

REPORTS FROM BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

2020/2021



Ir Edwin CHUNG Kwok Fai
Chairman

ADMINISTRATION BOARD

The Administration Board is responsible for the interpreting, developing and implementing the Institution's policies on financial and administrative matters as well as the co-ordination of administrative functions involving 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.

During the year, the Board worked closely with the Journal Editorial Committee to introduce and promote the revamped digital version of *Hong Kong Engineer*, the official journal of the Institution, which is available at the HKIE website. While the digital version of the Journal has been successfully launched, the printed version is set to be discontinued from August 2021. Meanwhile, the online version of *HKIE Transactions*, has been freely available at the HKIE website for both HKIE members and non-members from 2021.

To allow seminars, events, meetings, etc to take place despite the pandemic, we invested in additional hardware items and software licences to facilitate conducting these activities online.

To provide better services to members and improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the Institution's operations, we performed extensive studies on our IT system infrastructure during the year and intend to implement a number of digitalisation in the coming years.

The Board also worked closely with the Management Committee and Finance & Investment Sub-Committee to design a mechanism for reviewing membership fees annually more systematically. In addition, we optimised our existing investment strategy by delegating the Finance & Investment Sub-Committee to make timely investment decisions within the approved investment framework in order to generate additional income from the accumulated surplus to support the development of the Institution.

Through the work of the Management Committee, the Board reviewed and adopted changes to the Composition of the Learned Society Board.

In addition, the Board closely monitored changes related 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.



Ir David CHANG Chung Hung
Chairman

Journal Editorial Committee

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

Since entering into the digital phase of the Journal, we are delighted to have received positive feedback from members in terms of the broad accessibility of the online platform to facilitate knowledge exchange, keeping members abreast of the latest developments of the engineering profession and the Institution's happenings. We will continue to review and assess the performance of the platform and carry out upgrading measures when required.

Over the past Session, we witnessed an increasingly enthusiastic contribution of articles from Government Bureaux/departments, HKIE Divisions/Committees and other professional organisations. The insightful content shared by these groups has enlightened members across areas such as

innovation, engineering technologies, resource sustainability and various notable engineering projects. Well-timed coverage on COVID-19 has also helped keep Members apprised of what engineers have contributed to alleviate the impact of the pandemic.

For the seventeenth consecutive year, the Institution has been honoured with the Caring Organisation Logo. Complimentary promotional insertion service was offered to charitable organisations such as the Christian Family Service Centre, the Red Cross, Sowers Action and St Christopher's Home, to show our support for the community. Following the digitalisation of the Journal, we will offer complimentary advertising banners to charitable organisations.

The Committee is dedicated to the continuous improvement of the quality of the Institution's periodicals. The unfailing support and contribution of Committee Members is gratefully acknowledged.



Ir Ringo YU Shek Man
Chairman

Management Committee

The Management Committee is responsible to the Administration Board for overseeing the management of the Institution's assets and investments, as well as the policies and monitoring changes related to the Secretariat. The Committee is also responsible for regularly reviewing and updating the policies and management procedures of the Institution as well as for reviewing the composition and terms of reference of the Institution's Boards and Committees.

The Committee is pleased to report that, for the 2020/2021 financial year, the Institution maintained its healthy financial position with a surplus of HK\$10 million. Total income for the year reached HK\$59 million against total expenditures of HK\$49 million. Both the income and expenditures were lower this year, mostly due to the cancellation or postponement of various events due to the pandemic. Expenses were also reduced due to the subsidies received from the government.

The investment plan for the Institution's accumulated fund was introduced and implemented during the year. Dividends received from investments

as well as the fair value of capital gains recorded for investments were included as income by the Institution.

Having reviewed the Institution's financial position with the Finance & Investment Sub-Committee and taking into consideration Hong Kong's current economic situation and uncertain economic outlook for the coming year, the Committee recommended to maintain membership fees at their existing level for the 2021/2022 financial year and to continue offering early bird discounts to all members whose subscription payments were made by cheques, cash or faster payment system before 1 April 2021.

