



Surveying Newsletter

測 量 師 導 報

VOLUME 8 ISSUE 9, SEPTEMBER 1999

HKIS 15th Anniversary Cocktail Party

To celebrate the 15th Anniversary of the Hong Kong Institute of Surveyors (HKIS), a Cocktail Party was held on 28th September 1999 at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre. Guests from the private and public sectors attended this special occasion as well as members from the Institute.

A speech was delivered by the President, Mr Samson Wong, and is presented below for members' reference.

"Dear Members,

1999 has a special meaning to all of us. This year is not only the last year in the 20th century; it also marks the 15th Anniversary of the Institute. To many of us, 1999 is also a special year. It is the 50th National Anniversary of the People's Republic of China.

HKIS is a relatively young professional body in Hong Kong, but the history of surveying profession can be traced back to as far as 1843, when Alexander Thomas Gordon was appointed as the first Surveyor General of Hong Kong. Since then Hong Kong had recruited chartered surveyors from UK to look after land, property and building matters. During the 1930's a Hong Kong Branch of the RICS was set up to look after the interests of members in HK.

With the increase in the number of locally trained members, the HKIS was founded in April 1984 by 85 founder members. In 1990, the Institute was further incorporated by Ordinance. From its birth 15 years ago, the HKIS has grown from strength to strength and now it has a total of over 2,700 qualified members in the five divisions of Building Surveying, General Practice Surveying, Land Surveying, Planning and Development and Quantity Surveying.





SURVEYING is the newsletter of the HKIS. It is distributed to members, students and friends of the surveying profession free of charge. Anyone wishing to receive a copy may contact the office of the Institute.

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Editorial Contributions

Surveying encourages article queries and submissions. Article submissions should include both hard (printed) copy and a diskette in Word format. Contributions should reach the editor at the office of the Institute before the 10th of each month.

Information & Contents

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Advertising

All advertisements and small ads are welcome. SURVEYING is reaching over 5,000 readers. For detailed information & advertising rates, please contact Ms Margaret Yung of the Secretariat office at 2526 3679 OR Mr. Charles Yiu of Corporate Culture at 2802 6949.



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Monday to Thursday 9:00am - 5:30pm
Friday 9:00am - 5:00pm
Saturday 9:30am - 12:30pm

In the past 15 years, our fellow members have successfully developed themselves as an integral part of 'the Property Profession' and their leading roles were widely recognized by the government and general public. I must thank them for their contributions and their tireless effort in the advancement of the surveying profession.

To continue to be a profession with high performance, internally, we have to strive to create and add value to the membership of our Institute. We have to explore new ways to serve our members better. Externally, we shall ensure our members are practicing with the highest professional standard and integrity. In addition, we will keep on addressing issues, which concern the livelihood of the people of HK. We must continue to express our views on government policies relating to planning, land, property, construction, and the built environment. The vision, which should always be in our mind, is to stay ahead as the leading property profession in Hong Kong.

We are glad to learn from the SAR government's latest report that the economy of Hong Kong has shown signs of improvement in the second quarter of this year, with consumption, tourism and the export trade gaining more activities. Both the stock market and the property market have remained stable. While we remain optimistic, we must not lose sight of the emerging deflationary forces, which may delay the recovery of the economy. Also the high real interest rate may hamper investments. All these would have a negative impact on the property and construction industry. As a result of rapid growth of property market in the mid 90's, the construction industry is generally having an over-capacity problem in this period of recession and at the same time, there were many unpleasant experiences of discovering sub-standard building works. I hope that our Institute would work together with other professional bodies, particularly, the HKIA, HKIE, REDA, HKCA and the government, to vigorously improve the image of the Hong Kong construction industry by introducing a new Quality Policy for the whole trade. We should repeatedly draw the attention of both the private and public sectors on the importance of construction quality of buildings in Hong Kong, and at the same time, explore opportunities of exporting our services. I am sure all these measures would help to accelerate the recovery of the property and construction industry.

In closing, I wish to thank the staff of the Administration Office and members of the General Council for all their input, without which we could not administer the extensive number of membership activities, functions and information releases throughout the year.

Thank you".

