

# REPORTS FROM BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

2006/2007

## ADMINISTRATION BOARD

The Administration Board is responsible for the interpretation, development and implementation of the Institution's policy on financial and administration matters and for the co-ordination of administrative functions that involve more than one committee under the Board.

Appraising administrative policy of the Institution from time to time is a central and fundamental role of the Board. During the year, reviews were carried out on the existing consultation procedures as well as the media enquiries guidelines and spokesman system. The aim was to ensure that the procedures are proactive and efficient in the dissemination of the Institution's views or comments on public affairs related to engineering to various parties. To assist the screening of invitations from various organisations on the Mainland to participate in their activities, a set of guidelines have been developed for reference of the Secretariat.

A number of proposed amendments to the Constitution have been considered, including the removal of age requirements for Student and Graduate Members, inclusion of Associate Members as supporter for Student Membership applications and amendments on the requirements of Honorary Fellow. The proposed amendments were approved by the Council and presented to the Special General Meeting for adoption.

Working closely with the Management Committee, the Board has reviewed the Composition and Terms of Reference of various Boards/Committees, including the Accreditation Board and its related Committees, Public

Relations Committee, Finance & Investment Committee, Conference Committee and Fellowship Committee.

The Institution has generated more-than-expected income which could help to meet the resources that are required for the activities initiated during the year. It is pleased to note that a healthy financial position of the Institution could be maintained.

The Board has reviewed the Institution's facilities. Enhancement has been made on the telephone system of the Secretariat and the access control system of the office. In addition, the Board kept an eye on changes to the establishment of the Secretariat, the affairs of the Journal, the production of Diary as well as the financial accounts of the Institution's Yearbook. The Board has designed new colours for the HKIE tie for introduction in Session 2007/2008.

With the support of Board members and the contribution and hard work of all Committees, the Board experienced a smooth progress during the year of review.



Ir Dr LO Wai Kwok,  
Chairman

## Finance & Investment Committee

The Finance & Investment Committee is responsible for the management of 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 financial year 2006/2007, the Institution has achieved a healthy financial and cash position with a surplus of HK\$3.66 million. The total income for the year was HK\$26.3 million, representing an increase of HK\$1.1 million compared to that of last year. This was mainly due to increases in membership subscription, accreditation income and interest received during the year. Total expenditure for the year was HK\$22.7 million, which was HK\$1.1 million higher than that of last year. The rise was resulted from more activities being organised during the period, including the study on the Sustainable Infrastructure for Asia's World City, Hong Kong Engineering Archive as well as the HKIE Road Shows. Overall spending pattern remained broadly the same.

Taking into consideration the economic situation as well as the Institution's financial position, the Committee has recommended maintaining the membership fees at their existing levels for Session 2007/2008 and

to continue to offer the early bird discount to all members who make subscription payments by cheque or cash before 1 April 2007. With close monitoring on spending, the Institution is expected to meet its financial budget in the coming financial year.

## Journal Editorial Committee

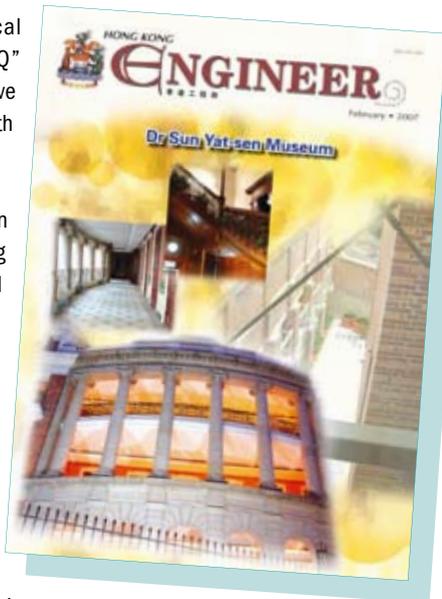
The Journal Editorial Committee is responsible for managing, supervising and monitoring the publishing of the Journal *Hong Kong Engineer*, *Hong Kong Engineer Online* and the *HKIE Yearbook*.

