

REPORTS FROM BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

SESSION 2022/2023



Ir Edwin CHUNG Kwok Fai
Chairman

PLANNING COMMITTEE

The Planning Committee continued to review and oversee the development plans of the Institution. A specific responsibility of the Committee is also to review the Three-year Rolling Plan developed by Presidents and Vice Presidents in the light of emerging education and public issues, industry conditions and the general development of the Institution.

Enshrined under the theme of “Time to Change” in Session 2021/2022, the Institution is committed to maintaining a high degree of proactiveness in problem solving while nurturing a culture of change. A **Time to Change Roadmap (Roadmap)** was developed in that Session with a vision of effecting major enhancements to the Institution over the next five years. The Roadmap features detailed plans with a total of 45 initiatives for incoming Presidents to execute by engaging members and

implementing improvement initiatives, thereby nurturing a culture of change. The Session 2022/2023 marked the second year of the Roadmap implementation and the initiatives outlined in the Session’s Year Plan were successfully executed.

Taken into account that the Roadmap will provide clear direction and milestones for setting out the Institution’s transformation in the coming years, the Committee agreed to rationalise the planning cycle by monitoring the implementation progress of the initiatives set forth in the Roadmap and overseeing the transformation of the Institution. Designed as a living document subject to continuous updates at appropriate intervals, it will also be effective as a new rolling plan.

In view of the change, the Council approved the revised Terms of Reference of the Committee and for the Roadmap will be adopted for monitoring purposes starting from Session 2023/2024.



Ir Prof Philco WONG
Chairman

ACCREDITATION BOARD

As a signatory to the Washington Accord, the HKIE is recognised internationally for accrediting engineering degree programmes in Hong Kong. Currently, the HKIE has accredited 110 engineering degree programmes, including four in Macau.

During Session 2022/2023, we conducted four accreditation exercises to evaluate 19 engineering degree programmes offered by local higher education institutions (HEIs). We commend members of the Visiting Team and the Secretariat for their dedication in conducting physical on-site visits to examine a large volume of complex documents from the HEIs. The assistance and commitment of the HEIs were equally important for the successful completion of these accreditation exercises.

To facilitate exchange and promote good accreditation practices beyond Hong Kong, Professor CHEN Yiyi – the representative from the China Association for Science and Technology – was invited to join the Board meetings as observer during the Session.

Taking into account the fact that the updated International Engineering Alliance (IEA) Graduate Attributes now incorporates the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, the Board has formed a Task Force on Review of HKIE Graduate Attributes to propose possible changes to the HKIE Graduate Attributes to align with the updated IEA Graduate Attributes. We are pleased to report that the Task Force made good progress in reviewing and proposing changes to the existing HKIE Graduate Attributes.

To demonstrate our continued commitment to providing quality accreditation service, the Board retained Professor Daina BRIEDIS – a Board member from Session 2017/2018 to Session 2021/2022 and an experienced ABET Trainer and Evaluator – to conduct a virtual training workshop for members of the Visiting Team in this Session. The workshop was well received by the participants and we will continue to organise similar activities for members of accreditation visiting teams in the coming Sessions.

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 of computer science and information and communication technology (ICT) degree programmes.

During the year, we conducted three accreditation exercises to evaluate five computer science degree programmes offered by universities. With the relaxation of COVID-19 social distancing measures in Hong Kong, we resumed most of the meeting sessions face-to-face with stakeholders and students during accreditation visits. A total of 17 computer science degree programmes are now accredited by the HKIE.

Since 2009, the HKIE has been a signatory of the Seoul Accord, an international agreement among agencies responsible for the accreditation or recognition of computing and IT-related qualifications at bachelor's degree level. The computer science and ICT degree programmes accredited by the HKIE are fully recognised by other signatories of the Seoul Accord, including Australia, Canada, Chinese Taipei, Japan, Korea, Mexico, the United Kingdom and the United States.

In accordance with the rules and regulations of the Seoul Accord, each signatory is required to undergo a periodic review every six years to ensure that its accreditation system and the outcomes of its accredited computer science and ICT degree programme remain substantially equivalent to those of other signatories. The coming Seoul Accord Periodic Review of the HKIE will be arranged in 2024/25.