The Committee continued to work closely with the Staff Resources Sub-Committee on proposals for staff establishment based on the workload and the development of individual functional areas of the Secretariat, which were approved for implementation in 2020/2021.

During the year under review, we closely monitor staff cost against the budget to ensure that we maintained an appropriate level of service to satisfactory support our members.



Ir Aaron BOK Kwok Ming
Chairman

QUALIFICATION & MEMBERSHIP BOARD

During the Session, the Qualification and Membership Board continued acting as its gatekeeper of the qualifying process to maintain the quality of membership admission.

After working closely with relevant stakeholders and following the endorsement of the Board and the approval by the Council, the Reciprocal Recognition Agreement (RRA) with Institution of Civil Engineers covering Civil and Geotechnical Disciplines at Corporate Member level was renewed on 15 December 2020. Similarly, after close liaison and clarification, the Mutual Recognition Agreement with the Guangdong Society for Electrical Engineering was endorsed by the Board and approved by the Council in May 2021.

In the last Session, the Council invited the Board to further review the proposed RRA template. After collecting views from stakeholders, the Board proposed, in September 2020, to set up a Task Force on Template of Reciprocal Recognition Agreement to review the proposed amendments in detail. A revised RRA template proposed by the Task Force was subsequently endorsed by the Board and approved by the Council in May 2021.

A Task Force on HKIE Membership Application was also formed to review the membership application process. Various initiatives put forth by the Task Force are supported by the Board for implementation, including setting target maximum time frame for Professional Assessment procedures; developing online application tracking system for membership applications; using routing sheet to monitor the progress of individual membership applications; and publishing Examiner Reports on the HKIE website.

In response to the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Board approved the *Guidelines and Instructions for Online Assessment under Pandemic* as proposed by the Professional Assessment Committee and online assessments are now allowed at the discretion of the Discipline Advisory Panels initiated by the Assessors. The Board also approved a Training Committee's proposal to allow trainees to compile the Training Logbook and Record of CPD in designated electronic formats. As recommended by the Professional Assessment Committee, the Board approved the conditions specified for candidates using PC in the written part of Professional Assessment. Arrangements will be made for implementing the aforementioned initiatives.

We have prepared a checklist for Mature Route Candidates. Designed to help applicants better prepare their synopsis and paper, it will be rolled out shortly. In addition, the Board approved a proposal for issuing digital membership card to all Student Members to replace physical card beginning from the 2021/2022 financial year.

As recommended by the Working Group on the Competence-based Project, the Board endorsed and the Council approved the Competence Standard for Associate Membership. M4 Routes to Associate Membership has also been revised. The competence-based system will be implemented in Associate Membership for applications submitted on or after 1 April 2022.

This year has been a busy and fruitful year. The Board reviewed 769 and 2,555 applications for Corporate and other classes of membership, respectively. The membership stood at more than 33,800 as of June 2021.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION STATISTICS		
GRADE	APPLICATIONS	
	Considered 2020/2021	Accepted 2020/2021
Fellow	68	55
Member	963	496
Graduate Member	1,421	1,360
Associate Member	4	2
Companion	0	0
Student Member	1,269	1,186
Affiliate	5	5
Additional Discipline	123	68
Total	3,853	3,172

Note: Up to 31 March of the year.

MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS				
Membership	31-Mar-18	31-Mar-19	31-Mar-20	31-Mar-21
Honorary Fellow	18	15	16	15
Fellow	1,176	1,211	1,233	1,263
Member	14,686	14,898	15,128	15,300
Graduate Member	8,501	8,727	8,961	9,097
Associate Member	949	896	834	771
Companion	17	16	15	12
Student Member	8,535	8,511	7,785	6,996
Affiliate	331	321	311	284
Total	34,213	34,595	34,283	33,738



Ir Stephen CHIK Wai Keung
Chairman

Education & Examinations Committee

During this Session, the Education & Examinations (E&E) Committee considered a total of 32 applications for individual assessment of academic qualifications for the class of Member. We accepted 21 cases as meeting the academic requirements for Members, while 11 cases were rejected.

In the year under review, the Civil Discipline received 15 applications – the highest among the Disciplines – followed by the Structural Discipline, which received five applications, and the Environmental Discipline, which received four applications for academic assessment.

