



Ir Dr Greg C Y Wong

## ADMINISTRATION BOARD

Five regular Board meetings were held during the Session to develop the Institution's policies on financial and administration matters and to co-ordinate administrative functions that involve more than one committee under the Board.

Reviewing the Institution's approach to cases of convicted members was a priority issue and has led to fundamental changes adopted by the Council. Together with the Management Committee,

the Board has undertaken the task of amending the Constitution and Regulations for the Discharge of Complaints to effect these changes. Following rounds of examination and consultation, the Constitutional amendments have been submitted to the Special General Meeting for adoption. The new Disciplinary Regulations are expected to be implemented in the coming Session.

Other reviews throughout the year have focused on reinstatement fees of members, subscription rates for members retiring from practice or residing outside Hong Kong, terms of reference of standing committees and the nomination of co-opted and appointed seats in the Council and committees. The result was the formulation of new guidelines or the refinement of existing rules to establish clearly in writing the policies to be followed.

The healthy financial position for the year is the result of prudent budget control by economising administration expenditure. The annual budget commencing in the financial year 2005-2006 was re-organised to provide resources for initiatives in the three-year rolling plan prepared by the incoming President and Officers.

Many will have noticed the construction of a new meeting room on the Institution's premises, refurbishment of the Seminar Room and improvements to the audiovisual system. To ensure quality service to members, we have in the pipeline enhancement of features on our online Job Forum to create an interactive platform. The Board reviewed the operation of the HKIE Toastmasters Club, changes to the establishment of the Secretariat, and monitored the affairs of the Journal, the account of Institution's conferences and the HKIE Yearbook.

This has been a busy and eventful year and progress was greatly assisted by the effort of Board members and the support of Committees.

## Finance & Investment Committee

The Finance & Investment Committee is responsible for the management of the assets and investments of the Institution. It also plans and monitors the Institution's income, expenditure and cash flow. The Committee reports to the Administration Board.

The Committee is pleased to report that for the financial year 2004-2005, the Institution achieved a healthy financial and cash position with a surplus of HK\$3.06 million. The total income for the year was HK\$24 million, which was HK\$476,000 less than that of last year. This was mainly due to the reduction in conference income during the year. On the expenditure side, the total expenditure was HK\$21 million, which has a saving of HK\$1 million compared to that of last year. Overall spending patterns remained broadly similar.

Taking into consideration the economic situation as well as other factors, the Committee has recommended maintaining the membership fees at their existing

level for 2005/2006 Session and continuing with the early bird discount to all members whose subscription payments are made by cheque or cash. With close monitoring of spending, the Institution is expected to meet its financial budget in the coming financial year.

## Journal Editorial Committee

The Journal Editorial Committee is responsible for managing, supervising and monitoring the publishing of the *HKIE Yearbook*, the *Journal Hong Kong Engineer* and the associated website *Hong Kong Engineer Online*. The Committee also establishes, monitors, and maintains the required professional standard of the publications and ensures compliance with the publishing and editorial policy of the Journal and the *HKIE Yearbook*.

In an effort to further enhance and enrich the content of the Journal, the Journal Editorial Committee convened a meeting in September 2004 with the divisions, AMC, SSC and YMC. The meeting aimed to provide an opportunity for members to exchange their views and to solicit support and contributions. Based on the result of the survey, the Committee revised the guidelines for submission to the Pink Pages and revamped the Journal.

With the implementation of the new policies, only outline announcements will be put in the print Journal, and the full details will be put on the i-version of the *Hong Kong Engineer*. It is hoped that more space can be reserved for editorial.

The Committee has also revamped the i-version *Hong Kong Engineer Online*. The new version not only gives a facelift to the online version with a user-friendly design and layout, it can also accommodate more information than that in the print Journal.

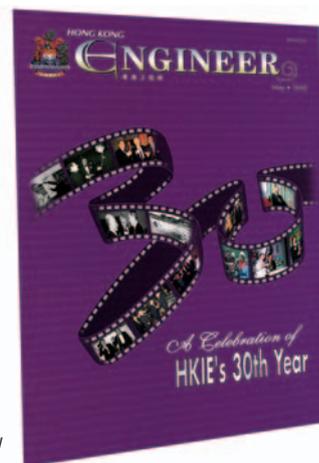
The existing Publishing Agreement and the Website Development Agreement between the Institution and the Publisher expired in March 2005. After reviewing the quality, content and size of publications, delivery and financial status, the services provided by the existing Publisher were considered as satisfactory and the Institution signed a further two-year contract.