In an effort to understand and collect our readers' views on the Journal, the Committee conducted the Opinion Survey in September and convened the Opinion Survey Meeting in October with Division Chairmen, technical reviewers and authorised persons for submissions to the Journal. The discussion was fruitful and, as a result, a new spacious and flexible design was launched in January 2007. The Committee was pleased to receive positive responses from members.

It has always been the prime objective of the Committee to enhance and enrich the contents of the Journal. With the support of Divisions and Committee,

columns like, “Electrical Blog”, “The Civil FAQ” and “Safety Corner” have been set up to share with readers their expertise.

The HKIE has been presented the Caring Organisation Award for three consecutive years. The Journal propelled the social mission by arranging free insertions with charitable organisations like Oxfam Hong Kong and ORBIS.



In March 2007, the Committee reviewed the performance of the existing publisher in terms of quality and contents of the two publications, the Journal and the Yearbook, as well as their publishing schedule and financial status. After a thorough review, the publishing agreements for the Journal and its online version were signed with the existing Publisher for another two-year term.

Financially, the Publisher has continued to maintain the Journal at a stable and healthy financial position. In this Session, through the publication of the Journal and the Yearbook, the Institution has been able to share the revenue of about HK\$188,000.

The Committee would like to express its gratitude to its members and the Publisher for their zealous efforts in making the Journal a must-read for the profession.

## Management Committee

The Management Committee reports to the Administration Board for the regular review and update of policies and management procedures of the Institution. In this Session the Committee held four meetings and reviewed the Composition and Terms of Reference of the standing committees with significant progress.

This year the Committee has concentrated its efforts to review the composition of all standing committees to give a more consistent presentation. Observations made and recommendations proposed were forwarded to the respective committees for their initial consideration. The review exercise will continue in the ensuing Session.

While much effort has been focused on the review of the composition of standing committees, the Committee has taken on board consideration of a number of proposals for amendments to the Constitution. The Committee considered altogether three proposals for amendments to

the Constitution in this Session, which were for the following purposes: (1) removing the age requirements for both Student and Graduate Members; (2) inclusion of Associate Members as an alternative to Corporate Members in support of student membership applications; and (3) editorial modifications and clarification on the requirements of Honorary Fellow. These proposals for amendments to the Constitution were all approved by the Council and adopted at the Special General Meeting held on 21 June 2007.

The Committee also reviewed the Media Enquiries Guidelines and Spokesman System and proposed that the President and the Secretary acting as the official spokesmen would suffice. The recommendation was adopted by the Executive.

## Staff Resources Committee

The Committee, reporting to the Administration Board, is responsible 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.

With the development in the various spectrums of activities of the Institution, the Committee has kept in constant review the secretariat support at different levels to ensure even division of work at appropriate level of support. Recommendations on staff establishment were approved for implementation in 2007.

The Committee has always kept a close watch on the salary levels relative to the market trend. For the year under review, the recommendation on salary review was adopted by the Administration Board. At the same time, the Committee also monitored the staff cost against the budget to ensure that appropriate level of service support to members in general would be provided. In addition, information pertaining to membership numbers as compared to staff costs and revenue per member was compiled for reference.

The Committee is sad to report that its Deputy Chairman, Ir Kenneth K S Au-yeung, who had made valuable contributions to the Committee over the year, passed away in early 2007.

# REPORTS FROM BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

## 2006/2007

### QUALIFICATION & MEMBERSHIP BOARD

The Qualification & Membership Board had a busy and fruitful year developing and upholding the quality of the Institution's membership qualification system. This year, the total number of applications for Corporate and other classes of Membership reviewed by the Board were 880 and 2,121 respectively. The passing rate for Corporate Membership stood at 76.8%.

The Board is pleased to report that the Free Student Membership Scheme was successfully launched in October 2006. The Scheme is targeted at students who are studying engineering degrees, associate degrees and higher diplomas accredited by the Institution. These students are not required to pay any membership subscriptions while studying the accredited programmes. Up to May 2007, 2,012 students have been admitted as our Student Members under the Scheme.

