



## The Association of Consulting Engineers of Hong Kong

香港顧問工程師協會



### CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

*Welcome to our mid-year Newsletter and the realisation that it's May already!*

*This year's focus for the Council is engagement – with both our members and our clients. In terms of the former we have been particularly active on the implementation of T/C 6/2013 which culminated in a Member Seminar in March, as reported elsewhere in the Newsletter. Further seminars are planned on a range of topics. Engagement with client organisations comes in various forms, eg ACEHK representation on various forums, meetings with client bodies in formal consultation meetings or casual social gatherings. Council members recently met with Architectural Services Department to discuss a whole range of topics including direct engagement of engineering consultants. Of particular interest is the forthcoming 6 monthly Consulting Engineers' Committee Meeting. This is a high level consultation under the auspices of Development Bureau and is chaired by the permanent Secretary of Works (currently Mr CS Wai) and attended by the Directors or Deputy Directors of all Works Departments. This is an ideal opportunity for the members, through the Council, to raise any concerns or suggestions they have in relation to the engagement of consultants by Government.*

*I look forward to catching-up with you in the coming months at various functions and welcome any comments on how the Association can better serve you, our members.*

Ronnie Thomson  
Chairman

## Newsletter Issue May 2014

### NEW CO-OPTED MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

Since the AGM in November 2013, Eric Ma has left AECOM and is no longer a Registered Principal. Nick Southward of Tony Gee & Partners and Charlton Wong of AECOM have been co-opted onto the Council.

Nick has lived in Hong Kong for over 20 years and now runs the international business of Tony Gee and Partners, an SME Consultant who outside of Europe operates in Hong Kong, Malaysia, Australia and the Middle East.



Charlton Wong is currently Executive Vice President of AECOM responsible for the company's operations in Hong Kong. He was the Chairman of the Association of Consulting Engineers of Hong Kong between 2003 and 2004.



### RECENT CHANGES TO LIST OF REGISTERED PRINCIPALS

#### Joiners

Name	Firm
Li, Kong	Hyder
Chen, Liefeng Tony	Hyder
Penny, James Alan	Hyder
Mok, Kam Hung Henry	Hyder
Kwok, Yim, Andy	Black & Vetch
Lo, Kan Ip, Eric	Black & Vetch
Simmons, Douglas	Atkins
Chik, Tony	Atkins
Chang, CH David	SMEC
Chao, Patrick Archambaud	AECOM
Lui, Man Wai David	AECOM
Lam, Kin Yuen	AECOM
Tsang, Kin Hung	AECOM

#### Leavers

Name	Firm
Mak, Simon	Regionfine
Dr. Tso CW	Regionfine
Lee, CS David	AECOM
Ma, SC Eric	AECOM
Ng HY Fred	AECOM
Haliday, Susana	Atkins
Dr. Taj Ishola	SMEC

**The Annual Dinner is planned to be held at Langham Place Hotel on Monday 17 November 2014. Please put in your diary!**

## EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING ON 12 MARCH 2014

An Extraordinary General Meeting was held in URS's Office on 12 March 2014 at which the following resolutions were voted on and passed.

### Ordinary Resolution

In order to lower the entry barrier for small and medium Enterprises to join the Association, this resolution has confirmed that under Article 6(B) a member firm only need have one Consulting Engineer.

### Special Resolution

Article 5B(1) has been amended to include the position of Vice Chairman of the Association who will essentially act as Chairman in the absence of the Chairman.

Article 64 has also been amended to clarify the established practices regarding retiring from the Council and the maximum term of office on the Council.

## FUTURE SEMINARS / WORKSHOP

A seminar on the use of BIM in our industry is being planned. Suggestions from members on other topics would be welcome.

## MATTERS OF THE MOMENT

Hong Kong has a poor record on site safety and there are no obvious signs of improvement. This year in Q1 there have been 10 fatalities on construction sites, which compares with an average of some 27 per year in the past few years. With this sombre statistic as a backdrop, I was invited to represent ACEHK at a CEO Round Table Forum on Safety in April 2014. This was convened by Thomas Ho of the HK Contractor's Association, and co-organised by Development Bureau, Labour Department and the Construction Industry Council. As consulting engineers I believe we all have a key role and indeed obligation to produce designs that can be safely implemented on site. Let's play our part in addressing the unacceptable level of fatalities on Hong Kong construction sites.

*Ronnie Thomson, Chairman*

## FEEDBACK CORNER

Members can provide feedback on any current issues to [acehk.org.hkchairman@acehk.org.hk](mailto:acehk.org.hkchairman@acehk.org.hk)

The move by Government to the NEC form of contract will have implications for us at both the design stage and for the administration of contracts during construction.

The Chairman would welcome your views on this significant development.

## SEMINAR – DEVELOPMENT BUREAU TECHNICAL CIRCULAR 6/2013

ACE, and in particular its past-Chairman Alan Man, worked closely with Development Bureau in the preparation of TC 6/2013 with the aim of eliminating unreasonably low bids and requiring that proposals be based on appropriate rates and manpower inputs.

A number of actual bids have been submitted and assessed on this basis and the seminar was held to explain the process to members, review the results from these initial bids and to obtain feedback from members.

The seminar / workshop on 24 March 2014 was attended by approximately 40 staff from ACE member firms. Alan chaired the seminar and a copy of his presentation is held on the ACE website.

### Initial Feedback

From a comparison of two bids prior to TC 6/2013 and two bids assessed under it, it would appear that under TC 6/2013 there has been a significant increase in staff rates used to build up lump sum fees. The Lump Sum Fees also seem to have increased. All of this is positive for our industry.

### Primary Concerns

The seminar also provided a very useful discussion forum where the following primary concerns were raised:

- How to sustain the momentum?
- Despite the increase, the "new" rates were still lower than normal charge rates
- What is the next step forward?

### Next Stage

It was concluded that a further workshop be held in about 3 months when the results of more bids will be available. Suggested issues for discussion include:

- Is there a need for two sets of rates (one for building up the Lump Sum fee and one for additional services)?
- Is there a better way to mark fee quality?
- Can the complicated assessment method be simplified?