News from the Secretariat

NOTICE TO MEMBERS

Membership Suspended KONG Chau Ming

On 23rd June 1999, the disciplinary board found one charge proved against Mr KONG Chau Ming, QS, AHKIS 2413. The charge arose from his disgraceful conduct in filming up women's skirts. The General Council on 7 July 1999 severely reprimanded him; required him to give an undertaking in writing to refrain from repeating the conduct which was being complained of; and suspended him from membership for 6 months from 7 July 1999.

Member Reprimanded AU Chi Chung, Deret

At a hearing on 12 April 1999, the disciplinary board found one charge proved against Mr AU Chi Chung, Deret, GP, AHKIS 2084. The charge arose from his use of language and the mode of expression in responding to queries regarding his valuation. The General Council on 17 September 1999 reprimanded him for his conduct.

Membership Suspended LEUNG Koon Hong, Dominic

On 13 April and 29 April, the disciplinary board had held 2 hearings to hear four (4) charges against Mr LEUNG Koon Hong, Dominic, GP, AHKIS 0946. The charges arose from his conduct in an insider dealing of listed securities and three (3) charges were proved. The General Council on 17 September 1999 suspended his membership of the Institute for a period of 2 years with effect from 21 December 1998.

Obituary

Mr WONG Kwok Kuen (黃國權), FHKIS, Quantity Surveying Division, member since 1989, passed away on 15th August 1999.



News from the Building Surveying Division

By Kenneth Chan, Chairperson

Unauthorized Building Works and Building Maintenance

The debate for a workable legislative framework for individual owners to undertake proper maintenance including repairs to their properties was yet to be concluded. As an Institute, we would like to see that the Administration would take a more positive, innovative and practical approach to instigating such a framework. One of the considerations was the issue of unauthorized building works. We have received numerous complaints from owners concerning the plight of UBW that hindered the repair and maintenance operations established for aged buildings in the built-up urban areas. Our submission to government on the subject could be summarized in the following.

The existence of UBW has hampered the proper instigation of maintenance of a building. Government should take a fresh look at its current policy. The reason given by the Government on this policy is lack of adequate staff resources to deal with all cases. The policy is not fair and gives a false impression that UBWs other than the three selected types are acceptable or at least tolerable. In fact, the impression is strengthened by the



News from the Building Surveying Division

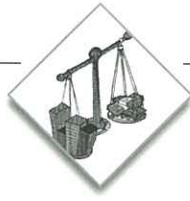
current practice of the R&V Department levying rates on UBWs. This may be one of the reasons why building owners are tempted to build UBWs. Section 24(1) of the Buildings Ordinance should be amended to require that the Building Authority "shall by order in writing to require....". Good publicity of this change in legislation will discourage building owners to erect UBWs and it would be clear that no UBWs are acceptable. The present procedure for dealing with UBWs is time and labour intensive, it is suggested to simplify the procedure and allocate more resources to the Enforcement section. We would suggest Government to simplify the procedure in that notices will be served on the owners and occupants without specifying the names of owners provided notices are registered with the Land Registry. This will save the time in conducting ownership check. This will of course require a change in legislation to make this possible. Secondly, in order to clear the current backlog certain inspection and enforcement works could be privatized. As such, the existing BD staff could be re-deployed to other priority areas that must be tackled solely by BD staff.

Articles Related to the Built Environment and Occupancy of Buildings for the Press

The Public Relation and Current Affairs Panel recommended that Building Surveyors should be more active in providing technical articles and comments on current government policies on issues affecting the built environment and existing buildings. The Panel will be approaching members for their contributions. Some of the issues include the development approval process, alterations and additions, building maintenance, building management, repairs, renovation, risk management, expert report on disputes and defects, etc. The intended campaign aims at promoting the profile of Building Surveyors and to put us on the public arena as the recognized profession in dealing with building issues. Subject to the progress in assembling a pool of papers, we would contact leading newspapers in Hong Kong for a special column to disseminate our concern and ideas. Let our voice be heard! Interested members are urged to contact Nelson Ho (Telephone: 2584 8690 or Facsimile: 2824 2651 or E-mail: nelsonho@mail.hkapa.edu) for more information and possible contribution.

