

By post and email

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Dear Ir LAW

Views on Education Bureau's review of the Study Subsidy Scheme for Designated Professions/ Sectors (SSSDP)

On behalf of the Institution, I am pleased to provide herewith the views and suggestions of the Institution on the subject for your consideration.

Thank you for your attention.

Yours sincerely



Ir Joseph K H CHOI
President
The Hong Kong Institution of Engineers

Enc

Views on Education Bureau's review of the Study Subsidy Scheme for Designated Professions/ Sectors

The Hong Kong Institution of Engineers (HKIE) is an institution for all engineering disciplines. In this connection, we would only wish to comment on the Study Subsidy Scheme for Designated Professions/ Sectors (SSSDP) related to engineering programmes.

Accreditation

2. The HKIE carries out accreditation of honorary undergraduate programmes where cohorts, subject to further requirement, are considered to fulfil the educational limb for admission as professional engineers. The HKIE noted subsidising quotas are proposed to be allocated to the following accredited programmes by the Institution:

- a. Bachelor of Engineering (Honours) in Civil Engineering offered by the Vocational Training Council - Technological and Higher Education Institute of Hong Kong (THEi)
- b. Bachelor of Engineering (Honours) in Environmental Engineering and Management offered by the Vocational Training Council - Technological and Higher Education Institute of Hong Kong (THEi)

3. At the time of writing three fresh engineering undergraduate programs are scheduled to be accredited in 2017, viz.

- a. BSc (Hons) in Testing and Certification (Full Time) (to be re-titled to BEng (Hons) in Testing and Certification starting from the September 2017 intake) offered by The Open University of Hong Kong
- b. BEng (Hons) in Electronic and Computer Engineering (Full Time) offered by The Open University of Hong Kong
- c. Bachelor of Engineering (Honours) in Building Services Engineering offered by the Vocational Training Council - Technological and Higher Education Institute of Hong Kong (THEi)

4. The HKIE has no control when or whether a tertiary institution would wish to have their programmes submitted for accreditation. For that matter, there is also no guarantee that the programmes under accreditation would meet the benchmarks. That said those scheduled for accreditation review could be considered being more prepared of turning out cohorts ready to become professional engineers.

The Current Engineering Industry

5. The HKIE believes SSSDP is to encourage cohorts enrolled in programmes that could meet the demands. It is the HKIE's understanding of the stakeholders of the

industry together with various manpower surveys that could delineate the trend. In this regard, the HKIE would wish to fill in what we gather, perhaps as adjustment factor in addition to surveys taken.

- a. The number of infrastructure projects for the foreseeable future is facing a downturn, putting less demand in civil and environmental engineering programmes.
- b. There is a growing demand in building services related career to meet various statutory compliances in the last few years as well as the need to address energy.

The HKIE's Proposal

6. Due to the expected shifting demand from the industry the HKIE would wish to propose the following distribution of subsidising quotas among the HKIE accredited programmes that meet the industry's need for the Development Bureau's consideration:

- a. Bachelor of Engineering (Honours) in Civil Engineering offered by the Vocational Training Council - Technological and Higher Education Institute of Hong Kong (THEi) – 30 places
- b. Bachelor of Engineering (Honours) in Environmental Engineering and Management offered by the Vocational Training Council - Technological and Higher Education Institute of Hong Kong (THEi) – 30 places
- c. Bachelor of Engineering (Honours) in Building Services Engineering offered by the Vocational Training Council - Technological and Higher Education Institute of Hong Kong (THEi) – 60 places