In May 2005, the *Hong Kong Engineer* published a special issue "A Celebration of HKIE's 30th Year". The Committee received contributions from HKIE's Past Presidents and the first Secretary of the Institution who provided both historical facts and personal memories of HKIE's development from the mid 1970s to 2005. Some invaluable photos were also included in this special issue.

## Management Committee

The Management Committee had a busy year reviewing and updating policies and management procedures of the Institution.

The review of the Institution's policy on cases of members convicted of criminal offences was a major task. The Administration Board and the Council have adopted our recommendation of a proactive approach. To effect the changes, the Committee



worked closely with the Administration Board to amend the Regulations for the Discharge of Complaints and the relevant provisions of the Constitution.

The Committee also reviewed the ex-officio position of the Deputy Chairman of the Q & M Board in the Council and the arrangement to invite observers to Council and Executive meetings. This has resulted in changes to the composition of the Council and procedures that require amendments to the Constitution. For the sake of consistency, the Committee also recommended to the Administration Board some housekeeping amendments that were related to wording and were of a minor nature, meant only to clarify the intention of the Constitution.

To formalise the nomination and appointment of Co-opted Members to the Council and the three Council Members to the Executive, Elected Ordinary Member to the Planning Committee and the co-opted seats for Council Members to standing and ad hoc committees, the Committee devised two sets of guidelines which were approved by the Council for implementation in the 2005/2006 Session.

On the review of Composition and Terms of Reference (TOR) of standing committees, proposals were received from the Planning Advisory Committee and the Authorised Person/Registered Structural Engineer Committee. This led to the renaming of these committees as Planning Committee and Authorised Person/Registered Structural Engineer/Registered Geotechnical Engineer Committee. Amendments to their Composition and TOR will take effect in this and the coming Session respectively. The Council also adopted a recommendation on the change in the composition of the Community Service Committee.

### Staff Resources Committee

The Staff Resources Committee, formerly known as the Staff Resources Subcommittee, is responsible to the Administration Board for reviewing policy and guidelines for staff establishment. It also reviews job specifications for Secretariat staff, formulates policy and guidelines for salary levels and conditions of services for staff and maintains an equitable remuneration system.

It has never been more important and effective to consult staff when a review is to be carried out on issues relating to them. During the year, a review of job titles, qualification requirements and the Secretariat's organisation structure was conducted. Suggestions from staff were taken into consideration. This review has resulted in the title of Administrative Assistant being changed to Officer, Executive Officer has been changed to Senior Officer and the grade of Manager has been divided into three levels. The names of some sections within the Secretariat will be adapted to reflect more accurately roles and functions. All these changes were introduced in January 2005. As part of the organisation review, the Committee also reviewed salary levels to establish a benchmark against market rates.

During the year, the Committee introduced a Group Life Insurance Scheme for staff members and noted the vision, mission and core values developed by the Secretariat.

### QUALIFICATION & MEMBERSHIP BOARD

The Qualification & Membership (Q & M) Board had a busy and fruitful year developing and upholding the quality of the Institution's membership qualification system. This year, the total numbers of applications for Corporate and other classes of Membership reviewed by the Board were 633 and 854 respectively. The passing rate for Corporate Membership stood at 68.8%.

The Board was pleased to report that the Biomedical (BME) Discipline was formed in September 2004, to act as home for biomedical engineers.

The Institution and the National Administration Board of Engineering Registration (Structural) (NABER(S)) (全國註冊工程師管理委員會(結構)) signed a Reciprocal Recognition Agreement between Class I Registered Structural Engineers on the Mainland and Members of the HKIE in the Structural Discipline on 27 August 2004 in Beijing. The first Training and Assessment was conducted between 22 and 26 November 2004 in Guangzhou and a total of 90 Members of the Institution obtained the qualifications on the Mainland.