Ir Steven LAI Kam Hung
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 signatory of the Sydney Accord, an international mutual recognition agreement on the accreditation of programmes at the level of engineering technologist. The HKIE-accredited higher diploma or equivalent

programmes in engineering and computing are fully recognised by other signatories of the Sydney Accord, including Australia, Canada, Chinese Taipei, Ireland, Korea, Malaysia, New Zealand, South Africa, the United Kingdom and the United States.

During Session 2022/23, we conducted an accreditation exercise to evaluate three higher diploma programmes offered by the Hong Kong Institute of Vocational Education (HKIVE). The dedication and commitment of the visiting team members to conduct a physical site visit to HKIVE is highly appreciated. Currently, the HKIE has accredited a total of 39 higher diploma and equivalent programmes.



Ir Dr Barry LEE Chi Hong
Chairman

ADMINISTRATION BOARD

The Administration Board is responsible for interpretation, development and implementation of the Institution's policies on financial and administrative matters as well as for co-ordinating the 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.

With the assistance of its Digitalisation Monitoring Committee, the Board continued overseeing a series of digitalisation projects. Further to completing the projects on Network Design & Upgrade, Email MS 365 migration and MS 365 Document Management System (DMS), we expect to launch the Room Booking System in the upcoming Session. In addition, projects related to the Membership Management System began during the year and targeted to be completed in early 2024. The project covers the revamping of the Secretariat membership database, event management application, e-membership application system and certain aspects of Training Management. The Board also established a Working Group to lead another digitalisation project related to the HKIE's Website and Content Management Revamp.

In line with the Presidential Theme of "We engineer, We serve" for Session 2023/2024, the Board sourced a new premise in Kowloon East area to serve as satellite centre of the Institution. The new venue provides additional space for meetings, trainings and seminars and offers a platform for hosting gatherings aimed at enhancing the exchange of ideas and sharing of knowledge between our members. The blueprint for new venue entails a preliminary three-year trial phase to inform any subsequent decisions regarding its future roles and arrangements.

To improve convenience for members, the Board is exploring the feasibility of developing e-membership cards accessible via members' own mobile phones to replace the current physical membership cards used by our members.

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



Ir CHOW Lap Man
Chairman

Finance & Investment Committee

The Finance & Investment Committee looks after the Institution's assets and investments to make sure they are managed in a healthy and secure manner with reasonable returns in accordance with well-established policies. The Committee also takes care of the planning and monitoring of the Institution's income, expenditures and cashflow to ensure its financial position is healthy and sustainable. Under the Institution's organisation structure, the Committee reports directly to the Administration Board.

For the financial year 2022/2023, the Committee is pleased to report that the Institution maintained a healthy financial position with an annual surplus of HK\$5.2 million. The total income for the year was HK\$76.7 million whilst the total expenditures were HK\$71 million. The overall spending patterns for the financial year remained similar to that of the previous year.

A membership fee adjustment mechanism has been approved by the Council in recent years taking into account the latest Consumer Price Index, salary increases by the Government and other economic indicators. Based on the adjustment mechanism, the Committee recommended a 2.3% increase in the membership fees for the financial year 2023/2024. The Committee also recommended to continue offering early bird discounts to all members whose subscription payments are made by cheque, cash or a faster payment system before April 1 2023.

To foster more applications for Associate Membership, the Committee recommended waiving the application fee for Associate Membership for a period of two years as a trial run. A review will be conducted after the two-year period to assess the effectiveness of this policy.

With a reasonable adjustment mechanism for membership fee, close monitoring of the financial positions and continuous support for HKIE events from sponsors, the Committee anticipates it will maintain a healthy and sustainable financial position in the coming few years.



Ir Derrick LEUNG Hung Kwong
Chairman

Journal Editorial Committee

The Session 2022/2023 saw the Journal Editorial Committee (JEC) dividing its efforts between attracting new readers for *Hong Kong Engineer* (our monthly journal) and enriching the existing ones' reading experience.

Student members and young engineers constitute a growing, if still far from sizeable, part of our readership. This Session, we have given greater consideration to catering to their reading needs and thereby increasing the Journal's exposure among them. Our dialogue with the Student Chapters in April has inspired us to start including internship opportunities (on top of regular job postings) in the Journal's Job Centre and collaborate with the Chapters on promoting the Journal on social media. Most importantly, the dialogue has laid a solid foundation for subsequent exchange of views with the young generations.