With the support of the Qualification & Membership Board, the E&E Committee established task forces to explore a more consistent approach of assessment among Disciplines. In this regard, guidance for assessment has been developed to assist the review process.



Ir Allan CHAN Sau Kit
Chairman

Fellowship Committee

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

During the Session, the Committee proposed a revised version of application form for Fellowship and information to applicants with the objective of enhancing the legibility of the form and providing clearer instructions to applicants. The Qualification & Membership Board approved the revised form which was introduced in November 2020.

It is the policy of the Committee to assess each application based on individual merit, taking into full consideration each candidate's circumstances. During the Session, the Fellowship Committee held five meetings and considered 64 applications. 55 candidates were recommended for Fellowship.

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



Ir LAU Chi Kin
Chairman

Professional Assessment Committee

During this session, the Professional Assessment Committee (PAC), in consultation with the Discipline Advisory Panels (DAPs), provided views on proposals for the on-going Assessor training plan. The PAC supported the development of web-based training for both new and trained Assessors. It also supported a proposal to organise Assessor Forum for sharing of experiences and best practices to meet the needs of individual Disciplines.

After a review of the resit requirements of Professional Assessment (PA), the PAC obtained the approval of the Qualification & Membership (Q&M) Board that the 4-year resit period shall be retroactive for applications submitted for PA before 1 January 2013. These applicants would thus be allowed to submit a resit application up to 30 June 2021.

With the support of the Q&M Board, the PAC established guidelines for conducting online PA due to the pandemic situation at the discretion of the respective Discipline Advisory. With a view to maintaining a robust assessment system, the online PA must be conducted in a controlled environment. The PAC will conduct a review after its implementation.

At the invitation of the Q&M Board, the PAC considered allowing candidates to use computer for inputting text in the writing assessment and consulted the DAPs on this matter. The DAPs support the initiative in principle, subject to conditions specified for candidates using computer for writing assessment. This initiative will not apply to the written part of the HKIE Structural Examination due to the special nature and format of the Examination. The PAC will further discuss the implementation of this alternative.



Ir Alfred LEUNG Wai Ho
Chairman

Quality Control Committee

The Quality Control Committee (QCC) conducted six meetings during the Session and reviewed a total of 628 assessment results. The passing rate of the assessment results was 59% for the Session, compared with 56% for the previous Session.

During the Session, the QCC reviewed 36 appeal cases, upholding assessment results in 32 cases.

The QCC strove to achieve its mission of maintaining consistent professional assessments with high-quality standards across the Institution's 21 Disciplines and to uphold the standard of assessment for applicants via Reciprocal Recognition Agreements with other Institutions.



Ir Dr Edward LO Wai Chau
Chairman

Training Committee

The Training Committee focuses on training matters such as the vetting and monitoring of the Scheme “A” Graduate Training and the Formal Training Scheme to Associate Membership (AM Training).

In this Session, we processed 162 applications from 92 companies across 20 Disciplines, which included 60 company visits, 20 trainee interviews and 54 paper evaluations. The total number of newly registered trainees reached 903. A total number of 65 company representatives attended for Scheme “A” Workshop. We also held four Engineering Supervisor Workshops and approved 125 members as Engineering Supervisors under the Scheme “A” Graduate Training or AM Training.

In parallel with the accreditation exercises conducted for four higher education institutions, the discipline matching for 21 programmes to Scheme “A” Graduate Training was also completed.

We held the competition for Trainee of the Year Award 2020 and winners were presented with the awards during the New Members’ Reception cum Prize Presentation Ceremony in May 2021 at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre.

Since the last Session, a Task Force on Approved Training Centres was tasked to review the existing mechanisms related to the Approved Training Centres and training exemptions. As a result of the concerted efforts of the Task Force, relevant Disciplines and HKIE Approved Training Centres, criteria specifying the requirements for the training centres were devised.

An annual sampling of trainees’ training records has been implemented as part of the quality assurance mechanism of Scheme “A”. A Special Panel reviewed the training materials of 27 schemes submitted from 27 companies before providing each company with comments to support continuous improvement. Issues identified by the Special Panel will be shared in future Engineering Supervisor Workshops.