Strategic Planning Workshop

16 members attended the workshop organized by the Strategic Planning Panel on 4 September 1999 at the Polytechnic University. Mr Kelvin K F Chan of the Polytechnic University facilitated the proceedings of the workshop with an introduction on the management concept of strategic planning. Members attending found the session very useful. At the conclusion of the workshop, we were able to identify some possible directions for the Building Surveying Division. Relevant materials were being organized and would be publicized for consultation with members. These initial results would be carried further in the formulation of objectives, goals and action plans. We hope to adopt them in the next AGM. You are urged to actively participate in the deliberation in due course.



News from the General Practice Division

By Tony Tse, Chairman

1. APC Workshop

The JO on 21 August 1999 organised an APC workshop for the General Practice, Building Surveying and Land Surveying candidates. Messrs. Jeff Lam, Francis Lam, Rock Tsang, C K Chan and Jason Chan from our Division took part in the workshop. During the workshop, the following comments were received from the participants.

- a. The new assessment format will commence in October this year, and for those who failed in the April assessment 1999, they will have to wait for more than one year before they can attend the next assessment, as there will only be one assessment each year starting from year 2000. Some participants therefore requested our Division to consider if those who had satisfactorily completed the written assessment in April 1999 could sit for the assessment in October 1999.
- b. Some attendants requested a longer period of time in answering the written assessment.
- c. Channel for consultation and responses to enquiries from candidates should be improved.
- d. Working experience gained in the Mainland China should be counted towards APC training.

Apart from the above, the Council of GP

Division have also received comments from other members regarding APC training and all the views are being considered by the Council. Any proposal to enhance the system will be announced in due course.

Should any member have any further comment, please write to us.

2. Land Titles Bill - Consultation

In December 1998, the Government consulted a number of bodies, including the HKIS, on the draft Land Titles Bill. A number of comments had been received and we were advised that the majority (including the HKIS) supported, in principle the titles registration system set out in the draft Land Titles Bill. The major concerns received have been reviewed by Government and a proposal has been put forward for comments by various bodies including the HKIS by 12 November 1999. Members of GP Division who wish to comment are welcome to contact Mr. Tony Tse at tel no. 2835 6626 or fax no. 2893 5937.

For your information, the major issues being consulted include the following:-

- a. Conversion arrangements;
- b. Indefeasibility of title of the purchaser;
- c. Indemnity provisions;
- d. Title certificate;
- e. Solicitors' criminal liability;
- f. Overriding interests; and
- g. Land boundaries.

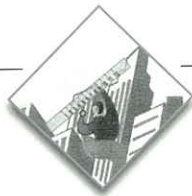


News from the Land Surveying Division

By KWAN Lam-fat, LSD CPD Convenor

The CPD event "Preparation of Resumption Plans under the Railways Ordinance" was successfully held on 10 September 1999. It attracted more than 160 members from the various divisions of the Institute. Our guest speaker Mr. WONG Chung-hang (Chief Land Surveyor/Railways Development) introduced the objectives, the scope and the contents of the Railways Ordinance and explained the fast-tracking mode that the government has adopted in promulgating the various new railways schemes. He also shared with the participants his valuable experience in the preparation of resumption plans under the Ordinance. His illustrations on how the various land boundary and area problems were resolved during the West Rail (Phase I) resumption exercise were simply impressive. The Land Surveying Division would like to express its deepest thanks to Mr. WONG for his wonderful talk, and to the helpers (Mr. Cody PANG, Mr. MA Ka-chun and Miss LO Hoi-yin) for their assistance in making the event a success.





News from the Quantity Surveying Division

By TT Cheung, Chairman

1. APC 1999

By the time this issue of Surveying is published, the 1999 APC should have been over. The test has caused disruption to the industry as 600 candidates are not working in their offices for 2 days at the same time. We will study whether the APC can be conducted during the weekend to reduce the impact on the industry in the future. As I have reported previously, the existing APC format should be changed. This will be the priority task of the QSD Council in the coming year. We will contact all the assessors shortly when the administrative procedures are cleared.

