



THE HONG KONG INSTITUTE OF
SURVEYORS

28 April 2005

Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Work
Environment, Transport and Works Bureau
Government Secretariat
Murray Building
Garden Road
Hong Kong

By fax and post
#2521 9682

Attn: Mr. Ng Kai-ming, Helius

Dear Helius

Mutual Recognition of Qualification between Quantity Surveyors and Registered Cost Engineers

Thanks for your letter dated 14 April 2005 and your continuous effort in liaising closely with the Ministry of Construction for the captioned reciprocity agreement to be executed tentatively on 24 May 2005 in Beijing.

Last week, we received a revised draft of the reciprocity agreement from CECA, which incorporated comments from the Ministry of Personnel (MoP). The changes are summarized as follows in two main points:

1. Candidates who pass the examination under the reciprocity agreement have to further satisfy the requirement for registration before they can be granted the working license;
2. The reciprocity agreement shall only be applicable to Hong Kong quantity surveyors who were qualified before year 2005 to accord with the Regulation 9/2005 issued by MoP whereby Hong Kong residents can since year 2005 sit in the unified national examinations (including those for registered cost engineers) in the Mainland.

Though the above requirements are additional to the draft reciprocity agreement jointly agreed between our counterpart CECA and us, which draft presumably has been endorsed by the Ministry of Construction, we are prepared to comply with all Regulations currently in force in the Mainland but hold the view that the implication of Regulation 9/2005 should be further clarified.

We are of the view that the unified national examinations in the Mainland are entry level examinations intended for the Mainland people having post academic working experience to get professional qualifications in the Mainland. Regulation 9/2005 issued by MoP has opened the same opportunity to Hong Kong people. The reciprocity agreement between CECA and HKIS is intended only for those qualified Hong Kong and Mainland professionals having a minimum of 4 years post qualification experience to obtain professional membership of the counterpart organisations. Therefore, they are targeting at different experience levels of people, and can run parallel to each other without being mutually exclusive.

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A meeting was held last Sunday (24 April 2005) at Guangdong with representatives from CECA to express our views as aforesaid and they agreed to review our comments with relevant parties. We will be holding an open forum with all our QS members in early May to brief them the current conditions of the draft reciprocity agreement. We trust that further clarification which we are intended to seek is a matter of interpretation on the wording of the agreement and therefore would not affect the proposed signing now scheduled on 24 May 2005.

We will keep you informed of the progress and are indebted to your support. Please inform us the itinerary of the signing so that we can encourage more members to join the signing ceremony.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T T Cheung', is written over a horizontal line. The signature is fluid and cursive.

T T Cheung
President (2004-05)