



General Practice Division
Sr Joseph Ho GPD Council Chairman

Equip with Knowledge

The Chairman of HKIS's GP Division, Sr Joseph Ho, attended the 2015 CIM Convention in Montreal, Canada, from 10-13 May with a view to promoting HKIS GP surveying to the other professions. (Mining valuation is a GPD specialty and, as GP surveyors, we need to update ourselves with the latest industry knowledge.) Speakers at the Convention shared their experiences in land, project, and financial management and the Convention also touched upon corporate social responsibility and ethics in mining.



Types of Valuers

Recently we received several public inquiries on the definition of different types of valuers and the claimed compliance with the 2012 HKIS Valuation Standards by a professional member of an overseas professional institute, but non-member of the HKIS, in a public document. We took the view that the public, including members of other professional institutes, was welcome to reference the HKIS Valuation Standards without making any misleading quote. In fact, the details on the types of valuers and the process of engagement are clearly stated in the 2012 HKIS Valuation Standards, which are free for download on the HKIS website.

IVSC

The GPD Vice-chairman, Sr KK CHIU, reported that the International Valuation Standards Council (IVSC) recently issued the Review Group Report Engagement Paper and invites comments on the document before 1 September. The Review Group was set up by the IVSC Trustees to assess the governance, financial stability, processes and output of the IVSC in order to recommend improvements that would better support future standards development and adoption. Members are encouraged to give their comments on the Paper to the GPD Council by 20 August for consolidation.

KK further reported that he represented the HKIS, which is a member of the Advisory Forum Working Group (one of the IVSC's main bodies),

at its meeting in May. Three major comments were raised during the meeting:

1. Suggestion to restructure the Standards Board and Professional Board of the IVSC into separate working groups with asset-specific technical expertise for business valuation and real estate.
2. The IVSC should also focus on education.
3. The IVSC should promote the International Valuation Standards to more countries for their use and adoption.

The coming meeting will be held in October.

SLP

The GPD Assessment of Professional Competence (APC) has, since the amendment to the APC Rules and Guide in July 2012, been running smoothly and in accordance with its objectives, as stated in the said Rules and Guide. The Pre-qualification Structured Learning Programme (PQSL) focuses on selected areas of professional knowledge that are considered important for general practice surveyors in practice, namely, Valuations (including business valuations), Laws for GP Surveyors, Agency Practice & Asset Management, and Urban Land Economics & Analysis. This year, the PQSL Programme commenced with the session on Laws in early May with 75 candidates registered for the subject. Other sessions will be run in the next three months with a total of 90 registered candidates (including five non-members). This will be followed by the Part One Assessment, which demonstrates a probationer's competence (or lack thereof) in such areas. Since the Part One Assessment may be taken during the first

or second year of a probationer's two-year training/experience period, the majority of APC candidates over the past two years have passed the Part One Assessment and proceeded to the Part Two Assessment. On the other hand, the Part Two Assessment takes place in June and December each year. Nine candidates will sit for the Part Two Assessment in early June and some are making their first attempt. It is considered good for one to be assessed when s/he is ready.



GPD Representatives on the various HKIS Boards/Committees/Working Groups

In addition to the latest list of nominated GPD representatives for the various working groups, as published in April, the following is the nominated GPD representative this month.

Working Group	Representative
e-Learning CPD Task Force	Cliff TSE



Report by Sr Edward Au
HKIS Senior Vice President



2015 International Federation of Surveyors Working Week

The 2015 International Federation of Surveyors (FIG) Working Week was held in Bulgaria from 17-21 May 2015. The Working Week provides a platform for members of the surveying profession to meet with their counterparts from around the world, to share the latest developments in the various surveying fields, and to expand the international network between the surveying associations.

The Working Week was hosted by the International Federation of Surveyors and the Chamber of Graduated Surveyors, Bulgaria. It was supported by the University of Architecture, Civil Engineering and Geodesy of Bulgaria; the Geodesy, Cartography and Cadastre Agency of Bulgaria; the Union of Surveyors and Land Managers in Bulgaria; and the Association of Topographical Companies of Bulgaria.