2. PRC

A PAQS delegates comprising senior officials from HKIS, AIQS, NZIQS, SISV, ISM visited CAMCC in Beijing and Shanghai during the period 31st August to 3rd September 1999. This is a very successful first PAQS visit to China and has laid an important stepping stone for fellow members to fostering professional quantity surveying practices in the region. Thanks to Ms Ellen Lau, Mr Jacob Lam and Mr Nelson Cheng to make this event successful.

3. International Committee

Ms Ellen Lau and Mr. Stephen Chung represented HKIS to attend the 3rd

Annual PAQS Congress in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia held between 25th - 29th August 1999. Ms Lau delivered a paper on "Partnering, joint ventures". HKIS was elected 1st Vice Chairman of the PAQS for a term of 2 years from 1999. The next PAQS Congress will be held in Australia in year 2000. Details of the event have been circulated to members. However, there are still some circulars in the HKIS office if members would like to have a copy.

4. Minor Form of Contract

We have carefully reviewed the current edition of the Minor Form of Contract and opine that there is no urgency for a new version. We have, however, introduced some minor amendments to replace those phrases which bear the colonial flavour. Thanks to the effort of Mr. Eric Chung and Mr. Gilbert Kwok for their works in this exercise.

5. Revised SMM

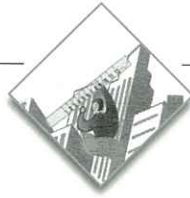
The completion of the revised SMM would take a longer time than we anticipate due to the complexity of the subject. We have decided to leave the current Building Services SMM unchanged for the moment. However, we will try to get the consent of the co-drafters to allow us to convert the format of the Building Services SMM in line with the new SMM for Building Works so that the new version would look as a more complete document. Thanks to the effort of Mr. Ken

Goodbourne and his committee for their hard work in the past years.

6. AIQS

This issue has caused concerns from some members. I think it reflects the lack of understanding of the members on the subject. The discussion between the two institutes started almost 3 years ago and we witnessed the positive steps taken by AIQS in relation to their APC. In view of that, the matter was again carefully reviewed by a working group formed within the QSD this year. Their recommendation was critically debated within the QSD and then further brought forward to HKIS General Council for discussion and endorsement in April 1999. Therefore, I am quite surprised to hear that "some" members complain that we are working within a "black box"! We are always open to talk to those who have genuine concern. If we do not know who you are, we are unable to communicate with you on the subject. In fact, I have been asking for members' view for a couple of times in the past issues of surveying but have received no feedback so far.

I met the AIQS National President, Mr. Trevor Main, when he visited Hong Kong in early September 1999 together with their HK representative, Mr. Franki Yeung. I reiterated the concern of HKIS that we did not wish to see a possible "fast track" alternate route for qualifying



News from the Quantity Surveying Division

as HKIS via the reciprocity arrangement. I do not intend to disclose the terms and conditions set forth by HKIS as it would jeopardize HKIS's position in relation with our discussion with AIQS. We have not reached any agreement with AIQS as of today.

7. Formation of the ACQS

The 17 private quantity surveying firms have formed an Association recently. We feel that it would be more appropriate

for ACQS to focus on those issues of commercial in nature. I also believe that HKIS and ACQS would have a number

of common areas of concern such as education and training, and that we will be able to work in harmony in the future.

8. QSD representatives in Standing Committees

Fees & Professional Charges	- Mr. M.L. Ku & Mr. Nelson Cheng
Environmental & Sustainable Development	- Mr. Stephen Chung
Urban Renewal	- Ms Y M Lee & Mr. Jacob Lam
Research & Statistics	- Mr Stephen Chung & Mr H.W. Low
Information Technology	- Mr. Evenlyn Kwok & Mr. H.W. Low
Valuation Practice	- Mr P.C. Lau & Mr. Kent Kam

Report on PAQS China Visit

By TT Cheung, Chairman

A delegate of 10 HKIS representatives and 6 PAQS representatives visited our counterparts in Beijing and Shanghai between 31st August and 3rd September 1999. The objective of the visit is to open a dialogue with the China counterpart to encourage, promote and advance the sciences and arts of cost engineering, quantity surveying and the development of professional certification program in China. We were greeted by senior government officials of the Standards and Norms Department of the Ministry of Construction (建設部標準定額司) and the office-bearers of the China Engineering Cost Association (中國建設工程造價管理協會). CECA gave us an

insight into the recent reform in construction cost management in China. PAQS delegates in return briefed our China counterparts on the current QS practices and the registration system in their countries. We took chance to visit the Tiananmen Square, Oriental Plaza (東方廣場) and the newly renovated Wangfujing Da Jie (王府井大街) before we headed to Shanghai.