A Letter of Intent on reciprocal recognition between the Institution and the Chinese Association of Automation (CAA) was signed on 29 March 2005 in Beijing.

A Reciprocal Recognition Agreement between the Institution and the Hong Kong Computer Society (HKCS) was also signed on 27 May 2005.

Reciprocal Recognition Agreements with the Institution of Gas Engineers and Managers (IGEM) and the Institute of Materials, Minerals & Mining (IOM<sup>3</sup>) on Geotechnical Engineers were renewed during this Session.

Under active consideration are the Reciprocal Recognition Agreements with the Ministry of Construction of PRC on Supervising Engineers (監理工程師) and Chartered Institute of Building (CIOB). The review of the existing Reciprocal Recognition Agreements with the IOM<sup>3</sup> on Materials Engineers, the Institution of Civil Engineers (ICE) and the Institute of Marine Engineering, Science and Technology (IMarEST) have also been initiated.



Ir Wong Kwok-lai

### Membership Application Statistics

Grade	Applications			
	Considered		Accepted	
	2004/2005	(2003/2004)	2004/2005	(2003/2004)
Fellow	46	(62)	39	(47)
Member	561	(682)	384	(423)
Companion	1	(0)	1	(0)
Associate Member	3	(9)	2	(6)
Graduate Member	486	(458)	482	(448)
Student Member	366	(526)	364	(523)
Affiliate	5	(4)	5	(4)
Additional Discipline	68	(74)	42	(55)
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,536</b>	<b>(1,815)</b>	<b>1,319</b>	<b>(1,506)</b>

Note: 1. Up to 31 March each year.  
2. For the grade of Member, the difference between the number of applications shown as 'considered' and applications shown as 'accepted' does not in all cases indicate a rejection. A significant number of professional assessments are still being processed.

### Membership Statistics

Membership	31 Mar 02	31 Mar 03	31 Mar 04	31 Mar 05
Hon Fellow	17	18	17	18
Fellow	784	796	814	836
Member	9,036	9,365	9,638	9,898
Companion	25	23	22	23
Associate Member	2,345	2,212	2,084	1,973
Graduate Member	4,276	4,284	4,149	4,142
Student Member	1,948	1,656	1,780	1,685
Affiliate	534	616	727	649
<b>Total</b>	<b>18,965</b>	<b>18,970</b>	<b>19,231</b>	<b>19,224</b>

# Reports from Boards and Committees

## Education & Examinations Committee

The Education & Examinations (E & E) Committee reports to the Q & M Board on all recommendations with regard to the individual assessment of academic qualifications for Member and for Associate Member applicants who are holders of non-recognised academic qualifications.

In the five meetings held during the Session, the Committee considered 42 cases for Member, of which 13 cases were accepted as meeting the academic qualification for Member; 24 cases were rejected, and 5 cases await additional information from the candidates. One case about an Associate Member was considered and accepted.

The Building Discipline received the highest number of applications for academic assessment, followed by the Civil and Electronics Disciplines.

## Fellowship Committee

The Fellowship Committee reports to the Q & M Board on all recommendations in relation to the election of Fellows. Six meetings were held and a total of 39 Fellows were recommended during the Session. It is the policy of the Committee to assess every application on its individual merits and each applicant's particular circumstances are always fully considered.

Following a policy review by a Working Group, proposed amendments to the Membership Booklet M2, Routes to Fellowship were approved by the Council in January 2005. The new Fellowship criteria will apply to all applications received on or after 20 January 2005.

The Committee hopes this will result in more qualified applicants submitting their applications for Fellowship in the future.

## Professional Assessment Committee

The Professional Assessment Committee (PAC) is responsible for the establishment and maintenance of the procedures and quality of the assessments.

During the Session, the Committee provided valuable inputs on professional assessment matters. It reviewed the grading system, confirmed equal weightings to be placed on the four sections of interview reports. On the grading of essay resit cases, the Committee reviewed the existing practice and elaborated on the guidelines for assessors. The Committee also discussed the implementation of Membership without a Discipline.

Two Induction Sessions were held to update assessors on the Professional Assessment process and a presentation was made to Scheme 'A' trainees, which was organised by the Vocational Training Council.

