

## HKIS Media Luncheon 2017

The Hong Kong Institute of Surveyors (HKIS) Media Luncheon was held today (8 February). President Sr Thomas Ho expressed that housing and land policies, urban renewal, construction cost control and building safety, repair & maintenance are the most concerned issue for people in Hong Kong. The HKIS will continue using its professional expertise and knowledge and act as an important and responsive consultative role in government policy making particularly on issues affect land, property and construction

Sr Thomas Ho has great concern over the continuous slow progress in funding approval of public building and infrastructure projects in the Legislative Council in recent years. This has caused profound impacts on the livelihood of practitioners and professionals in the construction industry, as well as the students who are studying in the relevant construction programmes. The HKIS urges the stakeholders to prioritises the overall interests of the community and the Government should coordinate and balance the needs of different stakeholders, promptly resolve the public works project funding proposals and to maintain the sustainable development of the community.

Six professional divisions and spokesmen introduced their divisions' themes for this year and the main issues on which they intended to focus.

### **“Revitalisation: Conferring New Life upon Older Buildings”**

**Sr Vincent Ho, HKIS Past President and Past Chairman of the Building Surveying Division (BSD):**

The theme of the BSD is “Revitalisation: Conferring New Life upon Older Buildings”. Building use is dynamic and the market will drive how buildings will be used. Transforming buildings, in particular, older and obsolete buildings, is a responsible and sustainable use of buildings. To achieve this, building surveyors must play a vital role in the revitalisation process.

### **“Exploring Ways to Increase Land and Housing Supply”**

**Sr KK Chiu, Chairman of the General Practice Division (GPD):**

The GPD will explore and study ways to increase land and housing supply in Hong Kong. (E.g. the feasibility of developing certain peripheral areas of country parks while maintaining/increasing the overall size and ecological value of the parks). Secondly, we will study ways to promote and fund building maintenance, rehabilitation and retrofitting, so as to extend the life spans of buildings and enhance the efficiency of existing land use.

*To be continued*

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**“Study on Common Spatial Data Infrastructure Development to Support General Plan Submission”**

**Sr Dr Conrad Tang, Chairman of the Land Surveying Division (LSD):**

On Smart City, as per its announcement during the 2017 Policy Address, the government would commission a strategic study on the development of common spatial data infrastructure. The LSD will work on this line, particularly in the policy of gathering, management and disposing of geodetic data, detailed map data and land boundary data.

On Land Boundary determinations, we would work on the determination of site areas now stipulated by the Buildings Department. We shall work with the Lands Department to find a workable process to accept land boundary plans for General Building Plan submissions.

**“Recognition of Planning & Development Surveyors by the Government”**

**Sr Prof James Pong, Chairman of the Planning & Development Division (PDD):**

The theme of the PDD is “Recognition of Planning & Development Surveyors by the Government”. The PDD will step up its recruitment efforts for PDD surveyors among surveying graduates who have mostly gone to work for the Planning Department, Buildings Department, and Lands Department. It also plans to persuade the Government to appoint PDD surveyors to the Town Planning Board and consult more with the PDD on public planning and development issues.

**“Collaboration with PMSA to Promote Continuing Professional Development for Practitioners”**

**Sr Daniel Hui, Vice Chairman of the Property & Development Division (PFMD):**

The PFMD will start working under a new legal framework and in a collaborative way with the Property Management Services Authority (PMSA) to serve practitioners in the property management services industry.

Secondly, the PFMD will consider administering a more comprehensive Continuing Professional Development (CPD) scheme for all practitioners in the property management services industry to uphold the professional standards.

**“Promoting Services of Quantity Surveyors and Increasing Public Awareness of Construction Cost Control”**

**Sr Raymond Kam, Chairman of Quantity Surveying Division (QSD):**

Quantity Surveyors are professionals with expert knowledge on construction cost and contract administration. They are well acquainted with the building costs, labour and material prices, construction economics, finance, tender and contractual arrangements in the building construction industry. This year, the QSD will actively promote its scope of services in order to increase the public awareness on cost control and monitoring, tendering and contractual arrangements.

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### **About the Hong Kong Institute of Surveyors**

Established in 1984, The Hong Kong Institute of Surveyors is the only professional organisation representing the surveying profession in Hong Kong. As of 3 February 2017, the number of members reached 9,776, of which 6,288 were corporate members. The Institute's work includes setting standards for professional services and performance, establishing codes of ethics, determining requirements for admission as professional surveyors, access and award the professional qualification, and advance members' professional knowledge, technical and services standards through continuing professional development.

The Institute has an important consultative role in government policy making and on issues affecting the profession. We have advised the Government on issues such as unauthorised building works, building safety campaign, problems of property management, town planning and development strategies, construction quality and housing problems. We are working on amendments to standard forms of building contract and have issued guidance notes on floor area measurement methods.

For more details, please refer to HKIS website: <http://www.hkis.org.hk>.

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/hkisofficial>

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