As invited by the Qualification & Membership Board, we considered the feasibility of letting trainees submit typed entries in the Training Logbook and Record of CPD. It was agreed that editable files of training logbooks for 21 Disciplines would be available for use by the trainees around September 2021.

Despite the challenges from COVID-19, we managed to complete our work satisfactorily while making commendable achievements during this Session.



Ir Dr Barry LEE Chi Hong
Chairman

LEARNED SOCIETY BOARD

During the Session 2020/2021, the Learned Society Board continued to overcome obstacles to provide and enhance learning opportunities for members under the COVID-19 pandemic, with several initiatives coming to fruition.

The Board set the goal of promoting knowledge sharing through digital means at the beginning of the Session to ensure that the learned society activities would not be affected under the prolonged pandemic situation. In fact, the use of digital means to host seminars, conferences and virtual technical visits allowed us to accommodate more members to join the CPD activities online, anywhere and at any time with no venue capacity limit. In response to the increasing needs of Divisions/Committees in tele-conference facilities to host online meetings and events, we acquired additional Zoom Meeting and Webinar licences for large audiences, as well as additional hardware items for improving the quality of audio input and output. We also prepared a set of guidelines and protocols for Divisions/Committees and their event participants to be used as reference when hosting or participating in Zoom meetings and webinars.

With cross-border travel restrictions and quarantine measures were still in place, several Divisions conducted site visits virtually so as to enable HKIE members to engage in professional development activities during the pandemic. During the year under review, the Divisions/Committees organised more than 400 learned society activities, either physically or virtually.

The Board also supported the introduction of a set of proper hospitality guidelines and parameters to be used for official meals offered in events organised by the Institution/Divisions/Committees to ensure that such activities are proportionate, justifiable and handled transparently. Upon approval of the Council, these guidelines will become effective in the next Session.

Furthermore, we continued to forge ties with international engineering institutions. During the Session, the Council approved the renewal of the Agreements of Co-operation with the Canadian Society for Civil Engineering and the Royal Netherlands Society of Engineers.



Ir Prof Adam CHOY Siu Chung
Chairman

Conference Committee

In view of the outbreak of COVID-19, several institutional conferences originally scheduled for 2020 were cancelled or rescheduled, while some of the events scheduled for 2021 were held in hybrid mode.

Hosted by the Institute of Electrical Engineers of Japan (IEEJ) and co-organised by the Chinese Society for Electrical Engineering (CSEE), the Korean Institute of Electrical Engineers (KIEE) and the HKIE, the ICEE Conference 2020 – originally scheduled for 28 June to 2 July 2020 in Takamatsu, Japan – was cancelled due to COVID. The ICEE Conference 2021 was hosted online by CSEE on 5-8 July 2021 in Dalian, China.

Jointly organised by the Institution and the Shanghai Association for Science and Technology (SAST), the 2021 Shanghai and Hong Kong Symposium on Science and Technology was held on 21 October 2021, with the SAST acting as host. Themed 「新技術•新業態•新發展」, the Symposium was held in a hybrid mode.

Hosted by the Institution and co-organised by the Shanghai Association for Science & Technology and the Chartered Institution of Building Services Engineers, the International Conference on Smart Living is tentatively scheduled for 31 March to 1 April 2022 in Hong Kong. The theme of the Conference is “Smart Living – Concepts and Practices”. It was originally scheduled for 27-29 May 2020 in Shanghai but was postponed and relocated to Hong Kong in 2022 due to the pandemic.



Ir Sidney TONG Pui Keung
Chairman

Construction Dispute Resolution Committee

The Construction Dispute Resolution Committee continues to promote alternative dispute resolution mechanisms such as adjudication, arbitration and mediation, while offering training programmes on these techniques to engineers. In addition, the Committee introduced a training programme on expert witnesses in April 2021 which was well received by members.

