

Reports from Boards and Committees 2014/2015

ADMINISTRATION BOARD

The Administration Board is responsible for the interpretation, development and implementation of the Institution's policies on financial and administrative matters as well as the co-ordination of administrative functions that involve more than one committee under the Board. Appraising the Institution's administrative policies from time to time is a central and fundamental role of the Board.

Subsequent to the purchase of the additional accommodation for the Institution, the Board worked with the Task Force on Planning and Design of the Institution's Premises in Island Beverley to plan the overall utilisation of the Institution's premises. The new design and layout has released space for three additional meeting rooms while part of the office of the Secretariat was relocated to the new accommodation on the 21st floor. To acknowledge donors for funding the purchase of the additional accommodation, a commemorative plaque will be mounted at the Institution.

During the year, the Board reviewed two proposals for amendments to the Constitution. With the approval of the Council on the creation of the post of Vice President (VP) (Appointed), the amendments of the Constitution were drafted in consultation with the legal adviser. To facilitate the creation of the post of VP (Appointed), a set of Guidelines for Nomination and Appointment of VP (Appointed) together with the Nomination Form have also been drafted. The proposed amendments to the Constitution were submitted to the Special General Meeting for adoption.

The other proposal was related to the request to allow Associate Members to be supporters of membership applications of Graduate Members who have obtained a recognised higher diploma/certificate or associate degree in a recognised engineering or technological discipline. Following the Council's approval of the request



**Ir CHAN
Chi Chiu**
Chairman

and the resolution to amend the Constitution to effect the change, the related Constitutional amendments were submitted to the Special General Meeting for adoption.

The Institution generated sufficient income to fund the resources required for the activities initiated in the year and the Board is pleased to note that the Institution's healthy financial position has been maintained.

In addition, the Board has closely monitored the changes to the establishment of the Secretariat, the affairs of the Journal and the financial accounts of the Institution's Yearbook. The Board will continue to review the Institution's facilities and management issues.

Finance & Investment Committee

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

The Committee is pleased to report that, for the 2014/2015 financial year, the Institution maintained its healthy financial and cash position with a surplus of HK\$13.3 million. The total income for the year was HK\$72.9 million, which was HK\$16 million more than last year. The amount included a donation for premises for learned society activities of HK\$9.6 million and a gain on investment of HK\$4 million. Apart from the donation and gain on investment, the increase was mainly due to increases in membership subscription income during the year. Total expenditure for the year was HK\$59.5 million, which was HK\$6.8 million more than that of the previous year owing to depreciation of the new premises and the organisation of a series of activities, including HKIE Hi-Tech Fiesta 2014, "Engineering and You" Programme 2015, the HKIE Video, Distinguished Lectures, "The Engineers' Song", Mobile Game Apps Competition, "Engineer for a Day", etc. The overall spending pattern remained broadly similar.

Taking into consideration the repayment of the mortgage loan for the new premises, inflation in Hong Kong, the increase in funding needs for various new initiatives introduced in recent years for the benefit of the community, the Institution and members and the guiding principle that recurrent income should be at the same level as its recurrent expenses as far as possible, the Committee recommended an increase in the membership subscription fee for the financial year 2015/2016. The percentage of increase varied for different membership classes. The Committee also recommended that the early bird discount, which applied to all members whose subscription payments were made by cheque or cash before 1 April 2015, be continued.

With close monitoring of our spending, the Institution anticipates a healthy financial position in the coming financial year.



**Ir Allan S K
CHAN**
Chairman

projects were also reported in the cover stories throughout this Session, including the Pillar Point Sewage Treatment Works, MTR West Island Line and Central-Wan Chai Bypass.

To provide a contemporary design and a better reading experience to members, as well as to fully utilise online resources in response to technological advancement, the Committee explored the possibility of revamping the Journal's design. After considering various layouts and cost implications, I am pleased to report that the new layout design was adopted and first appeared in July 2015 issue of the Journal.