Following the signing of the Reciprocal Recognition Agreement between the HKIE and the Chartered Institute of Building in

May 2006, the first supplementary training and assessment under the agreement was held on 28–30 October 2006 in Hong Kong. The three-day assessment comprised a two-day training programme, a written test and an interview.

The Board also approved a proposal in allowing non-accredited degree holders to take professional assessment for the Environmental, Information and Materials Disciplines for a period of three years.

The Reciprocal Recognition Agreement with the Institution of Gas Engineers and Managers was also renewed during the Session.



Ir Peter Y WONG,  
Chairman

### MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION STATISTICS

Grade	Applications			
	Considered		Accepted	
Session	2006/2007	(2005/2006)	2006/2007	(2005/2006)
Fellow	46	(41)	35	(32)
Member	768	(614)	575	(450)
Graduate Member	503	(600)	498	(600)
Associate Member	4	(4)	2	(4)
Companion	0	(0)	0	(0)
Student Member	1,683	(340)	1,619	(340)
Affiliate	2	(2)	2	(2)
Additional Discipline	162	(129)	132	(108)
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,168</b>	<b>(1,730)</b>	<b>2,863</b>	<b>(1,536)</b>

### MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS

Membership	31 Mar 04	31 Mar 05	31 Mar 06	31 Mar 07
Honorary Fellow	17	18	18	18
Fellow	814	836	855	873
Member	9,638	9,898	10,188	10,655
Graduate Member	4,149	4,142	4,184	3,979
Associate Member	2,084	1,973	1,832	1,718
Companion	22	23	23	19
Student Member	1,780	1,685	1,648	2,744
Affiliate	727	649	579	595
<b>Total</b>	<b>19,231</b>	<b>19,224</b>	<b>19,327</b>	<b>20,601</b>

Note: Up to 31 March each year.

## Education & Examinations Committee

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

In the five meetings held during the Session, the Committee considered a total of 25 cases, of which 15 cases were accepted as meeting the academic requirements for Members; nine cases were rejected, and one case was in progress.

In the year under review, the Civil Discipline received the highest number of applications for academic assessment, followed by the Geotechnical and Building Disciplines.

## Fellowship Committee

The Fellowship Committee reports to the Q & M Board on all recommendations relating to the election of Fellows. Five meetings were held in the Session and a total of 34 Fellows were recommended. It is the policy of the Committee to assess each application on its individual merits and each applicant's particular circumstances are always fully considered by the Committee.

The Council at its meeting held on 15 March 2007 approved the nomination mechanism for Fellowship according to which the Executive may collectively act as a proposer and nominate suitable candidates for due consideration before inviting them to submit formal applications. This mechanism follows closely the existing eminence route to Fellowship.

## Professional Assessment Committee

The Professional Assessment Committee is responsible for establishing and maintaining the procedures and system of assessments.

During the Session, the Committee reviewed and drew up guidelines for assessors to decide in what circumstances they should ask a mature candidate to write an essay except for mature candidates applying for Membership in the Structural Discipline as they all would have to take an written examination by the Institution of Structural Engineers. The Committee endorsed and the Q & M Board subsequently approved the corresponding amendments to the M3 booklet and the document "Guidance Notes for Assessors". The Committee also reviewed the paper submission period and the Professional Assessment process for mature candidates and was satisfied with the current arrangement without any amendment.

During the Session, a presentation was made to Scheme 'A' trainees in an orientation session organised by the Vocational Training Council.

## Quality Control Committee

The Quality Control Committee reports to the Q & M Board and is responsible for providing quality assurance on all professional assessments for members, as well as assessments for Associate Members and applications for membership via Reciprocal Recognition Agreements with other institutions. It seeks to ensure that the prescribed assessment procedures are followed closely and can stand up to scrutiny if subsequently challenged.

Five meetings were held in the Session and a total of 317 applications for professional assessment were reviewed. The passing rate was 60% this year as compared with 61% last year. One case of alleged misconduct during professional assessment was also handled and referred to the Q & M Board. The Committee continued to achieve its mission to maintain a consistent quality standard of professional assessment across the 18 Disciplines of the Institution and to uphold the quality of our members admitted via Reciprocal Recognition Agreements with other institutions.