In singling out the particular kinds of content that we want the Journal to be further enriched by, we have been guided by everything, from reader habits to the latest global developments. The increasing relevance of the Greater Bay Area (GBA), for example, has led us to invite contributions

of articles on the topic. The general trend towards audiovisual information, which is easily observable among content consumers, has motivated us to introduce video content in the upcoming Session in July 2023, and to showcase more technical/expository photos in each Division/Committee's activity report on the Journal's web version. In the early stages, video provided by article contributors to illustrate their technology and concepts will be featured. If reader feedback on this proves positive, we will continue to experiment with different ways to deploy video content to realise the Journal's full potential.

The Journal's growing recognition among industry practitioners is unmistakable: a vast range of industry topics – MiMEP, cavern development, and anti-pandemic contactless elevator control panels, being just some of the notable ones – contributed by HKIE Divisions, government, engineering companies/organisations, quangos and statutory bodies were covered in our Cover and Feature Stories. The amount of sponsorship we have received from engineering-related companies and organisations this Session was also greater by far than what had been raised in the past. We have every reason to be optimistic about its outlook.



Ir Edwin CHUNG Kwok Fai
Chairman

Management Committee

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

During this Session, the Committee reviewed and considered the proposed amendments to the terms of reference of the Planning Committee and Accreditation Board. In addition, the Committee considered the draft composition and terms of reference of the newly formed Professional Certification Committee. The draft composition and terms of reference as well as the proposed amendments were approved by the Council.



Ir Duncan WONG Wai On
Chairman

Staff Resources Committee

The Staff Resources Committee is responsible to the Administration Board for reviewing the 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 for staff, and maintains an equitable remuneration system.

In light of the high staff turnover rate of the Secretariat and the difficulties encountered in recruiting certain staff members for replacement, the Committee devised a new strategy for retaining staff and approved a series of proposals for the staff

establishment based on the workload and the development of individual functional areas of the Secretariat. In addition, the Committee reviewed the staffing structure in certain individual functional areas and the recommendations subsequently put forward by the Committee were adopted.

The Committee also reviewed the salary levels of staff taking into account market trends, changes in cost of living, staff turnover rate as well as the financial position of the Institution. The Committee also monitored staff cost against the budget to ensure that the appropriate level of service and support provided to Members in general was delivered satisfactorily.



Ir Alice CHOW Kin Tak
Chairman

LEARNED SOCIETY BOARD

With the removal of social distancing restrictions, the Divisions/Committees resumed organising face-to-face activities during the Session and they held a wide variety of activities including technical visits, seminars, conferences, workshops, etc. Some Divisions even organised overseas delegations.

To build and strengthen our student network, the Council approved, upon the recommendation of the Board, the establishment of a new Student Chapter at the Hong Kong Metropolitan University. In addition, to better support the Student Chapters and to create a long-term strategy for the sustainable development of the Chapters, a Task Force was formed under the Board to review the current status of Student Chapters and, more importantly, to recommend action plans to enhance their operations.

As an institution with over 32,000 members, the HKIE is collecting and managing a large amount of personal data and much emphasis has been placed on the dutiful handling of these data. To this end, a Privacy Management Programme (PMP) has been implemented and adopted by Divisions/Committees. Effective from 1 April 2023, it provides guidance on the proper handling, retention and disposal of personal data. Prior to its implementation,

the Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data held an online seminar to familiarise Divisions/Committees with the key principles underpinning sound personal data management.

As a learned society, we see the importance of fostering sustainable and collaborative relationships with engineering institutions around the globe and this remains a key focus. During the Session, the Council approved the renewal of the Agreements of Co-operation with the Energy Institute and the Chartered Institution of Water and Environmental Management. On the divisional level, the Manufacturing, Industrial & Systems Division established a Memorandum of Understanding with the Guangdong Mechanical Engineering Society which was officially signed at the Greater Bay Engineers' Forum held on 21 May 2023.

With the re-opening of the borders, there have been a lot of exchanges and interactions between the mainland and the city. The Board is proud to be co-organising the Hong Kong-Shanghai Technology Symposium, which will be held in Hong Kong in October 2023. The theme of the Symposium is the digitalised era. Board members look forward to having fruitful discussions with our Shanghai counterparts on this hot topic and to learn about the latest developments from experts on the subject matter.



