

The HKIE Grand Award 2023

Questions raised and responses made at the briefing session held on 17 October 2022

1. Q: There are expatriates who arrived in Hong Kong only recently and are not members of the HKIE. However, they plan to become members. Can such persons be eligible for the Award? Can the team consist of one non-member?

A: As currently stipulated, the answers to both questions are negative since all applicants must be HKIE members upon submission of their application. Please also refer to the answer to Q4.

2. Q: Can an entity participate in two projects for each category? Namely, two projects for all three categories so that there will be six projects in maximum?

A: Theoretically, the maximum should be eight because a contestant can participate in two projects for each of the four: Industrial Category, Infrastructure Category, Sub-category I of Innovation Category, and Sub-category II of Innovation Category. However, for the latter two, the rules for Young Member Group and All Member Group must be observed: a project is in All Member Group unless **ALL** contestants are below 35. Therefore, in practice, you are correct in thinking that the maximum should be eight.

3. Q: Can one submit three different projects to two different categories?

A: It depends on the specific situation. The principle is that, for each category, you are allowed to submit two projects at most. So, if you have three projects, you can submit two of them to one category and the third to another category. However, for any category, you cannot submit all three projects to it.

4. Q: If I am not a member yet, is it possible to obtain a membership before the deadline so that I may be eligible for the Award?

A: No, it is impractical. Application for the HKIE membership normally takes several months to process. There is no fast track for the application.

5. Q: The Sub-category I – An Invention appears to be for projects with new inventions. What if I have a project in which several existing technologies are applied in a new way? Can I submit the project to this category? If not, which one?

A: The project in question is about application of technologies. You may consider submitting it to Sub-category II – An Innovative Application. The reason is that this category focuses more on innovative application instead of originality.

6. Q: If a project had already been submitted to the HKIE Innovation Award in 2022, can it also be submitted to The HKIE Grand Award 2023?

A: For any repeated submission, please indicate the relevant facts in Part I (Description of Entry) of the application form.

7. Q: If our project has not yet been issued a maintenance certificate (or defects certificate in NEC contract), is this project still eligible?

A: The answer is positive in cases where a substantial completion certificate has already been issued.

8. Q: Although self-nomination is not acceptable, can the Client of the Project nominate its own consultant team for the Award? For example: a consultant works for a project owned by Government department. In this case, can the Government department make the nomination?

A: Yes, as long as the nominator is a Corporate Member of the HKIE or a public/private organisation.

9. Q: Are Associate Members eligible for the Award? Or only Corporate and Fellow Members are eligible?

A: Members of all membership classes are eligible. The HKIE membership number should be provided upon application for verification.

10. Q: Are we permitted to submit two projects by the same team (ie the same contestants) to two categories?

A: Yes. Two projects by the same team can be submitted to each category.

11. Q: Will The HKIE Innovation Award be held again?

A: No. The HKIE Innovation Award has been incorporated into The HKIE Grand Award 2023 as one of its three main categories — the Innovation Category this year. The HKIE Grand Award is intended to be a long-term endeavour.

12. Q: If the project is currently (Q4 2022) at the design and construction stage, is it eligible for the Industrial Award or The Grand Award in general?

A: The project is considered ineligible since it is not completed. For the Infrastructure Category and Industrial Category, only completed projects or products that have existed for some time in the market are eligible.

13. Q: The maintenance certificate of our project is expected to be issued in 2025. Is the project eligible for all three categories? (For which category? Or does it matter?)

A: It is eligible for the Industrial Category and the Infrastructure Category if the project has been completed (i.e. has a substantial completion certificate). Otherwise, it is not eligible for them. It is eligible for the Innovation Category as long as all other requirements for it are fulfilled. Please also refer to the answer to Q15.

14. Q: Can one project be submitted to two different categories?

A: A project cannot be submitted to two different categories with all its features unchanged. However, in the case of a megaproject, one part (e.g., kind of technology) of it can be submitted to one category and another part can be submitted to another category.

15. Q: Are there any sub-category for projects at the design stage?

A: An uncompleted project is not eligible for the Industrial Category and the Infrastructure Category. However, if an idea or technology intended to be applied to a project or process is in question, it can be submitted to the Sub-category: An Invention of the Innovation Category. On the other hand, if the focus is on the application of an idea or technology but not on the idea or technology to be applied, it can be submitted to the Sub-category II – An Innovative Application of the Innovation Category.

16. Q: Our project contains several innovative technologies. Can all of them be encompassed in one single application, or only one of them can be?

A: Yes. However, you also have the option to focus on only one of these technologies in your application.

17. Q: Both Sub-category I - An invention and Sub-category II - An Innovative Application are supposed to involve originality and creativity. What is the difference of "originality and creativity" between the two Sub-categories?

A: Sub-category I should be based on an original concept, which has not been come up with before. The second kind is based on the creative application of existing technologies, for example under a unique or novel circumstance.

18. Q: Are corporate initiatives such as approaches to design automation and digitalisation, which have many sample projects as illustrations, eligible?

A: Yes. New approaches to the mentioned items are eligible for the Industrial Category.

19. Q: As a judging criterion, is “originality and creativity” used in a global or local sense?

A: For the Industrial Category, the entry should be wholly or partly designed in Hong Kong for the Infrastructure Category, most projects submitted to them are based in Hong Kong. In these categories, therefore, the expression is used in a local sense. For the Innovation Category, the expression is used in a global sense since a novel idea or technology is not bound by geographical location.