As a caring organisation, the Institution continues to offer a complimentary promotional insertion service to charitable organisations in this Session to show our support to the community, which included Hong Kong Red Cross, Sowers Action and Orbis.

Journal Editorial Committee

The Journal Editorial Committee has long been devoted to managing and overseeing the publishing of *Hong Kong Engineer* (the Journal), *Hong Kong Engineer Online* and the *HKIE Yearbook*, upholding the high standards of our publications.

I am delighted to note an enthusiastic response from Divisions/Committees/Clubs whose submissions have significantly enriched the content of the Journal with interesting topics, useful technical information and the latest news on industry development to broaden members' horizon. Meanwhile, various distinguished engineering



**Ir Dr Edward
W C LO**
Chairman

The Committee, together with the Publisher, will continue to maintain the professional quality of our periodicals. The unfailing support and contribution of the Committee members and the Publisher throughout the Session are gratefully acknowledged.

Reports from Boards and Committees 2014/2015

Management Committee

The Management Committee is responsible to the Administration Board for the regular review and updating of the policies and management procedures of the Institution. The Committee is also responsible for the review of the composition and terms of reference of the Standing Committees.

In this Session, the Committee considered the draft guidelines for nomination and appointment of Vice President (Appointed) and its nomination form. The draft guidelines together with the nomination form were approved by the Council.



**Ir Peter
K K LEE**
Chairman

Staff Resources Committee

The Committee is responsible to the Administration Board for reviewing policy and guidelines for the Institution's staff establishment. It also reviews job specifications for Secretariat staff, formulates policy and guidelines for salary levels and conditions of service and maintains an equitable remuneration system.

In anticipation of the launch of additional facilities at the HKIE's premises in Island Beverley, the Committee put in place additional administrative staffing support for implementation in 2015/2016. The Committee was pleased to see that the additional office space not only provided the Secretariat with much-needed space for its operation, it also enabled staff of interlocking functional areas to work together in a more efficient environment.

During the year under review, the Committee took the initiative to conduct a review on the Secretariat's annual leave policy. The Committee's recommendation was approved by the Administration Board for implementation in July 2015.

The Committee also reviewed the salary levels of staff, taking into account market trends and in recognition of their contribution to the Institution. The Committee's subsequent recommendation on salary levels was adopted. The Committee also monitored staff cost as an item in the budget, to ensure that the appropriate level of service support to members in general would be satisfactorily provided.



**Ir Joseph
C M LEUNG**
Chairman



**Ir Joseph
K H CHOI**
Chairman

QUALIFICATION & MEMBERSHIP BOARD

During the Session under review, the Qualification & Membership Board spared no effort in its bid to:

- (i) enhance the Institution's international standing and mobility of engineers;
- (ii) continue reviewing the Institution's qualifying process; and
- (iii) maintain the quality of membership admission.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION STATISTICS

GRADE	APPLICATIONS	
	Considered	Accepted
	2014/2015	2014/2015
Fellow	66	57
Member	954	501
Graduate Member	1,233	1,222
Associate Member	6	5
Companion	0	0
Student Member	2,409	2,378
Affiliate	4	4
Additional Discipline	213	150
Total	4,885	4,317

Reciprocal Recognition Agreements are important tools for enhancing the Institution's international standing and mobility of our members. During the Session, the Board continued to review existing agreements and explore opportunities for new agreements. We are pleased to announce that, after several rounds of discussion, a Reciprocal Recognition Agreement with the Royal Aeronautical Society was approved and signed in November 2014. Discussion over the renewal of our Reciprocal Recognition Agreement with the Institution of Civil Engineers is well under way.

On the development of the Institution's Associate Membership, a Task Force consisting of representatives from Electronics Discipline and Information Discipline was formed to assess the eligibility of Air Traffic Safety Electronics Personnel for Associate Membership of the Institution. In addition, the Board also supported the proposal to allow Associate Members to be supporters of applications for Graduate membership from candidates who have obtained an accredited/recognised higher diploma, higher certificate or associate degree

in a recognised engineering or technological discipline.