Ir Prof Adam CHOY Siu Chung
Chairman

Conference Committee

With the further relaxation on health precautionary measures and the lifting of cross-border restrictions in early 2023, the organisation of cross-regional and international conferences was back to normal and even at a much faster pace.

The Second Greater Bay Area Engineers Forum was held on 21 May 2023 at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre. The Forum with the theme “工程創新 灣通世界” was organised by the Chinese Society of Engineers, under the guidance of the China Association for Science and Technology, the People's Government of Guangdong Province and

the Chinese Academy of Engineering. The Institution was one of the co-organisers. It was attended by more than 400 delegates from the Mainland, Hong Kong and Macau. The Forum promoted the cross-regional exchange of engineering and technical experts, and uniting engineers in the Greater Bay Area.

The Conference Committee has undertaken the planning and monitoring of the forthcoming Institutional conferences to be held in the next Session, including the International Council on Electrical Engineering Conference 2023 and the 2023 Hong Kong and Shanghai Symposium on Science and Technology.



Ir Dr Christopher TO Wing
Chairman

Construction Dispute Resolution Committee

The Committee engaged in a variety of activities throughout the year, ranging from promoting the institution's strengths in Arbitration and other forms of Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) methods (including mediation, adjudication and being appointed as experts in legal proceedings) to the upskilling of our engineers to better equip them to meet the growing demand for ADR in the Greater Bay Area.

The Committee reached a major milestone when the Hong Kong Government (through the Development Bureau) included the institution as one of four registers of Adjudicator Nominating Bodies under the Security of Payment Legislation. Members of the committee worked diligently to prepare the necessary documentation, rules, procedures, guidelines and to train the engineers who have expressed an interest in being listed on the panel of adjudicators. The efforts of the Committee can be seen on its website <https://cdrc.hkie.org.hk/hk/en/home>. The Institute is now participating in the Development Bureau's trial adjudication proceedings to refine and resolve all aspects of the process before the actual enactment of the Legislation. So far the results are promising and with some minor adjustments, those using the process will eventually experience advantages in terms of both time and cost.

Another major activity that was initiated by the previous Chairperson of the committee Ir. Sidney Tong – with the assistance of the Hong Kong Government's Professional Services Advancement Support Scheme – and continued into this session was the organisation of conferences focusing on the adaption and adoption of ADR mechanisms to address construction disputes in Hong Kong, the Greater Bay Area, Mainland China, the United Kingdom and ASEAN countries. Conference attendees indicated that their knowledge was greatly enhanced and that they were much better informed about the various regulatory, and best practices being adopted in various regions.

The Committee is now liaising with the Construction Industry Council to ascertain whether there is a need to develop a

Chinese language version of the standard form construction contract to assist industry stakeholders with their contractual needs. Further details will be reported in the next session as matters progress. With the increasing awareness of artificial intelligence, the Committee invited a representative of Electronic Business Related Arbitration and Mediation (eBRAM) to explain to committee members the latest on-line technologies used to address disputes. Some interesting information was shared and the committee is discussing with eBRAM whether those engineers listed on the various ADR panels of the institution could have access to the free secured data storage facilities which are currently available free of charge to other ADR practitioners of certain institutions and legal practitioners. This service would greatly benefit those engineers who have to store submissions and documentation securely while deliberating ADR matters.

On the training front, the Committee continued to arrange various ADR training courses to ensure that our engineers are equipped with the necessary skills to handle any form of ADR processes.

Inclusion onto the various ADR panels of the institution is an ongoing process and those who are successful in being listed are shown visibly on the committee's website to enhance their chances of being appointed as an ADR practitioner by those needing their services. The Committee hopes that this will enhance the scope of services that an engineer can provide to the community.

Regarding collaboration, the committee is engaged in talks with the Institution of International Experts (IIE) to potentially establish a cooperative agreement. The signing of this agreement would greatly enhance the standing of members as ADR experts.

Without the support and dedication of members of the Committee, the accomplishments achieved during this Session would not have been possible. I extend my gratitude to them for their unwavering dedication and service.

The committee and I look forward to your continuing active participation as it's only by our collective efforts that we can attain excellence in the ADR arena.



Ir Peter CHAK Chi Kin
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.