## Quality Control Committee

The Quality Control Committee (QCC) reports directly to the Q & M Board and is responsible for providing quality assurance on all professional assessments for Member and assessments for Associate Member, and also the applications for Reciprocal Recognition Agreement with other Institutions.

Five meetings were held in the Session and a total of 354 applications for professional assessment were reviewed. The passing rate is 55% this year as compared with 49% last year. The Committee continues to achieve its mission

to maintain a consistent quality standard of professional assessment results across the 17 Disciplines of the Institution and to uphold the quality of our members admitted via Reciprocal Recognition Agreements with other institutions.

## Training Committee

Following a series of promotional activities for the Engineering Graduate Training Scheme 'A', there has been a six per cent increase in the number of registered trainees. By the end of the Session, 400 trainees had registered with the Institution.

A formal training route was established as one of the routes to Associate Membership following the Q & M Board's resolution in March 2005. Candidates with Higher Diploma or equivalent programmes accredited/recognised by the Institution would be eligible to take the Assessment Interview for Associate Members after completion of the training scheme. It is believed that the scheme will facilitate candidates to become Associate Members. The Building Services, Civil and Manufacturing & Industrial Disciplines were selected as the three pilot disciplines for the implementation of the training scheme together with a series of approved training documents including Model Training Guides, Core Objectives and Common Core Objectives for each pilot discipline as well. The Training Committee is actively procuring training organisations to provide this structured training scheme.

Having solicited support for the training of professional engineers in Biomedical (BME) Engineering, Scheme 'A' training was established for the BME Discipline to provide vital training elements to engineering graduates. There is currently one company approved for Scheme 'A' training in the BME Discipline.

As a result of various promotional activities, the first tenant company under the Hong Kong Science and Technology Parks Corporation (HKSTP) has recently been approved to provide the Scheme 'A' Training in the Electronics Discipline. It is expected that this approval will help encourage more HKSTP tenants to apply for the training scheme in a supportive way in future.

## LEARNED SOCIETY BOARD

The Board continued to foster collaboration with fellow professional organisations on the Mainland and around the world as well as working to maintain effective communication links with divisions and committees of the Institution. With the support of volunteer members, divisions and committees organised a range of activities including awards, conferences, seminars, talks and visits to promote both the Institution and the engineering profession. These activities are reported in detail in later sections of this Annual Report.



Ir Dr Lo Wai-kwok

The Board recommended to the Council the establishment of Agreements of Co-operation with the Canadian Society for Civil Engineering and the Institution of Nuclear Engineering in the UK. In addition, the Institution signed its first Agreement on Reciprocal Membership Promotion with the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME). This signifies a new phase of partnership between the HKIE and ASME in the promotion of membership of the respective organisations. The Board has also considered and made comments on the proposed framework agreement of co-operation amongst provincial Associations for Science and Technology within the Pan Pearl River Delta. At divisional level, the Board recommended to the Council the approval of Mechanical, Marine,

Naval Architecture and Chemical Division's proposals to sign Co-operation Memoranda with their counterparts in Guangdong province.

There was much deliberation on the proposed amalgamation of the Nuclear and Gas & Energy Divisions. Noting divisions' concerns, the Board put forward suggestions on the administrative arrangement covering the first few years following the amalgamation. The Council has agreed in principle to these suggestions and the adoption of a three-year transition period. This would facilitate the two Divisions to further their discussion on the proposed amalgamation.

On committee matters, the Board considered the proposed procedures for handling non-compliance of the mandatory CPD requirements, the setting up of an internal list of HKIE qualified Arbitrators and/or Mediators, and the renaming of the Authorised Person/Registered Structural Engineer Committee to Authorised Person/Registered Structural Engineer/Registered Geotechnical Engineer.

The Board also recommended the Council to dissolve the Ad Hoc Interest Group on Professional Practice, which has completed its assigned tasks. Other matters addressed during the Session included an initiative to attract more papers for the *Transactions*, and the appointment of Officers of the Overseas Chapters.

With invaluable input and support from Board members, as well as Divisions and Committees, smooth progress and significant developments on learned society activities were made during the Session.

### Community Service Committee

The Community Service Committee (CSC) continues to play a focal role in co-ordinating responses from divisions and members to consultation papers and making nominations for HKIE representatives serving on boards and committees of the government and external organisations.

