates, mature candidates and Associate Members.

**It will be necessary to amend the relevant Bye-Laws as follows, subject to adoption at an Extraordinary General Meeting of members:**

*Members*

2.3.5 Those persons who are at least 21 years of age and –

(a) have obtained either

(i) a cognate graduate degree or equivalent as may be approved by the General Council from time to time as being of sufficient standard for entry to the profession; or

~~(ii) a non-cognate but relevant graduate degree or equivalent as may be approved by the General Council from time to time as being of sufficient academic standard for entry to the profession; or~~

(iii) any other graduate degree and ~~obtained such degree~~ *after* having been engaged in surveying practices for not less than one year; ~~or~~

~~(iv) associate membership of the Institute; and~~

(b) have undertaken a minimum of two years or, for candidates offering a qualification under Bye-Law 2.3.5(a) ~~(ii), (iii) or (iv)~~, three years professional training of an approved nature of Hong Kong surveying practice; and

(c) have undergone an Assessment of Professional Competence as may be determined by the Board of Education from time to time, which will also provide for a professional interview administered by the Board of Education,

may be admitted as Members.

*2.3.5A Those persons who are at least 21 years of age and –*

*(a) have obtained associate membership of the Institute; and*

*(b) have undertaken a minimum of two years professional training of an approved nature of Hong Kong surveying practice; and*

*(c) have undergone the relevant stages of the Assessment of Professional Competence as may be determined by the Board of Education from time to time, which will also provide for a professional interview administered by the Board of Education,*

*may be admitted as Members.*

*2.3.5B Those persons who are at least 35 years of age and –*

*(a) have obtained a graduate degree and having been continuously engaged in surveying practices in Hong Kong for not less than five years; and*

*(b) have undertaken a minimum of one year professional training of an approved nature of Hong Kong surveying practice; and*

*(c) have undergone the relevant stages of the Assessment of Professional Competence as may be determined by the Board of Education from time to time, which will also provide for a professional interview administered by the Board of Education, may be admitted as Members.*

2.3.7 In determining what constitutes a recognized professional body, *or* an approved ~~or relevant~~ academic qualification for the purpose of this Bye-Law, the General Council's decision shall be final.

#### *Associate Members*

2.4.2 Those persons who are at least 21 years of age and –

(a) have obtained *either*

*(i) a cognate sub-degree or diploma or equivalent as may be approved by the General Council from time to time as being of sufficient academic standard for entry to the profession; or*

*(ii) any other sub-degree or diploma or equivalent and having been engaged in surveying practices for not less than one year; and*

(b) have undertaken *a minimum of two years or, for candidates offering a qualification under Bye-Law 2.4.2(a)(ii), three years technical training of an approved nature of Hong Kong surveying practice; and*

(c) have undergone the relevant stages of the Assessment of Professional Competence as may be determined by the Board of Education from time to time, which will also provide for an assessment interview administered by the Board of Education, may be admitted as Associate Members.

2.4.3 Those persons who are at least 21 years of age and –

(a) have obtained a qualification under Bye-Law 2.3.5(a)(i), ~~2.3.5(a)(ii)~~ or 2.3.5(a)(iii); and

(b) have undertaken a minimum of one year technical training of an approved nature of Hong Kong surveying practice; and

(c) have undergone the relevant stages of the Assessment of Professional Competence as may be determined by the Board of Education from time to time, which will also provide for an assessment interview administered by the Board of Education, may be admitted as Associate Members.

*2.4.3A Those persons who are at least 30 years of age and –*

*(a) have obtained a sub-degree and having been engaged continuously in surveying practices for not less than five years in Hong Kong, and*

- (b) have undertaken a minimum of one year technical training of an approved nature of Hong Kong surveying practice; and*
- (c) have undergone the relevant stages of the Assessment of Professional Competence as may be determined by the Board of Education from time to time, which will also provide for a professional interview administered by the Board of Education, may be admitted as Associate Members.*

2.4.4 In determining what constitutes a recognized professional body, *or* an approved ~~or relevant~~ academic qualification for the purpose of this Bye-Law, the General Council's decision shall be final.

#### *Probationers*

2.5.1 Those persons who are at least 18 years of age who have the *appropriate* educational attainments and are undergoing suitable professional *or technical* training for the profession may be admitted as Probationers.

#### **Explanatory Notes**

- (1) In Bye-Law 2.3.5(a), deletion of (ii) is to improve certainty so that candidates for membership must hold an approved cognate graduate degree, or any other degree. Deletion of (iv) is for the introduction of the new Bye-Law 2.3.5A for Associate Members.
- (2) The new Bye-Law 2.3.5A is to provide for Associate Members seeking corporate membership.
- (3) The new Bye-Law 2.3.5B is to provide for matured candidates seeking corporate membership.
- (4) Amendment to Bye-Law 2.3.7 is consequential to the deletion of Bye-Law 2.3.5(a)(ii).
- (5) Amendment to Bye-Law 2.4.2 is to allow alternative qualifications for technical candidates.
- (6) Amendment to Bye-Law 2.4.3(a) is consequential to the deletion of Bye-Law 2.3.5(a)(ii).
- (7) The new Bye-Law 2.4.3A is to provide for matured candidates seeking associate membership.
- (8) Amendment to Bye-Law 2.4.4 is consequential to the deletion of Bye-Law 2.3.5(a)(ii).
- (9) Amendment to Bye-Law 2.5.1 is to rationalize the status of probationers for both professional and technical membership.