With the support of 13 CPD course providers, the Committee offered around 760 courses covering health & safety, technical matters and general professional subjects in 2022.

Nine course providers signed the new “Agreement for Services” and a total of 46 course proposals were reviewed for promotion to HKIE members. The Committee implemented enhanced promotional measures from January 2023 onwards, including the use of HKIE CPDC logo by the providers, and publication of accepted courses in monthly e-news to HKIE members.

The Committee successfully co-organised nine CPD activities with the Young Members Committee (YMC) during the Session, including one overseas delegation to Germany.

The Task Force on Organising Topical CPD Activities 2022/2023 also successfully organised one CPD seminar titled “Engineer’s Challenges and Opportunities in Northern Metropolis Development” in February 2023. This seminar, delivered in hybrid mode, attracted nearly 600 members to participate over zoom and 30 members to join at the HKIE Headquarters.

CPD has been a mandatory requirement for Corporate Members since 1 January 2006. The audit on members’ CPD attainment in 2021 has been completed and 112 out of 145 cases reviewed were found to be in compliance. The Committee interviewed members who have been classified as non-compliance for more than two consecutive years. A template for “Summary of Learning Points for Self-Learning Activities” was also developed and has been included for Members’ use in their submission of CPD declaration.

Further discussions were carried out regarding the HKIE CPD requirements. It was agreed to add a new CPD category, namely “Social Gathering or Networking Activities” for activities that were mainly social in nature but also included exchange of knowledge. The maximum hours to be claimed for such activities for Corporate Members will be capped at three hours each year.



Ir Prof Michael LEUNG Kwok Hi
Chairman

HKIE Transactions Committee

During Session 2022/2023, the HKIE Transactions Committee, Editorial Panel, and Secretariat worked together to publish papers across diverse engineering disciplines serving as references for practising engineers and academia while facilitating knowledge exchange among engineering communities globally.

This session was a busy year for the *HKIE Transactions*, which launched a new homepage in early 2023 to enhance its professional image, facilitate paper submission and information searching. Its website was also improved with the installation of Google Analytics to track and report website traffic, and metadata for Google Scholar was embedded to increase the citation rate of Transactions papers. Additionally, print and online publication dates were included for published papers to prevent confusion when citing papers from the *HKIE Transactions*. The Instructions for Authors were also enhanced to increase clarity during paper submission.

Starting in 2023, the *HKIE Transactions* introduced a new year-round publishing schedule to maintain through-the-year visibility for the publication to tap the experience of online-based publication. Instead of publishing four quarterly issues each year, it is now publishing fresh papers every month under four functional issues: Regular Issue, Special Issue, Theme Issue, and Award Issue.

To expand its focused paper source, the Committee published a special issue titled “Innovations and Technologies for Carbon Neutrality” with Ir Prof Christopher CHAO, Vice President (Research and Innovation), and Chair Professor of Thermal and Environmental Engineering at The Hong Kong Polytechnic University as the Guest Editor.

Every June, the *HKIE Transactions* publishes a theme issue. This year, the theme was “Construction by Smart and Innovative Techniques”, which is the eighth issue. Ir Prof Wei PAN, Associate Vice-President (Research and GBA), Associate Dean (Masters) of the Faculty of Engineering of The University of Hong Kong, Executive Director of the Centre for Innovation in Construction and Infrastructure Development (CICID), and Professor at the Department of Civil Engineering, served as the Guest Editor.

The Committee holds two Transactions awards: the HKIE Best Transactions Paper Prize and the HKIE Outstanding Paper Award for Young Engineers/Researchers. In Session 2021/2022, the Committee developed paper selection guidelines and an interest declaration form for the HKIE Best Transactions Paper Prize. In this session, the Committee also developed the Guidelines for the Selection of the Outstanding Paper Award for Young Engineers/Researchers and the Declaration of Interest Form.

This year, the *HKIE Transactions* awarded three exceptional papers: the HKIE Best Transactions Paper Prize 2022 and three distinguished papers received the HKIE Outstanding Paper Award for Young Engineers/Researchers 2022. The awarded papers, along with two shortlisted papers for the Outstanding Paper Award, were published in the *HKIE Transactions* in December 2022. The Public Lecture/ Webinar for the HKIE Outstanding Paper Award for Young Engineers/Researchers 2021 & 2022 saw almost 200 registrations, and the video of the event was posted on the HKIE YouTube channel for knowledge sharing.

