

Chairman's Report

Dear Registered Professional Surveyors,

I am deeply honoured to be the Chairman of the Surveyors Registration Board (the Board) for the year 2019/2020 and it is my pleasure to report on our work in this Annual Report.

The functions of the Board are governed by the Surveyors Registration Ordinance (Cap. 417) (SRO) and the Board is tasked with the duties of upholding the qualification standards for registration of professional surveyors as Registered Professional Surveyors (RPS). In order to facilitate the daily operation of the Board, a number of standing committees were set up by the Board to perform the routine works and procedures of the Board.

These standing committees include the Administration Committee, Registration Committee, and Promotional Group. The Board has held four meetings during the year mostly through ZOOM due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The work achieved are summarised as follows:

REGISTRATION

The main function of the Board is to establish and maintain the Register of RPS during the year. The Registration Committee was set up under s16 of SRO by the Board, and responsible for vetting new and renewal applications for RPS registration. During the year, the Committee examined and verified the qualifications of all applicants and made recommendation to the Board to accept or reject the applications. The number of RPS was on steady growth. During 2019/20, 221 professional surveyors were newly registered. By the end of the year, the total number of RPS reached 3,736.

ADMINISTRATION

The Administration Committee oversees the administration and operation of the Board. The Management Agreement with the Surveyors Services Ltd was renewed annually to provide administrative and secretariat services to the Board. Insurance on SRB's Directors and Officers was also renewed with a view to indemnifying the liability of Board members.

In order to provide legal support to the Board in dealing with issues touching on legal matters, the Administration Committee has also engaged a retainer agreement with Legal Advisor to provide legal advice service to the Board.

To align with the global trend of saving the environment, and considering the significant amount of printing cost and postage per year, it was discussed and agreed to minimise the printed copies of annual report. Applicants would have to indicate if they wish to receive hard copy of our annual report on the application forms.

PROMOTION

The Promotional Group continues to attract more surveyors to register as a RPS. Divisions were invited to draft articles which would be posted in the HKIS Surveyors Times to promote the services of RPS and the importance of RPS qualification. The articles related to the services of RPS(GP) and RPS(QS) were published in January and May 2019 issues respectively. Other Divisions' articles will be released later.





OPPORTUNITIES IN THE GREATER BAY AREA (GBA)

The Department of Housing and Urban-Rural Development of Guangdong Province had promulgated “Interim Guidelines for the Management of Hong Kong Engineering Construction Consultant Enterprises and Professionals Starting Business and Practising in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Cities” at the end of November 2020 and was effective from 1 January 2021. The Guidelines allow consultant firms on the two government lists, i.e. the Architectural and Associated Consultants Selection Board and the Engineering and Associated Consultants Selection Board, as well as professionals registered with relevant registration boards in Hong Kong, to be able to directly provide services in the GBA by obtaining equivalent qualifications in the Mainland through a registration system.

Similar measures had also promulgated in Qianhai and was effective from 1 October 2020.

I have attended the relevant briefing sessions organised by the Development Bureau. There are still some practical difficulties in the registration process and only RPS of Building Surveying, Quantity Surveying and General Practice Divisions satisfying the registration requirements will be able to practice in the nine cities in GBA and Qianhai. I trust the incoming Board will work closely with the Development Bureau to iron out the difficulties and explore the opportunities for RPS of the other 3 Divisions.

DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS

The Board has the role to make rules for the conduct of RPS and deal with disciplinary offences in order to maintain high professional standards. I was delighted to report that there was no disciplinary case in hand against any RPS by the end of 2020.

In order to meet the expectations of the public, it is of utmost importance that RPS should make every endeavor to maintain a high level of professionalism and integrity.

FINANCIAL ACCOUNT

Monitored by our Honorary Treasurer Sr Paul WONG, the Board has a healthy balance at the close of the calendar year. The account of the Board for this term has been audited by our Honorary Auditor and presented under a separate cover. Thanks to Sr Henry CHAN for acting as our Hon. Auditor.

CLOSING REMARKS

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to all Board members and our Registrar Ms Kiny HUNG for their unfailing support and dedicated contributions throughout the year. Finally, I wish the incoming Board every success.

Sr TANG Hoi Kwan, Edwin
Chairman
Surveyors Registration Board 2019/2020