## Training Committee

A total of 499 trainees registered in the Graduate Training Scheme 'A' in Session 2006/2007, which was up 3% on last year. Currently 171 companies have been approved to offer Scheme 'A' Training, including five companies which were newly approved in this Session.

The Trainee of the Year Award 2006 was well received and the prizes were presented at The HKIE Prize Presentation Ceremony held on 8 December 2006. President Ir Wong Kwok Lai presented the prizes to three awardees and representatives of their respective companies. The award included cash prizes and certificates to winners and trophies to their companies.

The Committee approved the training scheme details developed for the newly established Fire Discipline. The Chairman of the Training Committee also solicited support from the Committee on Technologist Training of the Vocational Training Centre (VTC) to include the Fire Discipline in their subsidy scheme. All 18 engineering disciplines of the HKIE are now under the VTC subsidy scheme.

Following the establishment of the Formal Training Scheme to Associate Membership in three pilot disciplines (Building Services, Civil and Manufacturing & Industrial Disciplines), promotional activities have been launched and contact was made with more than 100 Scheme 'A' companies from which positive responses were received. To put it forward, a seminar was held in early June 2007 to explain details of the scheme and to provide advice to companies that are interested in setting up the training scheme.

Nonetheless, the Committee accomplished a number of essential tasks, including drawing guidelines for training secondment to branch offices of Scheme 'A' companies outside Hong Kong; running four Engineering Supervisor Workshops with 69 Engineering Supervisors approved; matching of 31 local accredited/re-accredited university degree programmes and Scheme 'A' disciplines; and assessing 23 mis-matched cases.

# REPORTS FROM BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

2006/2007

## LEARNED SOCIETY BOARD

The Board is pleased to report another Session of robust performance in its primary role of providing leadership and coordination to Divisions and Committees of the Institution, as well as encouraging and fostering collaboration with fellow professional organisations. It is pleasing to report that an impressive array of activities, including awards, conferences, seminars and visits, were organised by Divisions and Committees throughout the Session. Some of these have been of particular value, ground-breaking, and of international significance. These activities are reported separately in the later sections of the Report.

In carrying out the mandate to foster collaboration with professional organisations on the Mainland and overseas and to further a global network for members, the Board recommended to the Council and secured approval on the renewal of Agreements of Cooperation with the American Society of Civil Engineers and with the Hainan Association for Science and Technology. At divisional level, the Council approved the recommendation from the Board to the proposal by Civil Division to renew the Agreement of Cooperation with the China Civil Engineering Society.

In response to occasional issues raised by Divisions and Committees on operational matters as well as the proceedings of their Annual General Meetings and Special General Meetings, the Board exercised due diligence to work with the Honorary Legal Advisor in conducting an overall and comprehensive review on the Division Rules. With the approval from the Council, the amended Division Rules set forth clearer guidelines on operational methodologies in significant details so as to ensure smooth running of Divisions and Committees, and also to ensure consistency with the Constitution.

At the direction of the Council, the Board initiated the setting up of Student Chapters in five local universities and three campuses of the Hong Kong Institute of Vocational Education to promote the profession as well as the Institution to engineering students. The first Student Chapter has been established in the University of Hong Kong and the Council approved the appointment of Committee members for Session 2007/2008. As a separate yet related matter, the Board supported the formation of Student Section in the Canadian Chapter. Under its auspices, the Student Section, initially Toronto-based, serves as a link between engineering students studying in Canada and the Institution. This will serve as an effective platform to promote student membership of the Institution.



Ir Dr Andrew K C CHAN,  
Chairman

With regard to divisional matters, the Board appreciates the concerted effort by Divisions and Committees to organise various student prizes and competitions during the Session. The Board is also delighted to note that funding support from the Professional Services Development Assistance Scheme has been granted to projects initiated by Divisions.

The Board is pleased with the level of support and the enthusiasm it has received from the Divisions and Committees. This has been essential to the solid development and the enhancement of learned society activities over the past year.