On the development of the competence-based approach in the assessment of experience and professional competence, we are pleased to report that a pilot test has been conducted by Assessors nominated by Building Services and Civil Disciplines. The Assessors have provided valuable feedback for further analysis and possible fine-tuning of the system to facilitate full implementation in the future.

The development and growth of the Institution are underpinned by the quality of its membership. The Board has continued to uphold membership quality through its admission system. Mature Route and Research and Development Route applications were reviewed and respective notes on processing applications via the two routes were approved by the Board.

During the Session, two training sessions on upholding quality were conducted for Assessors. Also, 16 cases were taken through the appeal process.

MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS

Membership	31 Mar 12	31 Mar 13	31 Mar 14	31 Mar 15
Honorary Fellow	18	18	18	19
Fellow	985	1,056	1,099	1,140
Member	12,479	12,996	13,388	13,727
Graduate Member	5,722	6,424	7,021	7,572
Associate Member	1,284	1,232	1,196	1,137
Companion	15	15	15	15
Student Member	7,575	7,612	8,109	8,158
Affiliate	427	414	401	391
Total	28,505	29,767	31,247	32,159

Note: Up to 31 March of the year.

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Education & Examinations Committee

In the four meetings held during this Session, the Education and Examinations Committee considered a total of 115 applications for individual assessment of academic qualifications for the class of Member. Of these, 61 cases were accepted as meeting the academic requirements for Members while 54 cases were rejected. The

Committee also considered one application for the class of Associate Member, which was rejected.

In the year under review, the Civil Discipline received 34 applications, which is the highest among the Disciplines, followed by the Structural Discipline, which received 31 applications; and the Environmental Discipline, which received ten applications for academic assessment.



Ir Prof WONG Sze Chun
Chairman



Ir Stephen H C CHAN
Chairman

Fellowship Committee

Fellow is the highest grade of all the Institution's membership classes available for application. Fellows are senior members of the engineering profession who are well-positioned to make major contributions to the affairs of the Institution, issues of public interest and learned society functions; and towards the setting of standards for qualifications.

It is the Committee's policy to assess each application based on individual merit, taking into full consideration each candidate's particular circumstances.

We would be pleased to see more qualified applicants submitting their applications for Fellowship in the future.

During the Session, the Fellowship Committee recommended a total of 64 candidates.

Professional Assessment Committee

During this session, the Committee reviewed the Professional Assessment procedures for mature candidates. The Professional Assessment flowchart was amended to delineate the synopsis and paper review procedures. Measures were introduced to uphold the quality of mature route assessment,

including the keeping of sample papers for reference; drawing up a list of members to be mature route assessors to accumulate experience; and institutionalising support for Discipline Representatives to help potential mature candidates prepare submission papers in the right format, etc. The implementation methods were approved by the Qualification and Membership Board. A briefing session for mature route assessors was held to familiarise them with the assessment requirements.

The Committee considered and agreed on a proposal to introduce a fee and application period for appeals in view of the increasing number of appeals. Candidates who are dissatisfied with assessment results should lodge an appeal within three months from the date of release of their assessment result and the appeal fee would be HK\$880, which is 40% of the current Professional Assessment fee. The proposal was endorsed by the Qualification and Membership Board and approved by the Council.

Two Assessor Forums on Professional Assessment were held in October 2014 to update assessors on the Professional Assessment process and practice. Feedback from the assessors were collected and have been conveyed to the Committee members of the various Discipline Advisory Panels to facilitate review of the current assessment mechanism. Assessors also shared their invaluable views and experience during the Forums.

The Committee was well informed of the progress of the implementation of competence-based assessment by the Chairman.

A presentation was made to Scheme "A" trainees and their engineering supervisors/training tutors at the Seminar on Engineering Graduate Training Scheme organised by the Vocational Training Council in May 2015.

The Committee would like to express its gratitude to those assessors who had assisted the Institution in conducting assessments.