In Shanghai, we were greeted by senior government officials of the Shanghai Construction Commission (上海市建設委員會), the Construction Costing Administration Department (上海市建設工程定額管理總站) and the Shanghai Construction Project Tendering Office (上海市建設工程招標投標管理辦公室). We were informed of the current government policies in relation to

foreign enterprises practising in China. PAQS members in return briefed them current practices in various countries. We took chance to visit the Bun (上海外灘), Yu Yuan (豫園), and Pudong. In Pudong, we had a site visit to the Shanghai Pudong International Finance Building (上海浦東國際金融大廈) and the famous 88-storeys Jin Mao Tower (金貿大廈).

The visit was very successful in demonstrating to our China counterparts that HKIS has the ability to organize international visits, open a dialogue for PAQS with China and foster closer relationship amongst PAQS members. Thanks for Ms. Ellen Lau, Mr. Jacob Lam, Mr. Nelson Cheng and Levett & Bailey Shanghai Office for their time in making this event a successful one. I would like



News from the Quantity Surveying Division

to thank Mr. Samson Wong, Stephen Liu and Stephen Yip for their support of the event. Their presence had enlightened the event. I want to thank the JO as well for being our programme secretary and photographer. I am sure that the dialogue will continue and there are many issues that we can explore with CECA in the future.

HKIS QSD Delegates

TT Cheung, Ms Ellen Lau, Jacob Lam, Nelson Cheng & Kent Kam.

HKIS/SRB representatives

Samson Wong, Stephen Liu, Stephen Yip, Antony Man & David Wan

PAQS Delegates

Peter Beddek (Chairman of PAQS, Past President of NZIQS, New Zealand)
Edward Tang (Immediate Past Chairman of PAQS, Past President of SISV, Singapore)
Trevor Main (National President of AIQS, Australia)
Kwan Hock Hai (Chairman of QS Division, ISM, Malaysia)
Leow Chiu-Chuan (Board Member, Board of QS, Malaysia)
Lim Booh Wah (SISV, KPK Shanghai Office Manager, Singapore)

Chinese Officials met

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馬桂芝秘書長，趙毅明副秘書長

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From left to right are Stephen Liu (HKIS), Peter Beddek (NZIQS), Yang Si Zhong (CECA, China), H.H. Kwan (ISM), Samson Wong (HKIS), Trevor Main (AIQS) and Edward Tang (SISV).

PAQS delegates at the Ministry of Construction, Beijing



HKIS QSD Chairman, Mr. T.T. Cheung, introducing PAQS delegates at the conference with CECA (中國建設工程造價管理協會) in Beijing.





News from the Quantity Surveying Division



CECA President, Mr. Yang Si Zhong (楊思忠) (middle), retired Chief Economist of the Ministry of Construction (前建設部總經濟司)

Mr. Qi Ji (齊驥) (middle), Chief, Department of Standards and Norms (建設部標準定額司長) at a dinner reception with PAQS in Beijing



PAQS reception dinner with CECA and Ministry of Construction in Beijing.



Mr. Peter Beddek (right), President of PAQS, presenting a souvenir to President Yang of CECA (left) for the PAQS China visit in Beijing.



Mr. Samson Wong, President of HKIS, presenting a souvenir to President Yang on behalf of HKIS in Beijing.



PAQS delegates visiting the Shanghai Construction Project Tendering Office (上海市建設工程招標投標管理辦公室).



PAQS delegates visiting the Construction Commission (上海市建設委員會) and the Construction Costing Administration Department (上海市建設工程定額管理總站) in Shanghai.



Feature

Financing Charges

By John B Molloy, LLB (Hons), BSc (Hons),
EHKIS, FRICS, ACI Arb
Managing Director, James R Knowles (Hong
Kong) Limited

In my article last month I discussed the question as to when a contractor is entitled to claim interest. Whilst it was affirmed that the position at common law is that a debt which is paid late does not give an entitlement to interest, it was recognised that there are a number of exceptions to this rule.