The Committee successfully applied for the Matching Grant of Skills Upgrading under the Anti-Pandemic Fund with the Project Agreements. Signed in February 2021, the agreement provides funding for three programmes which cover the areas in New Engineering Contract (“NEC”), Arbitration and Mediation. Implemented in the second half of 2021, it will help further promote knowledge on dispute resolutions with a preferential tuition fee for HKIE members.

To keep members informed about the latest developments on Dispute Resolution and NEC, the Committee supported and delivered talks for events organised by other organisations such as the seminar on NEC of Joint Institutes Series 2020-21 and the Construction Mediation and Arbitration Webinar.

To maintain the quality of arbitration and mediation services, the Committee also reviewed and updated the criteria for inclusion in the HKIE Lists of Arbitrators and Mediators.

The Committee will continue developing initiatives aimed at promoting knowledge sharing while exploring collaboration opportunities and fulfilling its advisory role on policy making to further promote the use of alternative dispute resolution mechanisms in the construction and engineering sector.



Ir Paul CHAN Yim Cheong
Chairman

Continuing Professional Development Committee

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

Supported by 14 CPD course providers, the Committee co-organised around 800 courses covering occupational safety and health, technical matters and general professional subjects in 2020. These activities attracted around 850 participants. The Committee approved two new CPD course providers this Session, and these two new providers will organise 13 CPD courses relating to general professional subjects during the second half of 2021.

Despite COVID-19, the Committee co-organised 27 CPD activities with the Young Members Committee (YMC) during the Session, including six which were deferred from the previous Session due to COVID-19. The Task Force on Additional CPD Activities also successfully delivered two CPD activities online in March and April 2021, namely “Quality Management: Testing and Certification” and “探知大灣區網上研討會暨粵港澳大灣區工程技術人才交流 - 機遇與挑戰”, which attracted over 1,000 participants altogether.

CPD has been a mandatory requirement for Corporate Members since 1 January 2006. From 2019 onwards, auditing Members’ attainment on CPD entails verifying their compliance of 30 hours of CPD, and a minimum five hours in both “Technical Matters” and “Broader Areas of Studies”. The audit on members’ CPD attainment in 2019 was completed and 124 out of 143 cases were found in compliance.

In January 2021, we formed a Task Force to review the April 2016 version of “Guidance Notes for Mandatory Continuing Professional Development (CPD) for Corporate Members” (Guidance Notes) and make recommendations relating to CPD matters for HKIE members. These recommendations have been included in an updated version of the Guidance Notes and submitted to the Council for approval.



Ir Prof CHAN Tat Leung
Chairman cum Editor-in-Chief of the
HKIE Transactions

HKIE Transactions Committee

Over Session 2020/2021, *HKIE Transactions* underwent a significant transformation. To encourage the transfer of engineering knowledge, the Committee proudly presents the *HKIE Transactions Online*. Now subscription-free, it offers a paperless reading experience, anytime, anywhere to everyone. With the publication of the first issue of Volume 28 in 2021, *HKIE Transactions* fully entered the digital era. It is now accessible to both *HKIE* members and the public. This would not have been possible without the concerted efforts of the *HKIE Transactions Committee*, the Editorial Panel and the support from the Secretariat.

HKIE Transactions will continue to publish papers across a diversity of engineering disciplines to serve as references for practising engineers and academia. With the introduction of *HKIE Transactions Online*, this platform for facilitating professional knowledge exchange among the engineering communities around the globe is not just sustained, but strengthened.

Every year, *HKIE Transactions* publishes a “Theme Issue” covering hot topics in engineering. This year, the Committee is honoured to have Prof Meng NI, Associate Head (Research) and Professor of the Department of Building and Real Estate of The Hong Kong Polytechnic University as Guest Editor for the Sixth Theme Issue on “Hydrogen Power” which was published in June 2021.

The Committee is also delighted to report that the Seventh Theme Issue on “AI for Smart Applications” is scheduled to be published in June 2022. Prof W K LING, a Hundred-people-plan and Young-thousand-plan Distinguished Professor of Guangdong University of Technology will serve as Guest Editor for this Theme Issue.