**Ir Gary
C W KO**
Chairman

Quality Control Committee

Six meetings were held during the Session and a total of 581 assessment results were reviewed. The passing rate is 57% this year, which is the same as last year.

During the Session, the Committee reviewed 17 appeal cases and one further appeal case.

The Committee continued to achieve its mission of maintaining a consistent, quality standard in professional assessments across the 21 Disciplines of the Institution and to uphold the quality of Members admitted via Reciprocal Recognition Agreements with other Institutions.



**Ir CHAN Yun
Cheung**
Chairman

Reports from Boards and Committees 2014/2015**Training Committee**

The Training Committee deals with various training matters, in particular, the vetting and monitoring of Scheme "A" training. During this Session, 56 assessment and re-assessment visits were conducted. A total of 218 companies, including nine new companies, were approved for the HKIE Scheme "A" training. The number of newly-registered trainees reached 1,001, which is the third highest number ever since the establishment of Scheme "A" training. This favourable outcome was made possible by the staunch support of our training partners - the Vocational Training Council (VTC), approved Scheme "A" companies/organisations and graduate trainees.

Four Engineering Supervisor workshops were successfully held during the Session. They were attended by 86 members who became qualified to be Engineering Supervisors for the HKIE Scheme "A" training.

Following the establishment of our Energy (ENY) Discipline, the Training Committee on Technologist Training



**Ir Prof
Leslie George
THAM**
Chairman

of the VTC has included our ENY Discipline under the Engineering Graduate Training Scheme. Recently, one of the existing Scheme "A" Companies, CLP Power Hong Kong Limited, was approved by the HKIE to run ENY Scheme "A" training.

The Trainee of the Year Award 2014 was presented at the New Members' Reception cum Prize Presentation Ceremony held on 30 January 2015 (Friday) at the Hong Kong Club. In this Session, the First Prize Winner is Miss K W Kan (Geotechnical Engg Office (GEG) - HKSAR); the Second Prize Winner goes to Mr Joseph Fisher (Geotechnical Engg Office

(GEG) - HKSAR) and the Third Prize Winner is Mr M C Ng (Housing Department - HKSAR). Ir Victor Cheung, President of the Institution, presented the prizes to the three awardees and their company representatives.

LEARNED SOCIETY BOARD

In Session 2014/2015, with the Logistics & Transportation Division commencing operation, the Institution's 19 Divisions and AMC/YMC/SSC together contributed to a varied and busy schedule involving around 700 activities.

Echoing the theme of "Inspire the Young", Divisions and Committees were encouraged to organise activities to promote the engineering profession to young people. To facilitate the planning by Divisions and Committees of relevant activities, representatives from the Education Bureau (EDB) were invited to the first Board meeting of the Session to share their experience in life planning education, career guidance services for secondary school students and how the Institution/Divisions/Committees could work with EDB to achieve a better result. Through collaborating with the EDB and exploiting its comprehensive school network, Divisions and Committees are able to reach out to students, teachers and parents more efficiently on an ongoing basis.

To strengthen our global engineering network, we are pleased to have entered into an Agreement of Co-operation with the Australian Institute of Building. Renewal of the Agreements of Co-operation with the Institution of Civil Engineers and the Canadian Society for Civil Engineering were also approved by the Council.

The Aircraft Division, which was inaugurated in Session 2012/2013, has enjoyed rapid growth in membership and demonstrated strong commitment to the development of learned society activities. Noting the Division's efforts to promote the aircraft engineering industry to the general public in collaboration with various stakeholders, the Council approved, on the Board's recommendation, the Division's request for a seat in the Council before the end of its three-year probationary period. The new Council seat will be introduced in Session 2015/2016.

As mentioned in the President's report, new premises for the Headquarters have been acquired and additional meeting facilities are now available. I am sure that the increased space will enable Divisions and Committees to add variety and diversity to the list of learned society and professional development activities, maximising learning opportunities that suit our members' needs and support their continued professional growth.