Probably the most important exception for contractors in their everyday business is that interest can be claimed where it forms a constituent part of the claim itself.

What this means can be simply explained as follows:

- A contractor will allow in its tender for financing charges that it will pay the bank on the working capital required to carry out the works.
- If additional works are instructed and/or delays occur that result in an extension of the time for completion of the works, then the contractor will pay more finance charges to the bank than allowed for in its tender.
- If the delays that have occurred are caused by events that entitle the contractor to claim the direct loss and expense or Costs incurred, then these additional finance charges are

recoverable as a constituent part of the direct loss and expense.

- The financing charges are therefore not a claim for interest on a debt due, but are part of the actual debt itself.

This position which is now settled law was first established in the famous case of **F G Minter Ltd v Welsh Health Technical Services Organisation (1980)** where the court interpreted the claims provisions in the contract in an entirely sensible manner. The judge made the following observations:

" [In] the building and construction industry the 'cash flow' is vital to the contractor and delay in paying him for the work he does naturally results in the ordinary course of things in his being short of working capital, having to borrow capital to pay wages and hire charges and locking up in plant, labour and materials capital which he would have invested else-where. The loss of the interest which he has to pay on the capital he is forced to borrow and on the capital which he is not free to invest would be recoverable for the employer's breach of contract within the first rule in Hadley v. Baxendale without resorting to the second, and would accordingly be a direct loss, if an authorised variation of the works, or the regular progress of the works having been materially affected by an event specified . . . has involved the contractor in that loss."

These principles were further accepted and developed in the case of **Rees & Kirby Ltd v Swansea City Council (1986)** where it was additionally confirmed that finance charges calculated on the basis of compound interest were payable. This was in recognition of the fact that this is the way in which banks charge (or pay) their customers interest.

Under the HKIA/RICS forms of contract that give the contractor an entitlement to claim its direct loss and expense it is clear that a contractor is entitled to claim either interest paid to the bank on an increased overdraft facility (expense) or interest foregone on monies that could otherwise have been invested (loss).

Under the Hong Kong Government (and MTRC and KCRC contracts) however there is some doubt whether a contractor is entitled to claim interest foregone on monies that could otherwise have been invested.

This is because those forms of contract give the contractor an entitlement to Costs rather than direct loss and expense, and Costs (in the HK Government contracts) are defined as:

" expenditure reasonably incurred including overheads whether on or off the Site and depreciation in value of Constructional Plant owned by the Contractor but excluding profit."

Feature

which prima facie would appear to rule out interest foregone on a sum that could have been invested because such does not appear to fall within the definition of expenditure reasonably incurred.

However, whilst it was clearly the intention of the Government when drafting the contract to restrict Cost claims to 'expenditure' and not losses, there is some authority to suggest that the above definition of Costs may not have the desired effect.

In *Re: Stratton's Deed of Disclaimer (1957)* the court considered that the word 'expense' (the act of incurring expenditure) should be defined as the Oxford Dictionary definition being "*cost or sacrifice involved in any course of action*".

In this case interest lost on capital which a contractor is not free to invest is clearly a sacrifice.

Therefore it appears possible that under both the HKIA/RICS forms of contract and the Hong Kong Government

(including KCRC and MTRC) forms, a contractor when claiming loss and expense or the Costs incurred under the various provisions of those contracts is entitled to claim, as a constituent part of that loss and expense or cost, additional finance charges that it has paid to the bank as a result of the matter giving rise to the claim, or interest lost on monies that it could, but for the event, have invested.



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- Two subjects per semester spread over two years followed by a research project;
- Tuition fees HK\$8,100 per subject (9 subjects in the full programme, excludes travel and accommodation)

For further information contact

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Feature



Joint Professions' Celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the Founding of the People's Republic of China

By P. C. Lau, Past President of HKIS, Chairman of Organising Committee

Hong Kong's 10 major professional institutes (Hong Kong Society of Accountants, Hong Kong Institute of Architects, Hong Kong Bar Association, Hong Kong Dental Association, Hong Kong Institution of Engineers, Hong Kong Institute of Landscape Architects, Law Society of Hong Kong, Hong Kong Medical Association, Hong Kong Institute of Planners, and The Hong Kong Institute of Surveyors) took the unusual step of jointly hosting a gala dinner at the Regent Hotel on Friday 17 September to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Founding of The People's Republic of China.

