

Building Surveying Division
Hong Kong Institute of Surveyors
Chairman's Report for the council year 2010-2011

I am pleased to report that the Building Surveying Divisional Council has a very busy yet successful year in 2010-2011 council year. Apart from the routine council business, BSD Council has focused our works in the following main areas:-

1.0 Promotion of BS Professional Practice

1.1 Media exposure

As an effective means to let the public be aware of the role and capability of building surveyors, we have been very pro-active in reaching out to all public media including television, radio, newspapers, magazine, and even the newspapers and journals of universities. Our spokesmen, David Chan, Andrew Kung and myself have taken all opportunities to speak in public to highlight the presence of building surveyors.

1.2 Secondary school connection

In order to secure more recognition by the society and pave the way to attract students to join the profession, BSD has set up a BSD Secondary School Scholarship and the first year's scholarship awards have been given to 5 awardees coming from 4 different schools.

1.3 Attending talks to public and other organizations

BSD representatives have joined talks to public on building maintenance and repair organized by various district councils and Hong Kong Housing Society for the public education of the proper approach in organizing building maintenance and repair works. I have also attended talks organized by Estate Agents Authority on unauthorized building works attracting over 600 attendances each time.

1.4 Promotion to government

In order to explore more business opportunity for building surveyors in private sector, we have kept regular contact with the relevant government departments to promote the service of building surveyors. I am pleased to inform you that as a result of this dialogue with ArchSD, many building surveying and statutory compliance checking works have been out-sourced by ArchSD in the past year.

1.5 Setting up of specialist panels

With a view to expand the professional practice of Building Surveyors in certain new service areas, we have set up the following specialist panels to push ahead our professional development:-

- Green Building Panel led by Mr Kenneth Yun
- Fire Safety Expert Panel led by Dr S M Lo

1.6 Joining industry forum outside Hong Kong

BSD has invited Mr Nelson Ho to represent us to present the expertise of building surveyors in heritage conservation project at the 2011 Mainland and Hong Kong Construction Industry Forum at Luoyang on 28 May 2011. Through similar platform, we wish more counterparts in Mainland could have better understanding of the role of building surveyors and we could keep a better network in Mainland.

1.7 BS Conference 2011

The Building Surveyors Conference 2011 marked the memorable 25th anniversary of the conference. We are proud to record there were over 240 participants in the conference sharing the great thoughts and visions of the future direction of the development and control of our built environment. This is a very important platform for us to exchange view and enrich our professional knowledge.

2.0 Enhancement of Professional Standards

The BSD council was fully aware of the importance in enhancing the standards and quality of the professional practices of our members. In this connection, several researches and publications have been commissioned:

1. Publication of repair and maintenance cost data
2. Professional fee scale for building inspection
3. Research on water seepage investigation
4. Publication of building inspection practice guideline
5. Publication of repair and maintenance standard form of contract

We wish the above tasks could be completed and ready for publication in due course.

3.0 Development in Mainland

Promotion of building surveyors professional practice in mainland is one of the highest priority task in our action list. To this objective, the following two tasks have been put in place:

1. Commission of a research study for development of building surveying service in Mainland – Tongji University
2. Alliance with 深圳監理監理協會 to develop professional project management service in 深圳前海發展

4.0 Education and Training

On the education and professional training side, I wish to report the following achievements in the past years:

4.1 APC attempt and results statistic :-

New probationers in 2010/11 – 68

New qualified BS in 2010/11 – 39

Total qualified BS as of 2 Dec 2011 – 949

4.2 APC Reform

The amended HKIS Constitution and Bye-laws passed in July 2011 allow for reform and enhancement of the HKIS APC system. New BS APC Rules and Guide is being drafted by a working group under the DEC.

We wish the new APC system may bring in more young people to join the BS profession. Under the new system, probationers may enter to receive training starting from technical level with seamless promotion to full profession membership level.

4.3 New Direction

To meet the expectation and need of the society, a more pro-active approach in professional training for the probationers is required. BSD would need to organize professional skill/knowledge training course to probationers and even for newly qualified professional BS members to enhance their core professional skills to meet the new challenge.

4.4 CPD Events

A number of CPD events have been held throughout the year covering a variety of social and technical topics. CPD events to assist members' understanding of new building policies, regulations and design standards were also arranged in the past year covering the sustainable building design guideline and the new Fire Safety Code 2011. Special CPD events on UBWs and visual inspection were also held in response to the current hot topics of the society. We are also very encouraged by the enthusiastic participation of our members in the events.

I wish to take this opportunity to tender my whole-hearted thanks and gratitude to the out-going office bearers, council members, co-opt members, the various task force and working group members for their efforts and contributions in supporting the BSD Council and the continued development of building surveying profession. Finally, I must thank for the unfailing support and guidance of our members in the past year which is full of challenge.

Vincent Ho
Chairman
Building Surveying Division 2010/11

Date : 2 December 2011