## Community Service Committee

The Community Service Committee has set a high priority encouraging members' active involvement in public affairs. The Committee has continued with its efforts to coordinate the HKIE responses to consultation papers as well as to make nominations for external boards and committees upon request.

During the Session, a total of 36 invitations for opinions and views ranging from engineering related matters to issues of public concern were received from various Government departments, higher education institutions and professional organisations. The Institution responded to 12 of which views collated from members were provided.

The Committee acts in concert with the mission to stay responsive to topical issues in the community and stands ready to provide professional advice. Towards this end, a briefing session on the Kwun Tong Town Centre Redevelopment Project was held in collaboration with the Urban Renewal Authority (URA) on 27 October 2006 to provide a platform for members

to deliberate on the issue. Views and opinions on various aspects of the redevelopment project were presented to representatives of the URA at the briefing session.

The Committee has processed a total of 38 invitations from Government departments and external organisations for nominations of HKIE representatives to serve on their boards and committees. 142 members were nominated to provide professional input where necessary to assist in the operation of these boards and committees.

Pursuant to the action tasks as outlined in the Three-year Rolling Plan for Sessions 2006/07 to 2008/09, the Committee took up the planned action task of "Participation in Public Affairs by HKIE Members". The Working Group on Enhancing Participation in Public Affairs by HKIE Members was set up to make recommendations on the way forward to foster more proactive participation of members in community work at the district level. Subsequently, a list of HKIE representation in the 18 Districts has been consolidated to facilitate further discussion with the District Councils on future cooperation.

## Conference Committee

The Institution successfully held a series of important regional and international conferences, symposiums and forums during this Session.

The 2006 Shanghai and Hong Kong Symposium on Science and Technology, held from 25 to 26 August 2006, was jointly organised by the Institution and the Shanghai Association for the Science and Technology. More than 200 delegates from Hong Kong and the Mainland were present at the Conference held in Shanghai. Permanent Secretary for Economic Development and Labour (Economic Development), Ms Eva Cheng, was the Guest of Honour.

The International Conference on Bridge Engineering was held from 1 to 3 November 2006 with the support of the Highways Department, the Government of HKSAR. During these three days, over 400 delegates attended 20 technical sessions with over 130 papers and two technical visits were conducted.

Jointly organised by the Institution, the Guangdong Provincial Association for Science and Technology and the Macau Institution of Engineers, the Third Symposium on Sustainable Development of Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macau was held in Macau from 23 to 26 November 2006. Over 200 delegates attending the Symposium. Ms Anissa Wong, Permanent Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works (Environment), was the Guest of Honour.

The International Conference on Climate Change 2007 which was jointly organised by the Institution, the Chartered Institution of Water and Environment Management Hong Kong, the Institution of Mechanical Engineers, the Hong Kong Association and the Institution of Civil Engineers, Hong Kong Branch, was held in Hong Kong from 29 to 31 May 2007. Over 400 delegates attended the Conference and it was an honour that the Honourable Donald Tsang, Chief Executive of the Government of HKSAR, and Mr Peter Woo, Chairman of Hong Kong Trade Development Council, were present and graced the occasion as Guests of Honour.

## Continuing Professional Development Committee

The Continuing Professional Development (CPD) Committee made sustained efforts to promote, promulgate and administer CPD among members of the Institution.

Together with the 16 endorsed CPD course providers, the Committee planned over 220 courses which attracted more than 1,900 participants. Honorary speakers were also invited to deliver free CPD talks on a wide range of topics for our members. Overwhelming response was received. Furthermore, the Committee offered free CPD courses/activities for YMC members on a free-of-charge basis, with a fixed budget borne by the CPD Promotional Fund.

Following the implementation of mandatory CPD requirements for Corporate Members on 1 January 2006, all Corporate Members are now required to undertake a minimum of 30 hours of CPD per year. The Committee has conducted a survey on the compliance of Corporate Members

with these requirements and an auditing exercise will commence after 1 January 2008.