The *HKIE Best Transactions Paper Prize* is held every year to recognise outstanding papers published. This year, one exceptional paper was awarded the *HKIE Best Transactions Paper Prize 2020*, and three distinguished papers were awarded the *HKIE Outstanding Paper Award for Young Engineers/Researchers 2020*. Awardees of the Outstanding Paper Award were invited to share their findings and exchange insights with participants at a public lecture held – for the first time – in the form of a webinar on 11 December 2020. The awarded papers, together with the three shortlisted papers, were published in the special issue in the *HKIE Transactions* in December 2020.

The Committee owes all these accomplishments to the dedication of a group of international intellectuals including Editors, Associate Editors, *Transactions International Advisors* and paper reviewers. The Committee will continue to uphold its professional standards and provide a knowledge exchange arena to enable the engineering community to share, learn and grow together professionally.



Ir Bobby NG Mang Tung
Chairman

Public Service Committee

The Public Service Committee in the Session continued to use diverse initiatives and platforms to enhance the image of the HKIE and promote the engineering profession to members of the public.

In response to invitations from Government departments and external organisations, the Committee contributed professional views on consultation papers relating to engineering issues and matters of public concerns. The Committee also, upon request, arranged the nominations of HKIE members on external boards and committees. During the Session, the Institution received 73 invitations for nominations and a total of 233 members were nominated through the HKIE to serve on various boards and committees.

To strengthen the professional image of engineers and widen interest about the engineering profession among the younger generation and the public, the HKIE School Ambassador Programme (SAP) continued to arrange talks to local primary and secondary schools, universities and higher

education institutions. Due to the pandemic, we offered the option to arrange talks via the preferred online platform used by schools. More than 4,362 primary, secondary and university students attended SAP talks either physically or virtually during the Session under review.

We consolidated the editorial contributions from Divisions and Committees to the Classified Post Website and JobsDB Online Platforms to promote the engineering profession to the public. The HKIE Innovation Expo, the signature event of the Session, was successfully held on 12-13 June 2021. Featuring a series of thrilling experience ranging from exhibitions, keynotes, webinars and competitions, it engaged our members and the general public, both online and in-person. Parallel activities including webinars, thematic talks and “The Enginpreneurs award” for university students and HKIE members were also organised.



Ir Ringo YU Shek Man
Chairman

PLANNING COMMITTEE

The Planning Committee continued to review and oversee the development plans of the Institution. The new initiatives proposed under the Year Plan for Session 2020/2021 together with action tasks under the Three-Year Rolling Plan for Sessions 2020/2021 to 2022/2023 have been either successfully implemented or are already in the pipeline.

Under the Presidential theme – “Believing is Seeing – Innovation for Transformation” of Session 2020/2021, the Institution strived to enhance the role of the HKIE in the innovation and technology ecosystem, both in Hong Kong and in neighbouring regions.

One of the major initiatives of the Session was the establishment of The Enginpreneurs Hub which drew from the combined talents and ample experiences of all HKIE members to create a roadmap to identify funding, support and assistance regarding to the realisation of members’ innovative ideas. It also introduced a series of webinars featuring professionals who were invited to share their insights and experience in driving innovation.

Aiming at promoting innovation among engineers, fostering knowledge exchange across industries, and unleashing members’ potentials, the Institution organised the HKIE Innovation Expo in June 2021. Offering members a range of new experiences through a virtual platform, the main programme of the event featured keynotes and exhibitions that showcased innovative products and solutions. As prelude to the Expo, the Institution hosted parallel programmes including a series of webinars on topics about innovation held from March to May 2021, competitions for primary and secondary students as well as the Enginpreneurs Award 2021 for members and engineering students.

The Committee also reviewed the Institution’s planned strategies in accordance with the timeframe and flowchart of the planning cycle. It also agreed to the Three-Year Rolling Plan for Sessions 2020/2021 to 2023/2024 and the new initiatives prepared by the three Vice Presidents for the coming Session.



Ir Ringo YU Shek Man
Chairman

ACCREDITATION BOARD

As a full signatory of the Washington and Sydney Accords, the HKIE is an internationally-recognised body for accrediting engineering degree programmes in Hong Kong. Currently, the HKIE has accredited 98 engineering degree programmes (including three in Macau).

