

# When I was the President .....

我做會長的日子.....

30週年  
Anniversary

測量服務三十年 俾鄰社會邁向前  
30 Years of Surveying Service with Pride,  
For the Community's Betterment We Strive



**Sr Lam Chun, Daniel**  
Past President (1986-1987)

To a building surveyor, nothing beats the smile a completed building puts on you as you think, "That's the building I was involved in". The Mandarin Oriental Hotel is such a building. I am Daniel Lam, President of the HKIS from 1986 to 1987. The 30th Anniversary Organising Committee Chairman has given me some very difficult questions to answer in this message. Instead of boring you with all the achievements and history of the Institute, I shall give this series of memoirs a lighthearted start by telling you part of my story.

## Give and Take

My best days as a surveying professional date back to my time with the "Round Tables," a charitable organisation of young professionals under the age of 40. Typhoons took away the sampan homes of many in Cheung Chau and Mui Wo. At that time, it was not the government's policy to look after Hong Kong's floating population, as it was busy rehousing people from the squatter settlements. Together with other members of the Round Tables, we designed, built, and distributed the "Fishermen's Resettlement Housing Village". We organised large scale garage sales to raise funds in Central over the Easter Holidays to finance the construction of four villages on the islands. Opened sometime around 1975, these villages still stand, as we Round Tablers' fondly recall. There are three Round Table Villages on Cheung Chau, while the fourth one is in Mui Wo. (Google "圓桌村" and you should be able to find the search results of their public toilets from the government's websites; I just did.)

We in Hong Kong are blessed with the best of both worlds. While it seems politically incorrect to reminisce of the colonial days, I cannot deny how the British influenced us with the art of public service. There are not many years for one to give back to society. Say you live to the age of 80. The first 30 years you can use to learn and build your career, the next ten your family, and for the last ten we cut you some slack. That effectively leaves you 30 years in between. How do you plan to lead your lives during these precious 30 years?

## Building for the Future

As much of a cliché as this sounds, these simple words carry an incredible amount of weight. If I were to give only one criticism of today's building industry, it would be a lack

of research. Or, to be exact, there is a lack of interest in research on buildings and communities. We have a great transport network in Hong Kong. You may be 40 years old now and gladly walk 15 minutes from the public transit station to a hospital for a check-up. How about when you reach the age of 70? Is there a chance that we can make use of station space for remote hospital medical services? What about lifelong learning down the line? Could the convenience of a railway or bus route play a part in enhancing the living standards of the elderly?

Like today's housing solutions, education also seems to come with a heavy price. Our heads are occupied by the notion of sending our children to the best educational institutions, but have we ever thought of knowledge-sharing? Building campuses to suit the needs of highflyers in remote districts is also a channel for sharing the model of what we see as a top notch education.

## What lies ahead?

Young members I come across often ask me if I feel inferior to other professionals in the construction industry. I shall say that much of how you are perceived lies in how you carry yourself. I have enjoyed countless eye-opening opportunities as a building surveyor. The chances I had to work with the World Bank, for example, were unimaginable when I was in my 40s.

Let me leave you with this thought of my three mottos: research, charity, and public service. The choice is yours. I wish you a fruitful and rewarding professional life. ■



大專辯論賽2010評判

# 30週年 Anniversary

測量服務三十年 帶動社會邁向前  
30 Years of Surveying Service with Pride,  
For the Community's Betterment We Strive



四川災後重建 - 巴中



甘肅省 麥積 渭南鎮 蘇山村 災後重建



甘肅省 麥積 渭南鎮 蘇山村 災後重建 村民



青少年發展聯會福建探訪團



甘肅省 麥積 渭南鎮 蘇山村 災後重建 村民



青少年發展聯會福建探訪團



汪明荃 - 博愛醫院籌募



與前發展局局長林鄭月娥女士合照



北京演講