With an aim to enhance the competitiveness of members in Mainland practice, CPD courses relating to Mainland Practices were organised jointly with the Committee and Divisions. Response was overwhelming. Meanwhile, CPD course providers were also invited to organise “general nature” courses relating to Mainland Practice and Scheme ‘A’ companies were asked to encourage Scheme ‘A’ trainees to participate in CPD areas of Mainland Practices on top of the three existing compulsory CPD training areas.

## Public Relations Committee

It is the prime objective of the Public Relations Committee to promote the engineering profession to its stakeholders, our fellow members, the media, the youngsters and the general public. The respective Work Groups have jointly devoted tremendous efforts to achieve this goal.

Building on the success of the previous years’ Road Shows, the Work Group on Events and Publicity organised another three-day HKIE Road Show entitled “Engineering a Green Future” in March 2007 at Olympian City at which Ms Anissa S Y Wong, Permanent Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works (Environment) of the HKSAR, officiated at the opening ceremony. Enthusiastic response was received from the visitors. To show the Institution’s commitment to promote sustainability, a booklet entitled “Engineering a Sustainable Hong Kong” was published by utilising the materials displayed at the previous HKIE Exhibition and Road Shows. It proved to be a meritorious endeavour as the booklet was welcome by Government officials, policy makers, primary and secondary schools.

The Work Group on Career Talks continued to do well in promoting the profession to potential engineers in local schools. Our School Ambassadors delivered more than 30 career talks to students of over 3,500 secondary schools, the Hong Kong Institute of Vocational Education and universities during the Session. In an effort to let students appreciate engineers’ contributions to the society in a more lively and attractive manner, a new PowerPoint presentation introducing the winning projects of the Election of ten Hong Kong Engineering Wonders was also launched in this Session.



Members of the Public Relations Committee paid a Courtesy Visit to the Kwun Tong District Council.

# REPORTS FROM BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

## 2006/2007

The Work Group on District Relations organised a successful visit with the Southern District Council to the Institution in December 2006 and a courtesy visit to the secretariat office of Kwun Tong District Council in May 2007. Ties with these organisations were strengthened.

On the media front, the Work Group on Mass Media has successfully organised two media briefings on Mandatory Building Inspection and arrangements for preservation of the Queen's Pier respectively. There has been good media coverage on the briefings and, most importantly, the Institution's views on the issues could be widely disseminated to the general public. Besides ad hoc issues, an HKIE Engineering Series introducing the 18 Disciplines of the Institution was set up in the Industry Focus Column of the South China Morning Post's Classified Post. Since its launch in March 2007, articles on Civil, Building Services and Electronics Disciplines were released.

The Committee attained significant accomplishments in the Session through the concerted effort of all PRC members. We are looking forward to having an equally fruitful year ahead.

### Publications Committee

In view of the steady development of HKIE Transactions and to uphold its international standard and quality, a group of intellectuals and experts from both local and overseas engineering disciplines have been invited to act as Transactions International Advisors. To build up a strong editorial panel, the Committee continued to invite professionals from different specialties to be Associate Editors so as to cope with a diverse range of paper submissions. With the support from both advisory and editorial panels, the Committee is pleased to report that submission and subscription levels are growing gradually.

In September 2006, three Transactions papers have been awarded the HKIE Transactions Prize 2006 at the Presidential Dinner. To encourage our young engineers/researchers to advance their knowledge of engineering, the Committee launched the first HKIE Outstanding Paper Award for Young Engineers/Researchers 2006 in April last year. Overwhelming response was received and three outstanding papers were presented the Award at the Presidential Dinner as well. Riding on the success, the Committee has extended this paper competition to an international level and launched the Award again in early January 2007. Encouraging feedbacks were received and papers from Armenia, Australia, India, Ireland, Malaysia, Netherlands, Singapore, Chinese Taipei, the UK and the USA were submitted to this year's Award. In addition, a seminar was arranged for the winning young engineers/researchers to present and share their ideas and findings with our members. All shortlisted and awarded papers will be published in the special issue of the HKIE Transactions in December 2007.

The overall design of HKIE Transactions was revamped. A different pagination style has been adopted.

The Committee would like to thank the advisory and editorial panels as well as the papers' reviewers for their unstinting support throughout the Session.