In this Session, 31 invitations for comments and views on engineering related issues were received from various government departments and higher education institutions. The CSC, together with the Public Relations Committee, the Civil, Environmental and Geotechnical Divisions and the Chartered Institution of Water and Environmental Management Hong Kong, jointly organised an open forum to collect members' views on the Harbour Area Treatment Scheme (HATS) Stage 2. The Institution's position paper on the issue was submitted to the Environment, Transport and Works Bureau, as well as to the LegCo Panel on Environmental Affairs.

A total of 48 invitations were received from government departments and higher education institutions asking for HKIE representation on boards and committees.

The Committee also continued to co-ordinate its free professional advice service operated through the Building Management Resource Centres of the Home Affairs Department. In this Session, a new initiative was launched to recruit voluntary members interested in giving professional advice to District Council projects. Two voluntary members were nominated to participate in Wan Chai District Council's Canal Road and Bowrington Road project.

The Committee successfully completed its work during the Session with great level of support and contributions from members. It will continue to assist in promoting the engineering profession by promptly responding to invitations for opinions on consultation papers and nominations of HKIE representatives, and co-ordinating voluntary professional services for the community.

### Conference Committee

A series of important regional-related conferences and forums have been held over the past Session. They include the 2004 Guangzhou-Hong Kong-Macau-Taiwan (GHMT) Forum held in August 2004 to foster collaboration and exchange within the region. More than 130 delegates attended the Forum, which was co-organised by the Guangzhou Association of Engineers, the Macau Institution of Engineers, the Hong Kong Association for the Advancement of Science and Technology and the HKIE.

Hosted by the Chinese Academy of Engineering, the Hong Kong Academy of Engineering Sciences and the HKIE, and organised by the Civil Division, the International Seminar on Project Management was held in November 2004. This is the first seminar to bring together prominent academicians from the Chinese Academy of Engineering and Hong Kong's engineering professionals. Experts from the Mainland, Hong Kong and other countries including Japan, France and the UK delivered high quality papers.

International Engineering Meetings (IEM 2005) was held in Hong Kong in June. IEM 2005 involved meetings of Washington Accord, Sydney Accord, Engineers Mobility Forum, Engineering Technologists' Mobility Forum, APEC Engineer and Dublin Accord. The event brought together over 100 delegates representing major engineering institutions from 24 jurisdictions to discuss issues related to engineering qualifications and mobility. The HKIE has a strong commitment to the promotion of engineering education and qualifications in Hong Kong and IEM 2005 helped to elevate the position of our engineering profession in the international arena.

A conference entitled "International Experience and Potential Application of Renewable Energy in Hong Kong" is scheduled for October 2005. Renewable energy is one of the major components of a sustainable development strategy for Hong Kong. The Conference will be a valuable forum for the discussion of the technological, environmental, social and economic impacts of renewable energy.



Over 140 delegates from 24 jurisdictions attended IEM 2005

### Continuing Professional Development Committee

The Continuing Professional Development Committee (CPDC) has promoted, promulgated and administered Continuing Professional Development (CPD) among members of the Institution.

Working with course providers, the CPDC planned over 270 courses covering occupational safety and health, technical matters and general professional subjects. These courses attracted more than 1600 participants. In addition, honorary speakers delivered free CPD talks on a range of topics and received overwhelming response from members. The Committee and the Young Members

Committee (YMC) also co-organised free CPD courses and activities for YMC members. The CPD Promotional Fund financed these courses.

The Council has approved a CPDC recommendation on the handling of cases of non-compliance to the mandatory CPD requirements for Corporate Members. Corresponding amendments to the Constitution have been submitted to the Special General Meeting for adoption. The mandatory CPD requirements for Corporate Members are scheduled to be implemented on 1 January 2006, with a formal auditing exercise for compliance to begin in January 2008.

With the planned establishment of a formal training route for Associate Members, a proposal will be made by the CPDC to introduce the new CPD requirements for applicants of Associate Members through this route.

## Public Relations Committee

The Public Relations Committee had a busy and fruitful year publicising and enhancing the image of the HKIE and the profile of professional engineers at large.

