



Land Surveying Division

Sr Dr Conrad Tang LSD Council Chairman

Meeting with the Director of Lands



The HKIS's Land Boundary Committee (LBC) comprising Chairman Sr Leung Shou Chun, Vice Chairman Sr Dr Conrad Tang, and Member Sr Eric Tang met with Mr Thomas Chan, Director of Lands (DL); Sr Paul Ng, Deputy Director/Survey and Mapping; and Sr Law King-wai, Chief Land Surveyor/Headquarters on 20 June.

The LBC raised issues and difficulties in land boundary legal settings and government operation procedures. Notably, it understands that this is not the best time for the Government to gather political support and the necessary resources to advance the amendments of the Land Survey Ordinance, as there are other more pressing issues that it has to address. It has always been the LBC's hearty wish that the land boundary survey laws be amended and upgraded so that all land lot boundaries in Hong Kong are legally updated by proper land boundary surveys. The DL acknowledged the LBC's concerns and noted the deficiency of block government leases, the underlying land boundary uncertainty, and inconsistency in DD Sheets. He added that he

also read Sr SC Leung's columns in *the Hong Kong Economic Journal*.

Meanwhile, about 8,000 hectares of old schedule lots (OSL) are now categorised in village, agricultural, green belt, and other zones. The Lands Department tries to solve the problem through a land administrative process instead of seeking the legitimacy of a land boundary survey. The DL shared the Government's approach in handling the three general OSL categories in the New Territories. For those OSLs in village zones, individual lot boundaries would need to be surveyed before development can commence. For large-scale or higher-density developments such as new towns/new development areas or land exchanges, any underlying land boundary problem would effectively be resolved to a large extent through land resumption and the granting of new and properly-surveyed lots. The third category of land would be that in country parks. The land boundary problems for this category are not as significant as those for undeveloped OSLs, as they may still have the original boundary features available for boundary re-establishment.

The LBC asked for an introduction to the mediation system for the Lands Department to introduce more resources to speed up the checking of land boundary plans submitted by land surveyors in private practice with a view to resolving any land boundary issue early in the development process.

The Lands Department should review and examine related land parcel boundaries when a concrete land development proposal is at hand. The DL encouraged a discussion of difficult land boundary cases between land surveyors in District Survey Offices and the private sector. He invited the LBC to provide past examples of difficult cases to the Survey and Mapping Office for it to look into and agreed to check if the government's procedures could be modified and its communications with land surveyors in private practice and landowners could be improved.

Comments on the UAS Consultation Paper

Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UASs) are handy tools for land surveyors to capture landscaped images. They also use photogrammetric software like Context Capture, Pix4D, or AgiSoft to produce ortho-images and 3D models. The LSD is a frequent user of UASs, which was why the HKIS replied to the Consultation Paper on the Regulation of Unmanned Aircraft Systems in Hong Kong by the Civil Aviation Department (CAD) this month as follows:

Classification of UASs

The HKIS considers that classification by weight is one of the indicative factors, but the boundary between classes should be determined by referencing the type of user and operation in addition to the mere weight of the UAS. In fact, most modern UASs used for surveying likely weigh from 7-15 kg to allow for the installation of multiple sensors on board.

UAS Applications for Professional Surveyors

The HKIS considers that the types of UAS application mentioned over-simplify their use. In fact, its surveyors employ UASs in nearly all of these applications. It had expected the Study to focus more on the specialised use of UASs by surveyors in Hong Kong, especially non-government practitioners who employ them in aerial photography, engineering, or land surveys, as well as 3D terrain modelling for geographic information systems (GISs), building information modelling (BIM) projects, etc. The HKIS believes that different classes of UAS users, especially professionals such as surveyors, should be differentiated from casual users in terms of operational restrictions.

Suggestions for Future Legislation or Safety Guidance

The HKIS believes there is NO imminent need for any form of UAS-related legislation in Hong Kong. However, CAD may review the current UAS guides to address the different UAS user classes with respect to their special operation modes by referencing the balance between safety and risk against the rapid proliferation of UASs in Hong Kong. It opines that the UAS operation code issued by professional bodies is an effective way to regulate professional UAS use.

HKIS Response to the Consultant's Six Recommendations

R1 to R6 questions and the HKIS's answer

“Sr” - The Abbreviation for Surveyor

“Sr” is adopted as the abbreviation for surveyor by The Hong Kong Institute of Surveyors. The pronunciation for “Sr” is “surveyor”.

In order to promote its use to the public, corporate members are encouraged to adopt the abbreviation “Sr” in front of their English names in their official communications. Likewise, corporate members are also invited to address themselves as “測量師” after their Chinese names.

“Sr” - 測量師的英文簡稱

香港測量師學會採納「Sr」作為「Surveyor」（測量師）的英文簡稱。其發音與 Surveyor 相同。

為向公眾宣傳「Sr」的用法，我們鼓勵正式會員在日常生活中，在英文名字之前加上「Sr」。至於中文方面，我們亦會邀請正式會員在其中文名字之後加上「測量師」。