### PLANNING COMMITTEE

The Committee has continued its efforts to discuss and formulate long-term strategies of the Institution according to the time frame and flow chart of the planning cycle. During the Session, the Committee noted and reviewed the progress of all planned action tasks of the Three-year Rolling Plan for Sessions 2006/2007 to 2008/2009 to be taken by different boards and committees. It is encouraging to note that some of the action tasks are already in the pipeline.

After due deliberation and discussion with the Vice Presidents, the Committee has put forward recommendations on the next Three-year Rolling Plan for Sessions 2007/2008 to 2009/2010 which has set out the blueprint for the development of the Institution in the coming three Sessions. The four goals as outlined in the Plan included the improvement of communication within the Institution and more values to be added to members; the broadening of membership base, promoting new technology and identifying new disciplines; facilitation of co-practice in Mainland China and Hong Kong; enhancement of the status of engineers and promotion of the profession to the public.

Serving as a comprehensive road map of strategic planning, the Strategic Planning Meeting, organised by the Committee, provided the President with an anchor point in the preparation of his Presidential Address on the basis of issues deliberated and considered at the meeting. The meeting also discussed various strategies including embracing practitioners in new engineering disciplines into the Institution; expanding members' practice locations to the Mainland and overseas countries; and promoting new technology in the practice of engineering in Hong Kong. On the subject of the definition of engineering, the meeting suggested that a task force should be set up to study the implications of the Institution's long-term development in relation to the world trend of the definition of engineering.



Ir Dr Greg C Y WONG,  
Chairman

## ACCREDITATION BOARD

As a full signatory to the Washington Accord, the Institution has established itself as an internationally recognised body for the accreditation of engineering degree programmes in Hong Kong. The Accreditation Board consists of 19 members, including two from overseas, namely, Prof Ira Jacobson from the USA and Prof D A Nethercot from the UK.

At present, a total of 96 engineering degree programmes are accredited by the HKIE. During the year, the Board carried out three accreditation visits to local institutions to evaluate 14 engineering degree programmes. The accreditation visit to the City University of Hong Kong conducted in April 2007 was observed by a delegation from the Accreditation Board for Engineering Education of Korea to facilitate the exchange of accreditation best practices.

During the year, Prof Ira Jacobson was invited to deliver talks on outcome-based assessment to the engineering faculties of five Hong Kong universities.

With regard to the Washington Accord, the Chairman and the Deputy Chairman of the Accreditation Board represented the Institution to observe the accreditation visit conducted by the Institute of Engineering Education Taiwan (Chinese Taipei) on 12-14 November 2006, and the accreditation visit conducted by the Accreditation Board for Engineering Education of Korea on 13-15 May 2007 respectively.



Ir Kenneth K HSU,  
Chairman

The Board is committed to maintaining a high standard of accreditation. To this end, it has worked closely with local universities and conducted exchanges/discussions with other accreditation authorities in the region during the year.

## Accreditation Committee for Computer Science Programmes

The Committee has now entered its second five-year accreditation cycle. It has laid a solid foundation for the operation and development of a robust accreditation system for Computer Science degree programmes in Hong Kong. Eight Computer Science degree programmes have been accredited in the City University of Hong Kong, the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, the Chinese University of Hong Kong and the Hong Kong Polytechnic University. During the period under review, the Committee carried out two accreditation visits to the Hong Kong Polytechnic University and the City University of Hong Kong to evaluate five Computer Science degree programmes.

The Committee has striven to effect a well-balanced representation amongst industry members, academics and experts from all fronts of the Computer Science discipline. As a long-term development plan, the Committee will explore opportunities to develop bilateral recognition agreements for computer science education with other economies.

## Accreditation Committee for Higher Diploma Programmes

At present, a total of 60 higher diploma and associate degree programmes are accredited by the HKIE. During the period under review, the Committee carried out six accreditation visits to evaluate 13 higher diploma programmes.

With regard to the Sydney Accord, the Institution was removed from its transitional schedule and approved as a Full Signatory in 2003. All the higher diploma and associate degree programmes, including computer technology programmes accredited by the HKIE, are fully recognised by other signatories.