In line with the presidential “Spreading the Word” vision, the Committee initiated a range of activities. The centrepiece was the “Engineering a Sustainable Hong Kong” Exhibition held in May 2005. To mark the 30th year of incorporation, the exhibition highlighted the engineering achievements and the contribution made by professional engineers in building a sustainable Hong Kong. The exhibition was well-received by members, the industry and the general public and can continue to be viewed online.

With the support of the American Society of Civil Engineering, City University of Hong Kong and our Structural Division, the Virtual Bridge Design Contest launched in March successfully promoted engineering to young people. The Contest attracted 350 students from over 70 secondary schools. The students themselves became great bridge builders in virtual reality and experienced the hands-on project challenges faced by engineers. The School Ambassador Programme continued to nurture students with over 50 school ambassadors spreading HKIE’s messages to a record of over 1,700 students this year. Various career exhibitions and talks to universities and IVEs also kept committee members and volunteer speakers busy.

To foster community care among the city’s young people, the Committee also helped organise the Hong Kong Youth Technology Design Competition in collaboration with four universities, the Vocational Training Council and the Hong Kong Council of Social Services. Young people were encouraged to use their



VIP Tour of the Exhibition

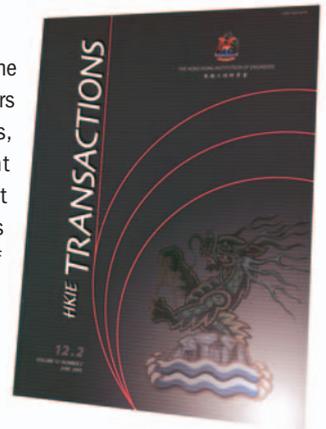
knowledge and creativity to design products that will aid the elderly. The Phinnie Project, designed to address children’s ability to communicate in English, is another initiative launched to help young people. Partnering with Oxford University Press, the scheme integrates English learning with the appreciation of engineering projects. The online stories feature Tsing Ma Bridge, Hong Kong International Airport and the Big Buddha and attracted over 7,000 children.

While the Publicity and Event Work Group kept themselves busy in organising all these activities, the Mass Media Work Group promoted and publicised key events through a media gathering in April 2005. The Media Spring Lunch remained a key tool in strengthening media relations. The District Relations Work Group continued to foster relationships with district councils. The Yau Tsim Mong District Council paid a courtesy visit to the Institution in January 2005 and a similar relationship is being built with the Tuen Mun District Council. The Committee also organised forums to discuss the Harbour Area Treatment Scheme (HATS) and proposed housing redevelopment on the Hunghom Peninsula. Both are issues attracting strong public interest.

It has been a productive and rewarding year. The zealous effort from the PRC members, in particular, the exhibition organising committee and the three Work Groups, the strenuous support from the school ambassadors, as well as other individual helpers, are gratefully acknowledged.

## Publications Committee

The Committee’s priorities are to enhance the quality and increase the quantity of papers published in *HKIE Transactions*. Divisions, universities, industries and government departments have been invited to submit quality papers. Complimentary CD-Roms with a collection of ten years’ archives of the Transactions papers have also been sent to academia in Hong Kong, on the Mainland and overseas to further promulgate the *Transactions*. A special Transactions leaflet is to be sent to the engineering departments of Mainland universities to identify potential markets and to attract quality submissions.



The Committee continues to promote the publication of Special Sections. In this Session, papers were submitted by many distinguished research groups, providing readers with in-depth knowledge on contemporary issues. Initiatives for the publication of Special Issues are also in the pipeline.

In view of the steady development of *HKIE Transactions* and to uphold its international standard and quality, local and international intellectuals and experts representing different engineering disciplines have been invited to become International Advisors. The Editorial Panel has been expanded to include a group of professionals with specialist backgrounds to become Associate Editors.

In an effort to streamline the submission process, the Committee reviewed the Guidelines of Submission to the *HKIE Transactions* and devised a Copyright Transfer Form for authors.

The Committee is pleased to note that the subscriptions this year have slightly increased over the previous year’s figures.



Ir Prof Ko Jan-ming

### ACCREDITATION BOARD

As a signatory to the Washington Accord, the Institution has successfully established itself as an internationally recognised accrediting authority for the accreditation of engineering degree programmes in Hong Kong. The Accreditation Board consists of 19 members, including two from overseas – Prof Ira Jacobson from the United States and Prof D A Nethercot from the United Kingdom.