The dinner attended by almost 600 people (including some 120 HKIS members and their guests) was officiated by the HKSAR Chief Executive Mr. C. H. Tung, the Director of Xinhua 姜恩柱, the Commissioner of The PRC's Ministry of Foreign Affairs 馬毓真, and the Convenor of the Executive Council, The Hon. C. Y. Leung. Other dignitaries included Secretary for Justice The Hon. Ms. Elsie Leung; Executive Councillors The Hon. Dame Rosanna Wong, The Hon. Chung Shui Ming; Legco members The Hon. Eric K. C. Lee, The Hon. Dr. C. H. Leong, The Hon. Dr. Raymond C.T. Ho; Government heads such as SPEL Mr. Gordon K. C. Siu, Secretary for Transport Nicholas W. F. Ng, Secretary for Works Mr. S. S. Lee, Xinhua representatives, heads and chiefs of various government departments and major corporations and guests.

As Chairman of the Organising Committee, I had the honour and pleasure of welcoming the CE who delivered a speech to the gathering, calling on the professionals to have more exchanges and co-operations with their Mainland counterparts for mutual benefits. The event was well covered by the media and the CE's speech and the event's group photo can be downloaded from HKSAR government's web site <http://www.info.gov.hk>.

For those who wish to have some snaps of the event, a master set of photographs is available for viewing at the HKIS Secretariat and orders may be placed direct with the photographer.

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It is a matter of discretion for employers to recognise any qualification to which this course may lead. (HKIS OCT 99)

REPLY SLIP

Feature

Land Surveyor - Charting the Hong Kong Waters

By Y.M. Tau B.Surv., Pg.Dip.(IHO Cat.A), ARICS, AHKIS, MIS(Aust.)

Mr. TAU graduated with B.Sc. in Land Surveying from University of Tasmania, Australia in 1986. He joined the Hong Kong Government in 1987, and was promoted to Land Surveyor in 1993. In mid-1994 he worked in the Hydrographic Office of Marine Department as Assistant Hydrographer (Surveying). In 1996 he was sent by the Government to U.K. for further study, and he gained the Postgraduate Diploma in Hydrographic Surveying. He resumed his duty at Hydrographic Office after completing his study since 1996.

Role of Land Surveyor

Sea surveying or hydrographic surveying is the science of measuring and depicting those parameters necessary to describe the precise nature and configuration of the seabed, its geographical relationship to the landmass, and the characteristics and dynamics of the sea. These parameters include bathymetry, tides, currents, waves, physical properties of seawater, geology and geophysics.

Land Surveyor (LS) of Hong Kong Hydrographic Office (HKHO) is greatly involved in sea surveying. His primary role is to collect all related information for compiling navigation charts and other graphic documents to facilitate and ensure safety of navigation for mariners in the Hong Kong Waters, and for use by others concerned with the marine environment such as port engineers, marine biologists and environmental scientists.

Scope of Work

The HKHO is obligated to provide up-to-date chart information for the use of mariners in Hong Kong waters. The HKHO was established in July 1994. It is responsible for all hydrographic surveys and charting services to fulfil international obligations and to safeguard Hong Kong's maritime trade.

The LS of HKHO is responsible for the measurements of regular depths of the entire water area to seaward of the High Water (HW) line, the positions and least depths over all shoals, wrecks, reefs, banks and obstructions, the position of the coastline (HW mark), the nature of the bottom at regular intervals over the whole water area, the positions of breakwaters, positions of topographical detail of use to the mariner, tidal stream measurements, photographic views of close shore features, the positions of all floating navigation aids, details of wrecks found, records of all sonar sweeping undertaken and investigation carried out and light sections measured.

Survey Techniques

Besides relying on the professional knowledge and experience of our Marine, Survey and Technical staff, the HKHO has to depend on a wide range of modern and sophisticated hydrographic and charting equipment to complete her tasks.

