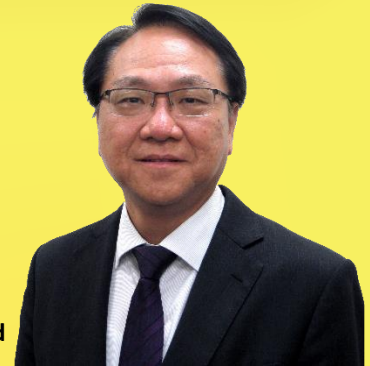


CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

I hope you all enjoyed the Chinese New Year festivities with your family and friends. Let's all welcome the Year of Rooster and take pleasure in the good luck, good health and success it will bring!

As consulting engineers, we will be embarking on another challenging year. To grasp the opportunities of the Belt and Road Initiative, ACEHK will continue to focus on strengthening relationships with HKTDC, the Liaison Office of Central People's Government, and the Infrastructure Financing Facilitation Office.

By dedicating ourselves to higher standards of professional conduct and ethics, ACEHK will maintain its efforts in campaigning for a better future for the industry, and will continue to make a firm stand against filibustering at the Legislative Council.



In the year ahead, a new series of initiatives has been planned with the aim to strengthen both external and internal relationships of ACEHK. These include networking lunch and evening drink gatherings, ACEHK Annual Awards, Annual Seminars and Young Members Presentations. The first three initiatives are a means to strengthen links across the engineering industry. I am delighted to announce that the first networking lunch event has already been scheduled for the 28th of this month. Subsequent networking events are also under planning.

On the sustainability of the construction profession, one of ACEHK's visions is to create opportunities for our next generation. The Young Members Presentation initiative will provide different platforms of interaction between the industry and new engineers by way of organizing seminars and workshops.

We will accept these initiatives as our axioms, and continue to strive as we have for the past 40 years. Please join us in celebrating a fresh start to a promising year ahead.

Francis Kung
Chairman

MATTERS OF THE MOMENT

Brainstorming Meeting with HKTDC Belt and Road Strategic Partners

13 January 2017 (Friday) — Regarding the HKTDC's selected priority markets and sectors, Mr. Nicholas Kwan, Director of Research, briefed participants on how HKTDC shortlisted 8 priority markets, namely Thailand, Vietnam and Indonesia in ASEAN, UAE and Saudi Arabia in the Middle East, and Poland, Czech Republic and Hungary in Eastern & Central Europe. The criteria that he used in his research are Hong Kong's previous experience and strengths, market prospect and risk factors.

Secondly, participants shared the importance of finding good local business partners for identifying the right project in Belt and Road countries, such as National and Regional Government Authorities, Local Consortium Players, Local Investors and Banks.

Lastly, Mr. Vincent Lo, the Chairman of HKTDC, intimated that he would lead a business mission to Thailand and Vietnam in the first half of 2017. The mission would focus on identifying and matching investment projects with Hong Kong investors and services providers.

CONSTRUCTION / CONSULTANCY FORECAST / ANALYSIS

Construction Industry Activities/ Overview

Press Conference was held by Construction Industry Alliance (CIA) on 9 February 2017 (Thursday), where our chairman Ir Francis Kung spoke on behalf of ACEHK alongside 15 other parties within the industry. Since its formation 3 years ago, CIA has been combatting filibustering at Legislative Council (LegCo) proactively.

Of the list of 43 items to be discussed in this year's LegCo meetings, totaling ~100 billion HKD, only 1 item has been approved by the Public Works Subcommittee (PWSC) after 8 of the scheduled 20 meetings. This is still awaiting adoption by the Finance Committee! Another item, the Capital Works Reserve Fund Block Allocations (HEAD 701 to 710), totaling 12.4 billion HKD (more than 9000 smaller projects), is currently still under deliberation by PWSC as of 3 Feb 2017. Continuous delays in funding approvals have serious adverse impacts to engineers, workers, and other professionals in the field.

With the threshold estimated at 200 billion HKD (at least 70 billion from public works) for sustainable development of the construction industry, it is vital that LegCo cooperates in approving public works projects for the betterment of our community and society.

BELT & ROAD

Francis Kung will attend the follow-up meeting with Strategic Partners of HKTDC's Belt and Road Initiative - related Promotions - joint Thailand and Vietnam working group meeting scheduled for 23 February 2017.

UP COMING EVENTS

A. Networking Drinks/ Lunch

The first networking lunch will be held on 28 February 2017 at Harbour Grand Hong Kong. The speaker is Ir Wai Chi Shing, GBS JP FHKEng, Managing Director of Urban Renewal Authority. It is hoped around 60 participants join the event.

B. CHINCA

A 1-2 days visit to CHINCA, AIB, and China Civil Engineering Society in Beijing is being planned for mid-year.

C. Annual Awards

Our Chairman has prepared for implementing ACEHK Annual Awards. This has been circulated to Council Members. Proposed OC members including Andrew Hodgkinson from Hewson, Kenneth Li from Parsons, Clement Chung from Ove Arup, Tong Wai Lok from Au Posford and Stephen Mak from Meinhardt. Anyone is welcome to join the OC if interested.

D. Annual Seminar

The ACEHK Annual Seminar is being planned. The date and topic for the event has yet to be fixed but will be announced shortly.

E. The Date of the 2017 Annual dinner and AGM

The date of the 2017 annual dinner has been fixed for 20 November 2017 at Cordis Hotel, please mark the date in your diary. The AGM will be held on 11 December 2017 at Hong Kong Club. Would all Registered Principals please reserve the date.



FEEDBACK CORNER

Event updates have also been posted in <http://www.acehk.org.hk>
Members can provide feedback on any current issue to chairman@acehk.org.hk