



Land Surveying Division

Sr Dr Conrad Tang LSD Council Chairman

HKIS Drinks Gathering with the Lands Department

President Sr Thomas Ho led the Office Bearers and Divisional Councils at an informal meeting with the Director of Lands, Mr Thomas Chan, on 16 October. The Director told Sr Prof SC Leung that he had been reading SC's weekly column on land surveying issues in *the Hong Kong Economic Journal*. SC replied that the HKIS's Land Boundary Committee would continue to communicate with the Lands Department on accessing land surveying information at the latter's Survey and Mapping Office (SMO).



Land Surveying Division Task Report

Time passes quickly and it is now the end of our council year. We set out to accomplish four major tasks in the December 2016 issue of *Surveyors Times*. Now we shall review what has been and needs to be done.

On the Smart City issue, our working group has made several media calls, participated in various professional conferences and forums, and contributed its ideas during formal and social meetings with the Government's Secretaries and Directors. Smart City is now a stated policy of the Government. The HKIS shall continue to push the spatial data hub concept during the implementation of the Smart City policy. As advisors, we know that the LSD serves as an important catalyst in promoting new technologies and seeking new work opportunities. Should our members see other ways that the LSD can help fulfill its goals, they should notify the Council.

The LSD helps its members who work in the GIS, BIM, spatial data-capturing, and model formation sectors to promote their spatial professional services. It wishes to form specific task groups to promote and nurture its newer services. If it does not carve out a role for itself in the industry, it will waste a good promotional platform afforded by the HKIS and be unable to fully participate in the changing economy. Having said that, in the imminent future I expect that the LSD will be led by someone from the GIS or BIM sector.

On land boundary issues, the HKIS should put serving society as its first aim. All members know that Hong Kong's land boundary system is not without loopholes. In the rest of the developed world, land boundary issues were resolved through the adoption of title registrations and survey laws that technically sanctioned land boundaries. The HKIS's Land Boundary Committee has fought to amend the Land Survey Ordinance [Cap 473] with a clause on the legal sanctions of lot boundaries. So far, the Committee has contacted officials in the Development Bureau, Planning, Buildings, and Lands Departments about this matter and received sincere replies from them. Yet, the Government has not been able to put forth a legal

amendment to the Ordinance. We shall keep lobbying it and let the public know about the land boundary system solution.

The Buildings Department has promulgated the new requirement in applying for the approval of General Building Plans that Authorised Persons are required to substantiate the site parameters with either a detailed lease plan or a Land Survey Plan prepared by an Authorised Land Surveyor. The new guideline is now in effect and should help resolve the uncertainty over the gross floor area issue in land development projects.

The SMO supplies comprehensive land boundary information. Many HKIS practitioners have raised concerns over access to previously deposited survey plans and reports. The SMO, like any other Government unit, must abide by the law. In particular, the Personal Data (Privacy) Ordinance [Cap 486] prohibits it from disclosing information without the consent of the information owner. The LSD shall continue to communicate with the SMO on this issue. In fact, the SMO is already working to improve the cadastral survey records including the survey computation folder information would soon be made available for sale on the web starting early next year.

On the membership front, the LSD's Education Council has continually assessed 14 candidates,

nine of whom passed the Part II Assessment and professional interview in one go. The LSD's Continuous Professional Development group has organised 15 professional talks collectively attended by over 1,100 members.

In the near future, the LSD will treat the Assessment of Professional Competence as the only route to corporate membership. To ease the way and, thus, attract senior personnel from the geo-spatial industry, the LSD will always seek suitable ways to acknowledge their academic and professional experiences in replacing part of its training requirements.

As for promotion, job opportunity, market-sharing, and other housekeeping issues, concerns over site residential staff in local engineering projects recently surfaced and even gained the attention of our President. The LSD Council understands the problem of an insufficient number of land surveying professional posts in various mega-projects. The hope among our engineering field practitioners is that a reasonable mix of engineers and surveyors will be hired. This is a task that our engineering surveyor councils should deal with in the near future.

Dear members, we look forward to your direct participation in our affairs and certainly welcome you to join our activities. See you then.

ANNOUNCEMENT

LSD APC Part I Written Assessment (16 December 2017)

Date: 16 December 2017 (Saturday)

Time: 10:00 am to 12:00 noon

**Venue: Hong Kong Management Association, Room 201, 2/F, First Commercial Building,
33-35 Leighton Road, Causeway Bay**

Only Probationers who have been approved to enter the LSD APC scheme are eligible to apply for this Part I Written Assessment.

Completed form (APC-3/LS) together with the application fee (i.e. a cheque of HK\$550 payable to "SURVEYORS SERVICES LTD.") must be returned to the HKIS **no later than 5:30pm on 17 November 2017 (Friday)**. Late submission will not be accepted.

Incomplete application form will not be entertained.

The syllabus and application form (APC-3/LS) for the LSD APC Part I Written Assessment could be downloaded from HKIS website (HKIS main page → Professional Development → APC → LSD at http://www.hkis.org.hk/en/professional_apc.php?division=LSD&x=7&y=11).

After having submitted the duly completed application form, applicants should receive written notification from HKIS Secretariat by 1 December 2017. Applicants should approach the HKIS Secretariat as soon as possible if they do not receive the notification.

Note: Typhoon & Rainstorm Arrangement

The Written Assessment will be postponed if typhoon signal No. 8 or above or the black rainstorm warning is in effect at 8:00 am on the day of the Assessment. Notice of postponement will be issued later.