The Committee expresses its gratitude to the international intellectuals – including Editors, Associate Editors, Transactions International Advisors, and paper reviewers – for their hard work and dedication this year. The Committee will continue to uphold professional standards and strive for improvements to the journal.



Ir Mandy LEUNG Man Yee
Chairman

Public Service Committee

The Public Service Committee endeavours to promote the Institution and the engineering profession by advocating the Institution's views to the Government, the engineering industry, the general public and the media on all engineering matters of public interest.

The Committee was blessed to witness the easing back of social distancing measures at the start of 2023 so that we had the opportunity to walk out and re-engage with the public, especially students, in person. One major milestone was the collaboration with the Education Bureau on the "Engineers on Campus" programme. This initiative involves engineers being matched with schools on a one-to-one basis to provide school-based support and forge partnership between schools and engineers of various professional fields to co-design learning activities on campus. These exchanges enable students to appreciate the connection between engineering, innovation and technology and we hope that this approach will ignite their curiosity and encourage them to consider a future within the engineering industry while contributing to nurturing our talent pipeline. Starting with 15 schools, this programme sets the foundation for future STEAM collaborations with schools on a significantly larger scale.

With the resumption of campus activities after the pandemic, our School Ambassadors continued to showcase the achievements of engineers, highlighting their contribution to the development of Hong Kong. Our School Ambassadors delivered 41 talks to more than 4754 students from 33 primary and secondary schools, higher education institutions and universities, either physically or virtually, during the 2022/2023 Session. The Institution also actively participated in the HK SciFest 2023 on 7 Apr 2023, and the career fairs of CityU and PolyU held on 17 Feb and 31 Mar 2023 respectively. These events aimed at both promoting the engineering profession to the students and registering more student members.

During the Session, the Committee continued to contribute professional views on engineering-related issues and matters of public concern in response to invitations from the Government and other public organisations. We also coordinated the nomination of HKIE members upon request from external boards and committees, and 101 HKIE members have been nominated to serve on various external boards and committee during the session, thus ensuring that our professional views are heard and that society benefits from our professional contributions.



Ir Eric MA Siu Cheung
Chairman

QUALIFICATION AND MEMBERSHIP BOARD

In this Session, the Qualification and Membership Board upheld its gate-keeping role in the qualifying process to ensure the integrity of membership admission standards.

The Board spared no efforts to implement a range of measures aimed at facilitating the membership application process. During the Session, the Board approved a proposal in allowing students studying in the common Year 1 curriculum to be eligible for applying Student membership if the common Year 1 curriculum covers at least one HKIE-accredited programme for these students to articulate in Year 2. A Working Group on Review of the Class of FHKIE was also established during the Session.

Launched in April 2023, the Pilot Scheme of Adopting Results of Language Tests for HKIE Membership Admission can consider results of language tests for Membership admission in lieu of essay/technical write-up in the Professional Assessment. A total of 11 Disciplines have joined the Pilot Scheme and 6 applications for Memberships with inclusion of results of language tests were received.

The Board also supported the formation of a Professional Certification Committee to consider applications and matters related to the certification of the qualifications and experience required for certain professions. This new Committee would be under the purview of the Board.

On the recommendation of the Board, the Council approved to allow “Fellow-to-Fellow” in Reciprocal Recognition Agreements. Meanwhile, an Agreement with the Chinese Society of Engineers (CSE) at Fellow’s level was signed at the Second Greater Bay Area (GBA) Engineers Forum in May 2023. Also, the current Reciprocal Recognition Agreements with the Energy Institute, the Institution of Gas Engineers and Managers and the Institute of Materials, Minerals & Mining, were also renewed during the Session.

This year has been a busy and fruitful year as the Board reviewed a total of 534 and 2,709 applications for Corporate and other classes of membership respectively. The Institution has gone from strength to strength and membership stood at more than 32,700 as of June 2023.



Ir LO Pak Cheong
Chairman

Education & Examinations Committee

During this Session, the Education and Examinations (E & E) Committee considered a total of 38 applications for individual assessment of academic qualifications for the class of Member. The Committee accepted 15 cases as meeting the academic requirements for Members, while 23 cases were rejected.