**Ir Thomas
KC CHAN**
Chairman

Reports from Boards and Committees 2014/2015

Community Service Committee

The Committee continues to take a proactive approach towards facilitating members' active participation in community work with a view to enhancing HKIE's public image.

In response to the invitations from Government departments and external organisations, our Committee members have been most supportive in nominating suitable candidates to serve in various boards and committees to contribute their expertise and professional knowledge on technical issues. For the session under review, a total of 125 members were nominated as HKIE representatives to serve in external boards and committees. In addition, members were invited to take part in various public forums and working groups to express engineers' views on issues of public concern.

The Committee co-ordinated with the Hong Kong Council of Volunteering to contribute the article “教育與工程” to the free column on volunteering and business in a local printed media to enhance general public's understanding of the profession and our volunteering service. The article was published on 1 September 2015 and received very encouraging feedback from our members as well as the community.

To promote volunteerism among the engineering profession, the HKIE Professional Volunteers Service Accreditation Programme (Programme) has been set up to recognise our members' contributions of their expertise and efforts in serving the community. During this Session, 34 members were awarded under the Programme. We hope that the Programme will further encourage our members to play an active role in contributing to society.

The Committee is also responsible for formulating Institution's views on social and

technical issues. As in previous years, the Committee continues to co-ordinate responses to public consultation papers from Divisions, Committees and members. During the Session, 14 invitations for opinions were received from various Government departments, higher educational institutions as well as professional institutes.

With the commendable efforts and contributions of our members, the Committee's works progressed smoothly during Session 2014/2015.



**Ir Dr KOON
Chi Ming**
Chairman



Ir TAI Tak Him
Chairman

Conference Committee

During Session 2014/2015, the Conference Committee was actively involved in the planning, monitoring and organisation of various local, regional and international conferences at the Institutional level, with the strong support of the Secretariat.

Two Distinguished Lectures were organised on 8 and 9 May 2015 at the Chiang Chen Studio Theatre of the Hong Kong Polytechnic University under the theme "Urban Planning and Development". The Institution was honoured to have two prominent academicians, Ir Prof Lionel Ni and Ir Prof C F Lee, to share with us their insights into topics of common interests. Ir Prof Ni, Vice Rector (Academic Affairs) and Chair Professor of Computer and Information Science

at the University of Macau, and Ir Prof Lee, Director of the HKU School of Professional and Continuing Education and Chair Professor of Geotechnical Engineering of the University of Hong Kong, delivered presentations on "Big Data: Making Cities Smarter" and "Water Resources Management in China" respectively. Each lecture was well-attended by some 200 participants from the engineering community, academia as well as the general public.

The Committee has also undertaken the planning and monitoring of Institutional conferences to be held in the next Session, including the International Conference on Electrical Engineering 2015, the Hong Kong and Shanghai Symposium on Science and Technology and the 3rd Cross-Strait Forum on Smart Rail Development - Present & Future.

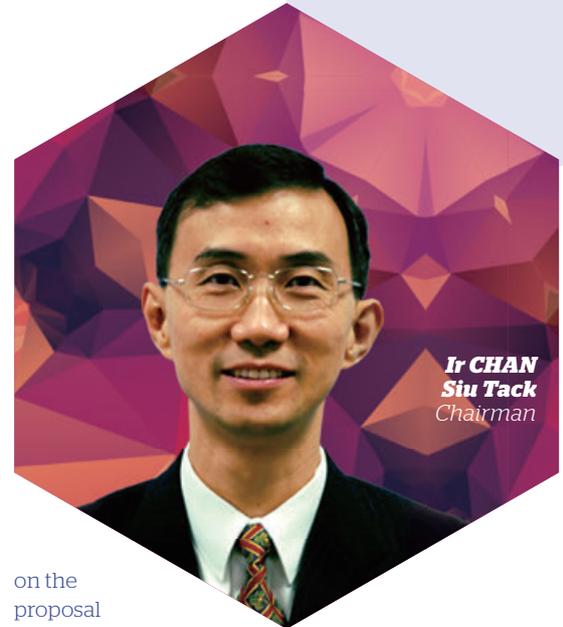
Continuing Professional Development Committee

The Continuing Professional Development Committee (CPDC) continued its efforts to promote and administer generic Continuing Professional Development (CPD) activities for members of the Institution.