It is important that the survey launch

knows its own position in conducting surveys. A Differential Global Positioning System (DGPS) Central Reference Station (See Fig.1) has been set up on Kau Yi Chau to broadcast GPS differential corrections in RTCM SC-104 format using MSK modulation in 289.0 KHz with position accuracy of better than one meter within Hong Kong territorial waters.



Fig. 1 Kau Yi Chau DGPS Central Reference Station

Advanced surveying equipment is housed in the 12-metre glass reinforced plastic survey launch, "Hydro1" (See Fig.2). It is equipped with a multibeam echo sounding system, a DGPS receiver and an Acoustic Doppler Current Profiler.



Fig. 2 Hydro 1

Another 18-metre aluminum SWATH (Small Waterplane Area Twin Hull) vessel, "Hydro 2" (See Fig.3), was built and delivered to Hydrographic Office early last year. This very specialised craft, fitted with the most sophisticated hydrographic equipment including multibeam echo sounding system, is mainly for offshore charting survey in Hong Kong waters. In addition, a 7-metre Boston Whaler,

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"Hydro 3" (See Fig.4), with single beam echo sounder and DGPS receiver is being used to survey very shallow waters.

Despite the high-tech flavour, putting the sensors and other instruments in place is also very labour intensive. To get the most accurate hydrographic information, the survey launch is required to criss-cross a well-planned area and take measurements continuously along closely spaced survey lines. The art of the job is: Can you steer the launch in a straight line?

By making use of multibeam echo sounding system, shallow areas such as Lamma Patch (See Fig. 5) and wrecks such as sunken barge at Tap Shek Kok (See Fig. 6) on the seabed can be easily detected and accurately surveyed

Survey Records

Throughout the survey meticulous record keeping is required. Depth data is normally logged on computer. Additionally, there will be manuscript records of other observations and computations. These may include geodetic observations, coastline mapping, bottom sampling, buoy fixing, calibrations and checks of equipment, records of computer data file management, echo sounder traces, hard copy graphics and fair sheets of past survey.

Results of the Survey

The final result of the completed survey is rendered to the Charting Section. It takes the form of a Report of Survey which details all the activities conducted during the survey together with all the final data and records. A chart will be compiled or

revised in the Charting Section using the information from the survey.

Product of Survey - Nautical Chart

After the hydrographic data have been gathered at sea, the charting process is carried out through a computerised production line consisting of a central server, workstations, Pentium PCs with peripherals such as digitisers, colour plotter and imagesetter. This integrated system is able to process and update raw hydrographic data and has all cartographic functions for producing high quality and accurate nautical charts in both hard copy (See Fig. 7) and digital format. Electronic Navigation Chart (ENC) is now being compiled and undergone the process of full testing. To cope with the era of electronic navigation, ENC will be the coming new product of HKHO in the near future.



Fig. 3 Hydro 2

Fig. 4 Hydro 3

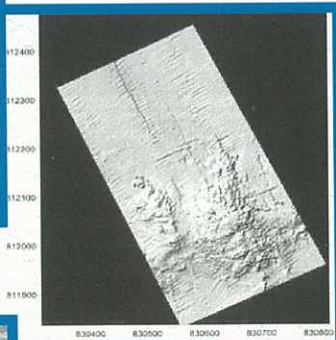


Fig. 5 Lamma patch

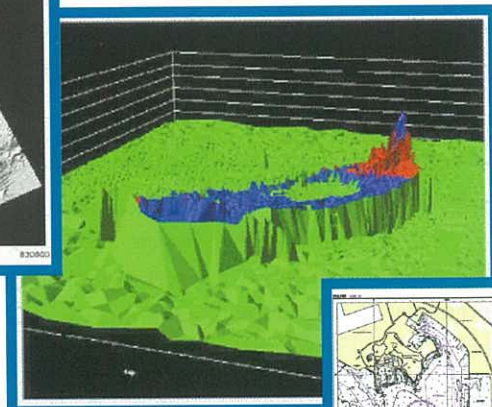


Fig.6 Sunken barge at Tap Shek Kok

Fig.7 Chart HK0802