Despite the widespread impact of COVID-19, we successfully completed the accreditation exercises, including physical on-site visits to higher education institutions (HEIs). The assistance from the Visiting Team members and HEIs is highly appreciated. During Session 2020/2021, the HKIE evaluated 31 engineering degree programmes offered by local institutions. The selfless dedication of volunteer members and the Secretariat to engage in accreditation activities featuring a large volume of complex documents during these difficult times of pandemic is highly appreciated.

The Board approved two further cases of joint degree programmes across jurisdictions, with the corresponding local degree programmes accredited by the HKIE. The Board also noted the trend of increasing cross-border collaboration and a Working Group on Joint Degree formed by the Board will continue developing guidelines for joint degree programmes evaluation.

The Washington Accord requires each Signatory to undergo a periodic review at intervals of not more than six years. In light of the travel restrictions arising from the COVID-19 pandemic, the review scheduled for the HKIE has been postponed to 2021.

The sharing of good practices is important to support excellence. In 2019, the Board had invited representatives from Board of Engineers Malaysia and two HEIs to observe the Board meeting. This initiative was halted in 2020 due to COVID-19. In anticipation that the pandemic situation may improve, international engagements related to the HKIE's accreditation activities are expected to resume in the new Session.

To demonstrate our continued commitment to providing quality accreditation service, we will organise workshops for members of accreditation visiting teams in the coming Session. The workshops will focus specifically on questioning skills as well as techniques for evaluating evidence during on-site visits.

The Board is committed to achieving the highest standard in programme accreditation and continues to maintain a close working relationship with the HEIs.



Ir CHANG Che Son
Chairman

Accreditation Committee for Computer Science Programmes

The Accreditation Committee for Computer Science Programmes evaluates and makes decisions related to the accreditation for the computer science and information and communication technology (ICT) degree programmes in Hong Kong.

During this year, we conducted an accreditation exercise to evaluate a computer science degree programme offered by the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology. A physical on-site visit was cautiously yet successfully arranged under COVID-19 with strict observations to all the social distancing measures. The professionalism of the Visiting Team members and the unreserved support from the university is highly commendable. Currently, a total of 16 computer science degree programmes are accredited by the HKIE.

Since 2009, the HKIE has been a full signatory of the Seoul Accord, an international agreement

among agencies responsible for accreditation or recognition of tertiary-level computing and IT-related qualifications. The HKIE accredits computer science and ICT degree programmes that are considered to be substantially equivalent to the requirements set forth in the Seoul Accord. The computer science and ICT degree programmes accredited by the HKIE are thus fully recognised by other signatories of the Seoul Accord, including Australia, Canada, Chinese Taipei, Japan, Korea, the United Kingdom and the United States.

In accordance with the rules and regulations of the Seoul Accord, every jurisdiction with full signatory status is required to undergo a verification review every six years to ensure the signatory's accreditation system and its accredited computer science and ICT degree programme outcomes remain substantially equivalent to those of other signatories. The HKIE successfully underwent a Seoul Accord Review in 2018 and its full signatory status under the Seoul Accord was extended to 2024.



Ir WONG Chi Ming
Chairman

Accreditation Committee for Higher Diploma Programmes

The Accreditation Committee for Higher Diploma Programmes evaluates and makes accreditation decisions for engineering and computing higher diploma and equivalent programmes in Hong Kong.

Since 2003, the HKIE has been a full signatory of the Sydney Accord, an international mutual recognition agreement on the accreditation of programmes at the level of engineering technologist. The HKIE accredits higher diploma or equivalent programmes in engineering and computing that are deemed substantially equivalent to the requirements set forth in the Sydney Accord. These HKIE-accredited engineering and computing higher diploma and equivalent programmes are fully recognised by other signatories, including Australia, Canada, Chinese Taipei, Ireland, Korea, Malaysia, New Zealand, South Africa, the United Kingdom and the United States.

During Session 2020/2021, we conducted an accreditation exercise to evaluate 10 higher diploma programmes from Hong Kong Institute of Vocational Education. A total of 50 higher diploma and equivalent programmes are currently accredited by the HKIE.