The 2015 FIG Working Week

The theme of the Working Week was "From the Wisdom of the Ages to the Challenges of the Modern World". Its opening was officiated by the Deputy Minister of Regional Development and Public Works; the Mayor of Sofia; the President of the Chamber of Graduated Surveyors in Bulgaria; and the Director of the Geodesy, Cartography and Cadastre Agency.

During the opening ceremony, the FIG President, Dr Chryssy Potsiou, spoke of changes in the world's population and its impact on the environment, natural disasters, the impact of land tenure in many countries, and the definition of property rights. She stressed that unclear property rights cause social unrest, economic exclusion, and uncertainty. Property rights are an enabler of growth rather than a provider of growth. Reliable land registrations systems are necessary. Fit-for-purpose approaches should be followed, which involves the role of surveyors. In smart cities developments, surveyors need to develop expertise in a range of technologies. There will be an estimated \$US12 trillion in global construction by 2020, which leads to the need for Building Information Modelling (BIM) for planning and managing construction. The vision for surveyors should be to think ahead to foresee the needs of future generations.



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5 & 6 2015 FIG Working Week Opening Ceremony

An HKIS Delegation attended this Working Week. It was led by Sr Edward AU (HKIS Senior Vice President), Sr Simon Kwok (HKIS Immediate Past President), Sr Dr Conrad Tang (LSD), and Sr Bessie Liu (LSD). The event addressed the key issues of sustainable development and land administration. It brought surveyors and land professionals from around the world together to discuss the best practices in the profession. HKIS Delegates participated in discussion forum and delivered talks to contribute Hong Kong surveyors' expertise to the Working Week.



- 1 Welcome Speech by Mr Yanakiev Angel Krumov, President of the Chamber of Graduated Surveyors, Bulgaria, and the host association
- 2 Opening and welcome by Dr Chryssy Potsiou, President of the International Federation of Surveyors
- 3 Mr Nikolay Nankov, Bulgarian Deputy Minister of Regional Development and Public Works, Opens the FIG Working Week
- 4 Greeting by the Mayor of Sofia Municipality, Mr Jordanka Fandakova



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- 7 "HKIS Delegates and FIG Officials", from left: Sr Simon Kwok (HKIS IPP), Sr Edward Au (HKIS SVP), Dr Chryssy Potsiou (FIG President), Dr Pengfei Cheng (FIG Vice President), Sr Dr Conrad Tang, and Sr Bessie Liu (both LSD)
- 8 HKIS Delegates during the FIG Working Week

The Working Week attracted over 900 international practitioners and academics in the surveying, land administration, geospatial, and natural and built environment professions from 68 countries and territories.¹ The programme featured three plenary sessions and 400 presentations in over 80 different sessions covering various fields of surveying.

The Plenary Sessions covered the themes on the surveyors' response to changing the city management, the surveyors' response to pro-growth land management, and global and regional professional and institutional reforms. There was a range of presentations on the security of land rights, land reform, cadastral systems, Web and GIS, the Global Satellite Navigation System (GNSS), geodetic datum, disaster management, environmental challenges in mega cities, remote sensing, photogrammetry, hydrography, the valuation practice and young surveyors workshops, etc.

Director Generals Forum

Sr Simon Kwok and Sr Edward Au attended the Director Generals Forum, which was for chief executives and representatives of national agencies to address issues related to mapping, cadastral systems, valuation, planning and development, and land administration. The theme of the discussion this year was 3D Geodata. The participants exchanged views on the needs for 3D Geodata at the national level, the role played by the national mapping agency, the standards and specifications of 3D Geodata, and the cost effective methods for its production and maintenance.



9-12 HKIS Delegates join Director General Forum and introduce Hong Kong's Practices

Urban Renewal

Sr Edward presented a paper on a topic about urban renewal in Hong Kong in a Technical Session. The problems of urban decay and redevelopment were hot topics that have prompted much public discussion in recent decades. Good maintenance planning and the proper upkeep of building stock are the ways to arrest building deterioration in the city. For buildings that were deemed physically obsolescent, demolishing them for redevelopment to generate a new urban fabric might be a good way to tackle the problem.



