



My term 2003/2004 as Chairman of the Surveyors Registration Board has been both challenging and fruitful. I am pleased to summarize our work for the year 2003/2004 as below.

Registration

1. Membership Growth

The total number of RPS in the early of November 2004 was 1,943 (1,827 in 2003). There was a net increase of 116 RPS. The growth rate was slightly higher than those of the two preceding years which were 93 and 101 respectively. The increase in RPS in year 2004 over year 2003 was noted to be 6%.

2. Renewal of Registration

This year, the Registration Committee processed a few renewal applications where the applicants are currently unemployed. The legal advice was that a prolonged period of unemployment would render a person not fit and proper for renewal of registration, though the Board is entitled to consider the effect of unemployment on a case by case. This set the mandate for future Committee to base on when processing future renewal applications.

3. Route of Registration by Examination

In the beginning of the year, the Board deliberated on the issue of whether SRB was required to provide examination for the assessment of qualification for registration other than the current requirements based on accepted professional qualifications. Having sought legal advice that the provision in the Ordinance does not oblige the Board to provide the route of registration by examination. The Board agreed adjourning review on this issue for the time being and review it again when it is appropriate in the future.

Promotion

4. Souvenirs to members

We continue to give out the souvenir, crystal globes, to members upon new applications and renewals and hope it brings sense of belonging to be the RPS family.

5. Meeting with other Registration Boards

The vice-chairman and I had an informal dinner with chairman and vice-chairman of other registration boards on 12 July 2004. The purpose of the dinner was to exchange experience and discuss registration systems, regulatory requirements and various matters that are common to the Registration Boards under the respective ordinances. It was generally felt that the current Ordinances were not fully utilized and something had to be done to strengthen the registration system for professionals in Hong Kong. It was a good start and members present at dinner agreed to continue the dialogue on mutual concerns in the future.

6. Promotion on the use of RPSs

I appreciate the efforts and time being contributed by the promotional group on the promotion of "RPS" qualification to the general public, various departments and statutory bodies in the recent years. This year, we have published a SRB leaflet for wider circulation

aiming at promoting the services and status of RPS. In November, the vice-chairman and I paid visits to the Lands Dept., the Housing Dept., the Rating & Valuation Dept., the Housing Society and the Urban Renewal Authority to explain to them the existence of the SRO and our views on the current use of RPS by the works Departments. It is encouraging to see that most of the departments that we visited welcome the use of the RPSs in outsourcing their works. It is planned that we would work with ETWB to come up with a guideline for the standardized use of the SRO by various government departments in the future.

7. SRB newsletters

In order to strengthen the communication between the Board and RPS members, the Board endorsed the recommendation by the Administrative Committee that the printing of SRB newsletter or news update to RPS from yearly to bi-yearly. This year, our new update was firstly published in July for distributing to all members and let them aware of SRB operation and the prospect of RPS, other than the usual newsletter distributed in the beginning of year for introducing the new SRB membership.

8. SRB webpage

Our SRB website was revamped with a new look which was launched in March. The revamped webpage is more interesting with more photos and features. The contents had been enriched with more information like Chairman's Message, New RPS and Summary of Discussion at SRB Meetings. Our website is also become more user friendly by the introduction of Chinese version which was launched in October.

9. Sponsorship

The Board agreed to sponsor HKIS HK\$20,000 for the coming Education and Careers Expo to be held on 19-22 February 2005 for the promotion of SRB and RPS.

Financial Account

10. Management Agreement

The Board reviews the terms of the management agreement between HKIS and SRB and agreed to renew the agreement for another year with the same terms as previous years for HKIS to provide the Board the necessary management services.

11. Audited Account

The account of the Board for this term has been audited by our Honorary Auditor. It is presented to the Board under separate cover.

Conclusion

I would like to take this opportunity to thank board members for their support and contribution to the SRB during my Chairmanship in year 2003/2004. In particular to Wong Bay and C H Wong as Chairmen of the Administrative Committee and Promotional Group respectively. Also to Dr. Anita Liu as the Board's honorary auditor. The Board has set out some important direction in the year and I am sure would be helpful for the future Boards to elaborate and fully utilize the power given to us by the Ordinance in the near future. Lastly, may I wish the incoming board every success.

T T Cheung
Chairman 2004, SRB