At present, 79 engineering degree programmes are accredited by the HKIE. During the period under review, the Board carried out eight accreditation visits to the University of Hong Kong, the Hong Kong Polytechnic University, the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology and the Chinese University of Hong Kong to evaluate 17 engineering degree programmes. The Board started its first accreditation visit in 1995. The normal cycle of accreditation is around five years and the Board is at the end of the second cycle.

For Washington Accord activities, Ir Prof J M Ko, Chairman of the Board, represented the Institution on the Washington Accord verification visit to Ireland in February 2005. Ir Prof S K Tso, Member of the Board, represented the Institution to observe the accreditation visit to Moscow State Institute of Radioelectronics, Electronics and Automated Control Systems (Technical University) conducted by the Russian Association for Engineering Education in May 2005.

The Board continues to maintain a high standard in its activities and has been working closely with the universities and the higher education institutions in order to achieve this.

### Accreditation Committee for Computer Science Programmes

The Committee, in its fourth year of operation, laid down a solid foundation for the operation and development of accreditation for Computer Science degree programmes in Hong Kong. Following the accreditation to Computer Science degree programmes at the City University of Hong Kong in 2003 and the Chinese University of Hong Kong in 2004, the Committee applied the same accreditation criteria to the Computer Science degree programmes at the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology in March 2005.

Following thorough discussions with all Hong Kong universities, the Committee has now attracted the full support of local Computer Science degree programmes for accreditation. Prominent industry members representing major IT employers in Hong Kong have been appointed to the Committee to ensure a balance between academic and industrial sectors and that the full spectrum of the various Computer Science disciplines is covered.

To strengthen the existing accreditation criteria, a Task Force to study the Accreditation Criteria for Computer Science Programmes was established. As a result, minor amendments have been approved by the Committee. The next major review on the accreditation criteria will be conducted after the first round of the accreditation exercise.

A goodwill visit to the Headquarters of the Australian Computer Society in Sydney was made by the Chairman of the Committee in March 2005. Discussions on IT qualifications marked the first step in the development of bilateral recognition agreements for information engineering/computer science education in other countries.

### Accreditation Committee for Higher Diploma Programmes

A total of 49 higher diploma and associate degree programmes are accredited by the HKIE. During the period under review, the Committee carried out five accreditation visits to evaluate 18 higher diploma programmes.

For Sydney Accord verification, the Institution was removed from the transitional schedule of the Sydney Accord and was approved as a Full Signatory of the Accord. All higher diploma and associate degree programmes, including computer technology programmes accredited by the HKIE, are fully recognised by other signatories.

### PLANNING COMMITTEE

The Strategic Planning Meeting held with the Executive was again the highlight of the Session. The Meeting, organised by the Planning Committee, reviewed its Composition and Terms of Reference as well as the Composition and Function of the Strategic Planning Meeting. Major recommendations included renaming the Planning Advisory Committee to Planning Committee and the refinement of the responsibilities of the Committee. The Committee was pleased that the Council approved the recommendations on the changes to the Composition and Terms of Reference.



Ir Dr Alex S K Chan

Under the revised Composition and Terms of Reference, the Planning Committee is responsible to the Council for formulating long-term strategies and reviewing and updating the development plans of the Institution. The Committee also reviews annually the three-year rolling plan developed by the three Vice Presidents.

Other matters deliberated at the Strategic Planning Meeting included the strategic position of the Institution, tactics to increase membership, the role of the Past Presidents and the Institution's relationship with the Mainland. In general, it was agreed that the Institution should maintain high professional standards and status. It should also enhance the value of its membership to attract qualified engineers and enable emerging disciplines to draw more potential members.

To augment the Institution's planning activities, the Committee devised a flow chart outlining the time frame of the planning cycle. Pursuant to the recommendation of the last Strategic Planning Meeting on the development of tactics of the Institution, the Committee has discussed the first three-year rolling plan in terms of the key strategic goals for the development of the Institution and proposals for the implementation of action tasks. The way forward on strengthening the continuity of the tasks was also discussed.