With support from 12 CPD course providers, the Committee planned over 440 courses covering occupational safety and health, technical matters and general professional subjects during this Session. These activities attracted around 2,500 participants. The Committee and Young Members Committee (YMC) also co-organised free CPD courses and activities for YMC members, with fruitful results.

The CPD has become a mandatory requirement for Corporate Members. In order to ascertain compliance, the CPDC has set up a Special Panel (CPDCSP) to review CPD submissions and to make recommendations to the CPDC on cases of compliance each year. An audit mechanism is in place for the purpose. A random checking, usually 1% sampling on all Corporate Members will be conducted on an annual basis. A round of audit on members' CPD attainment in 2013 has been completed and a recent round on members' attainment in 2014 has started. For 2013, the CPDCSP reviewed a total of 133 cases and 116 of them were in compliance with the requirements.

Following the establishment of the Task Force (TF) on Competence-based Approach to CPD Activities to review the mandatory CPD requirements for Corporate Members, consultation



Ir CHAN Siu Tack
Chairman

on the proposal involving all Divisions and HKIE members at large has been completed. The TF is reviewing the proposal based on the feedback collected.

Reports from Boards and Committees 2014/2015**HKIE Transactions Committee**

Supported by a dedicated expert editorial panel, *HKIE Transactions* provided an excellent platform for the publication of high-quality papers by engineering professionals and specialists throughout this Session. The Committee also worked smoothly with the international publisher, Taylor & Francis Group, on enhancing the quality of the journal and fostering outreach to international authors.

With a view towards enhancing the quality of papers and the number of citations, the Committee is pleased to announce that two special issues of *HKIE Transactions* have been arranged to attract high-quality papers globally. Ir Prof Norman Tien, Dean of the Faculty of Engineering at the University of Hong Kong, was the Guest Editor of the first special issue, on the topic of robotics, which was published in June 2015. The second special issue, on microwave/millimetre-wave/THz filters and their applications in active/passive components, has been scheduled for publication in March 2016. Another outstanding scholar, Prof Q Xue, Chair



**Ir Prof Keith
K C CHAN**
Chairman

Professor of Microwave Engineering at the Department of Electronic Engineering, City University of Hong Kong, is the Guest Editor.

Three quality papers that were published in *HKIE Transactions* were awarded the HKIE Best Transactions Paper Prize 2014 while three distinguished papers attained the HKIE Outstanding Paper Award for Young Engineers/Researchers 2014. A technical seminar was organised for the winners of the Outstanding Paper Award to present and share their winning papers and accomplishments with some 30 members, practitioners and engineering students in September 2014. The three award-winning papers and seven shortlisted papers were published in the December 2014 and March 2015 issues of *HKIE Transactions* respectively. The 2015 Award was open for submission in January 2015.

To strive for a wider readership, the Editor's Choice Campaign was launched on the Taylor & Francis platform in April 2015, to highlight the papers that won the HKIE Best Transactions Paper Prize 2014 and the HKIE Outstanding Paper Award for Young Engineers/Researchers 2014 for readers.

The steady increase in both submission and subscription levels is due in no small measure to the concerted efforts of the Editors, Associate Editors, Transactions International Advisors and reviewers. The Committee will continue to uphold the international profile of *HKIE Transactions* in the coming Session.

**Ir Prof Adam
S C CHOY**
Chairman



Public Relations Committee

The Public Relations Committee (PRC) continues to put splendid effort into uplifting the image of the HKIE and enhancing the visibility of the engineering profession among fellow members, the media, the younger generation and the general public.

In this Session, the Institution organised the “Engineering and You” Programme, which comprised an exhibition, lectures, project site visits, all geared towards arousing public awareness of the engineering profession and demonstrating how engineers apply innovative technology to enhance people’s quality of life. Members of

the Committee provided professional advice on the organisation and publicity for the event. The Programme received an overwhelming response with the participation of more than 53,000 people.