In the year under review, the Civil Discipline received 15 applications for academic assessment – the highest among the Disciplines – while the Building Discipline received five and the Environmental Discipline handled four.

In August 2022, the E & E Committee hosted a half-day seminar to satisfy one of the requirements for the top-up requirement of the Professional Engineer under Complementary Studies. The Seminar was held at the HKIE Headquarters with three applicants attended and passed the written test. Two out of three applicants subsequently submitted the completion proof of the Seminar to the E & E Committee for further consideration and their academic qualifications, together with the top-up requirements were considered as meeting the academic requirements for Member.

The E & E Committee believes that the Seminar could help applicants satisfy the top-up requirement of “engineers in society” and “professional and ethical responsibility for engineers”. The Committee will support conducting such a Seminar again in the future should the needs arise.



Ir Allan CHAN Sau Kit
Chairman

Fellowship Committee

Fellow is the Institution’s highest membership class 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 in setting qualification standards.

The Council approved a proposal of allowing “Fellow-to-Fellow” in Reciprocal Recognition Agreements and the corresponding changes to M2 Routes to Fellowship. A revised version of the application form for Fellowship and information for applicants was proposed by the Committee and approved by the Qualification and Membership Board for implementation starting from November 2022.

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 four meetings and considered 52 applications of which 43 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) implemented a stringent control of time frame for candidate taking the Professional Assessment (PA), a new measure applicable to Membership applications submitted on or after 1 January 2023. Candidates are required to attend the Professional Assessment (PA) within the designated timeframe while extensions may be granted on a case-by-case basis if the candidate can provide valid reasons, subject to approval.

The Web-based Assessor Training Programme has been launched in early November 2022 to replace face-to-face training. Over 290 members across all Disciplines have been nominated to the training and, as of the end of May 2023, 149 members successfully completed their online training.

To facilitate Assessors' completion of PA Report, the PAC reviewed the suggestions from the Secretariat, and recommended some changes to be made to the template of the Competence-based PA Report. The PA reports for respective routes and Discipline have been revised accordingly for adoption.

With the end of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Qualification & Membership Board invited the PAC to review the current arrangements for online assessment. To facilitate the review, the Discipline Advisory Panels and Assessors who have conducted online PA were invited to provide their views/feedbacks on the online assessment for further consideration in the next Session.



Ir Alfred LEUNG Wai Ho
Chairman

Quality Control Committee

The Quality Control Committee (QCC) held five meetings during the Session and reviewed a total of 258 assessment results. The passing rate of the assessment results was 66% for the Session, compared with 57% for the previous Session.

During the Session, the QCC reviewed 12 appeal cases, upholding assessment results in 11 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 standards of assessment for applicants via Reciprocal Recognition Agreements with other Institutions.



Ir Kenneth LI Siu Kong
Chairman

Training Committee

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

To enhance service to Members, one video about HKIE Training Logbooks and another video about the issuing and collection of HKIE Training Completion Certificates were produced and made available on the HKIE YouTube Channel.

Regarding the eligibility to Scheme “A” for overseas graduates, the Committee agreed to continue the “Direct Match” mechanism up to 2025 and would further review the situation in due course.

New fee items were introduced, including for verification requests, replacement certificates for Engineering Supervisors and approved companies as well as copies of letters issued. To encourage registrations for AM Training, the application fee for AM Training has been waived for one additional year until 31 March 2024.

In this Session, the Committee processed 52 assessment or re-assessment applications from 38 companies across 12 Disciplines through company visits, trainee interviews and paper evaluations. Meanwhile, the number of newly registered trainees reached 1,132 while 110 company representatives attended four Scheme “A” Workshops. We conducted three Engineering Supervisor Workshops and approved 119 members as Engineering Supervisors.

In parallel with the accreditation exercises conducted, we completed the discipline matching for 25 programmes from 4 higher education institutions to Scheme “A” Graduate Training.

Trainee of the Year Award 2022 granted winners of this annual competition with awards during the New Members’ Reception cum Prize Presentation Ceremony at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre in February 2023.

As part of the quality assurance mechanism of Scheme “A”, a Special Panel reviewed the training materials of 26 schemes submitted by 25 companies and made recommendations to each company about areas of improvement in the annual sampling exercise of trainees’ training record.