13-14 HKIS Senior Vice President Edward AU presents on urban renewal and the LCSRO in Hong Kong
15-16 Sr Edward AU with Session Chairman and Rapporteur

As part of its urban renewal strategy, the Hong Kong Government enacted an ordinance to assist multi-owned buildings to redevelop their lots. The enactment of the Land (Compulsory Sale for Redevelopment, Cap.545) Ordinance (hereafter known as the "LCSRO") has played a key role in facilitating the private sector's redevelopment efforts. Sr Edward AU introduced the principal and operation under the Ordinance, which permits persons who have acquired a specified amount of the undivided shares of a lot (not less than 80% minimum) to apply to the Lands Tribunal for an order to sell all of the undivided shares in the lot for redevelopment.

Sr Edward's paper introduced the operational mechanism of the LCSRO in Hong Kong and the valuations for compulsory purchases to his fellow delegates. He also gave an overview and situation of Hong Kong's existing and decaying older urban areas and how the LCSRO could play a role in urban renewal projects.

¹ Including land surveying, land administration and management, land and real property appraisals, spatial sciences, spatial planning and development, positioning and measurement, engineering surveying, hydrography, environmental and green buildings and costs, construction, and project management.

Cadastral and Land Administration Models

Sr Dr Conrad Tang, Vice Chairman of the LSD, participated in the technical sessions on the development of cadastral and land administration infrastructure. On 18 May, as the Rapporteur of Gerda Schennach (FIG Commission 7 Chairman), Conrad reported his observations during the session on Crowdsourcing and the Empowerment of Citizens to the FIG. The FIG President, in the role of a GIS scientist, presented her paper during this session. Conrad and his student, Mr Zhang, delivered a talk during the technical session on cadastral and land administration models.



17 Sr Dr Conrad Tang as the Rapporteur of the Session on Crowdsourcing and Empowerment of Citizen
18 Sr Dr Conrad Tang and Haodong Zhang present on Cadastral and Land Administration Models

Young Surveyors Workshops

Sr Bessie LIU, Honorary Treasurer of the LSD, participated in two Young Surveyors Workshops.

Workshop 1: Surveying the future – Mapping the bitcoins

During this workshop, young surveyors applied the principles of the innovative and game-changing concept of bitcoins and the blockchain on land transactions. Everyone discussed and explored the possibility and pros and cons of using this concept to register property transactions in a completely transparent, secure, legal, open, and reliable system.



19-20 Sr Bessie Liu attends the FIG young surveyors group discussion

Workshop 2: Mapping Response – Contributions for Nepal

After the Nepal earthquake, thousands of people in its remote parts still needed help and supplies. However, it was a challenge knowing what was needed due to damaged roads and collapsed buildings. One group of Nepalis tried to change that by “crisis mapping” Nepal with Open Street Map (OSM) to support the relief organisations in their work.



21-22 The Workshop on Mapping Response – Contributions for Nepal

Conclusion

The FIG Working Week provided a good international platform for organisations, institutes, and associations from different countries to come together to share their views and new developments in the surveying profession. No doubt the participation of the HKIS on this international platform has introduced the Hong Kong surveying profession to the global community and boosted the image of the HKIS.

About the International Federation of Surveyors

The International Federation of Surveyors (FIG) is an international, non-governmental organisation (NGO) whose purpose is to support international collaboration for the progress of surveying in all fields and applications. FIG is the premier international organisation representing the interests of surveyors worldwide. It is an umbrella federation for all national member associations and covers the whole range of professional fields within the global surveying community. It provides an international forum for discussion and development to promote professional practices and standards.

The FIG was founded in 1878 in Paris and is known in French as the “Fédération Internationale des Géomètres”. It is a United Nations recognised NGO, that represents more than 120 countries throughout the world, and its aim is to ensure that the disciplines of surveying and all who practise them meet the needs of the markets and communities that they serve. The FIG comprises the following ten FIG technical “Commissions” (Commissions 1 to 10), which cover a wide range of interests:

- Commission 1: Professional Standards and Practice
- Commission 2: Professional Education
- Commission 3: Spatial Information Management
- Commission 4: Hydrography
- Commission 5: Positioning and Measurement
- Commission 6: Engineering Surveys
- Commission 7: Cadastral and Land Management
- Commission 8: Spatial Planning and Development
- Commission 9: Valuation and the Management of Real Estate
- Commission 10: Construction Economics and Management