Inspiring the young and nurturing their interest in engineering is always one of the major focuses of the Institution. Therefore, the Committee initiated the HKIE School Ambassadors Programme in 2003 and spearheaded participation in the Education and Careers Expo for over 20 years. The Committee is pleased to report that 196 School Ambassadors were recruited to deliver 70 school talks to over 7,200 students of secondary schools and tertiary institutions during this Session. The Careers Expo was held at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre on 5-8 February 2015 with about 1,150 visitors visiting the HKIE booth. By participating in these activities, the Committee hopes to attract a new generation of talents to join the engineering industry, to build a better tomorrow for Hong Kong.

With a view towards promoting the importance of building maintenance

and management and fostering a closer relationship with the District Councils as well as the local community, the PRC sent speakers to community talks on building maintenance for property owners organised by the Urban Renewal Resource Centre in Yau Tsim Mong District on 14 October 2014 and 4 December 2014 respectively. Having considered the public’s need for knowledge of building maintenance and management, the PRC also organised a seminar on this topic on 24 January 2015. It was well-attended by more than 70 members of the District Councils, owners’ corporations and property management companies. In addition, the Committee provided contents for the Yau Tsim Mong District Office of the Home Affairs Department for its building management supplement, to be published in a local newspaper in June and September 2015.

The Committee owes its accomplishments to the unstinting support and dedication of the PRC members, School Ambassadors and other volunteers.

PLANNING COMMITTEE

The Committee continued its effort to formulate long-term strategies and map out the Institution’s future development by considering and reviewing the next Three-Year Rolling Plan prepared by the three Vice Presidents for Sessions 2015/2016 to 2017/2018 and the new initiatives proposed for the celebration of the 40th Anniversary of the Institution as set out under the Year Plan for Session 2015/2016.

The Committee also reviewed regularly the progress of all planned action tasks made under the Three-Year Rolling Plan for Sessions 2014/2015 to 2016/2017 and is pleased to note that most of the planned action tasks have been

implemented and/or completed in line with the theme set for the Session, “Inspire the Young”, with the conclusion of new initiatives, such as the organisation of the “Engineer for a Day” Programme, Engineering Day Camp for secondary school students and the “Engineering and You” Programme as well as the launching of the first song of the HKIE “Tian Gong” and the new corporate video “Engineering Our City”.

The Committee worked in accordance with the timeframe and flow chart of the planning cycle in reviewing the overall performance and objectives of the Institution. It will consult and coordinate with the Vice Presidents on the appropriate time for organising the Strategic Planning Meeting for devising long-term development strategies for the Institution.

**Ir Raymond
K S CHAN**
Chairman



Reports from Boards and Committees 2014/2015**ACCREDITATION BOARD**

As a full signatory to the Washington Accord, the Institution has established itself as the internationally-recognised body in Hong Kong for the accreditation of engineering degree programmes. At present, a total of 136 engineering degree programmes (including three in Macau) are accredited by the HKIE. During the past year, the Board carried out four accreditation visits to local institutions for the evaluation of 43 engineering degree programmes.

In accordance with the rules and procedures of the Washington Accord, every jurisdiction with full signatory status is required to undergo a monitoring review periodically at intervals of not more than six years. A Washington Accord review panel completed

such a review of the HKIE in January 2015. A review panel comprising representatives from Chinese Taipei, Ireland and Singapore observed the HKIE Accreditation Board meeting on 23 September 2014 and two HKIE accreditation visits to the Hong Kong Polytechnic University and City University of Hong Kong on 12-13 January 2015 and 15-16 January 2015 respectively.

In addition, the Accreditation Board invited Prof Ira Jacobson, a past overseas member of the Board, to conduct a one-day workshop in September 2014 on "*Outcomes based Accreditation for Evaluators*", to familiarise evaluation team members with the revised HKIE accreditation criteria. The new outcomes based criteria for accrediting engineering degree programmes have been implemented on a mandatory basis since September 2012.

Following the successful first cycle of outcomes based accreditation visits, it is important for faculty members to broaden their understanding of continuous improvement in student learning through the design of assessment processes, development of measurable learning outcomes and application of data collection and data reporting methods. Against this backdrop, the Accreditation Board invited Prof Daina Briedis, an experienced ABET trainer and evaluator, to conduct a one-day workshop for university faculty members in October 2014, on outcomes assessment processes for engineering degree programmes under the outcomes based approach.

The Board is committed to achieving the highest standard for its accreditation service. To this end, it maintained a close working relationship with local universities and conducted periodic exchanges and discussions with other accreditation authorities in the region and the Washington Accord jurisdictions during the year.



**Ir Prof David
W.L. CHEUNG**
Chairman

Accreditation Committee for Computer Science Programmes

The Accreditation Committee for Computer Science Programmes, now in its 14th year of operation, has laid a solid foundation for the operation and development of a robust accreditation system for computer science degree programmes in Hong Kong.

As a full signatory to the Seoul Accord since 2009, all computer science degree programmes accredited by the

HKIE are fully recognised by other signatories to the Accord, including Australia, Canada, Chinese Taipei, Korea, Japan, the United Kingdom and the United States. The Seoul Accord is an international mutual recognition agreement on accreditation of computing as well as information and communication technology degree programmes. At present, a total of 19 computer science degree programmes are accredited by the HKIE.

In response to the implementation of the new "3-3-4" education system in 2012, this Committee granted 13 four-year computer science degree programmes interim recognition from the 2012 intake year up to and including the year 2015. The granting of interim recognition to the four-year computer science degree programmes was based on information submitted by the universities concerned regarding changes in the programmes. This arrangement would facilitate the accreditation of the new programmes during the transition period.

In view of the international practice of outcomes based accreditation, the Committee completed a review of the existing accreditation criteria and procedures for computer science programmes. Revisions to the accreditation criteria were made in line with the implementation of the "3-3-4" education system in Hong Kong, the development of outcomes based accreditation and the requirements of the Seoul Accord.

The revised accreditation criteria are now effective in parallel with the existing accreditation criteria until academic year 2016/17. During this period, universities/higher education institutions are allowed to choose one of the two sets of accreditation criteria for accreditation of their computer science programmes. Starting from 1 September 2017, all computer science programmes seeking accreditation will only be accredited according to the revised criteria.

Accreditation Committee for Higher Diploma Programmes

The Institution has been a full signatory of the Sydney Accord since 2003. All engineering and computing higher diploma and equivalent programmes accredited by the HKIE are fully recognised by the other signatories, including Australia, Canada, Chinese Taipei, Ireland, Korea, New Zealand, South Africa, the United Kingdom and the United States. At present, a total of 53 higher diploma and equivalent programmes are accredited by the HKIE.

In response to the implementation of the new senior secondary academic structure in 2012, 34 new higher diploma and equivalent programmes were granted interim recognition by this Committee from the 2012 intake year up to and including the year 2014. The granting of interim recognition to

the new higher diploma and equivalent programmes was based on information submitted by the corresponding higher education institutions concerning changes to the programmes and this arrangement would facilitate the accreditation of the new programmes during the transition period.

The new outcomes based criteria for accrediting higher diploma and equivalent programmes are effective and are applied in parallel with the existing accreditation criteria until the 2014/15 academic year. Higher education institutions are allowed to choose one of the two sets of accreditation criteria for accreditation of their programmes during this period. Starting from the 2015/16 academic year, all higher diploma and equivalent programmes will only be accredited under the new outcomes based criteria.

A new round of accreditation of engineering higher diploma and



**Ir Prof Richard
K.K. YUEN**
Chairman

equivalent programmes under the new "3-3-4" education system has commenced. During the period under review, this Committee conducted three accreditation exercises to evaluate ten full-time new higher diploma and equivalent programmes for full accreditation.