

THE HONG KONG INSTITUTION OF ENGINEERS

COUNCIL MEETING

**Action Minutes of the 3rd Meeting of Session 2020/2021 held on
Thursday, 19 November 2020 at 5:30pm at the HKIE Headquarters**

Present	:	Ir Ringo YU Shek Man	Immediate Past President
		Ir Edwin CHUNG Kwok Fai	Senior Vice President
		Ir Aaron BOK Kwok Ming	Vice President
		Ir Dr Barry LEE Chi Hong	Vice President
		Ir Leo CHAN Hei Yim	
		Ir Edward CHAN Sai Cheong	
		Ir CHAN Yiu Hon	
		Ir Ambrose CHEN Hao Ting	
		Ir Francis CHENG Cho Ying	
		Ir Albert CHENG Ting Ning	
		Ir CHEUK Kim Tang	
		Ir Prof Joseph CHI Wuh Jian	
		Ir Alice CHOW Kin Tak	
		Ir Prof Adam CHOY Siu Chung	
		Ir Clement CHUNG Hung Wai	
		Ir Prof Ken HO	
		Ir IP Tat Yan	
		Ir KONG Shui Sun	
		Ir Ricky LAU Chun Kit	
		Ir Dr Ritz LAU Ming Ho	
		Ir Ben LEUNG Chi Hung	
		Ir Rupert LEUNG Kwok Yiu	
		Ir Mandy LEUNG Man Yee	
		Ir LIU Sing Pang	
		Ir Victor LO King Yin	
		Ir Eric MA Siu Cheung	
		Ir MAK Ka Wai	
		Ir Eagle MO Cheung Ying	
		Ir Rachel NG Hoi Ching	
		Ir Prof Richard SO Hau Yue	
		Ir Michelle TANG Ming Sum	
		Ir TANG Whai Tak	
		Mr Daniel YIP Toa Sun	
		Ir Edmund LEUNG Kwong Ho	Honorary Member
		Ir Prof Thomas CHAN Kwok Cheung	Observer, Chairman of ERB
		Ir HON Chi Keung	Chief Executive and Secretary

In attendance	: Ir Eva KONG Mr Wilbur PANG Ms Fonny LAM	Director Associate Director - Professional Standards & Services Minuting secretary
By invitation	: Mr Benny FUNG Mr John HUANG Mr Jason LO	President's Protégé President's Protégé President's Protégé
Apologies	: Ir CHAN Siu Hung Ir Jovian CHEUNG Man Chit Ir Ian CHUNG Siu Ping Ir Prof Mark HAYMAN Ir Prof Patrick LEE Po Cheung Ir LEUNG Yiu Hong Ir Dr the Hon LO Wai Kwok Ir Prof Eddie LOCK Hung Kee Ir Prof Joseph MAK Yiu Wing Ir Bobby NG Mang Tung Ir Simon NGO Siu Hing Ir Dr TSANG Kim Fung Ir Wilson TSANG Sau Kit Ir Edmond TSE Ping Ho Ir Prof YUEN Pak Leung	

Action

3.1 Renewal of the Reciprocal Recognition Agreement with the Institution of Civil Engineers

VP Ir Aaron BOK Kwok Ming, Chairman of the Q & M Board, presented the paper advising Members the follow up actions taken on the Reciprocal Recognition Agreement (RRA) template as well as a proposed renewal of RRA with the Institution of Civil Engineers (ICE).

Before discussion of the item, the Chief Executive and Secretary relayed a message from the President on the proposed RRA with ICE. The President wished the Meeting to note that it was not his intention not to sign the RRA. However, he wished Council Members to consider his following views in the deliberation of this item.

- (a) Clause 2.1a of the proposed RRA with ICE must include HKIE international obligation that academic must be based on Washington Accord (WA) or equivalent;
- (b) HKIE currently had doubts for those Chartered Engineers (CEng) admitted with a combination of UK 3-year Bachelor degree plus a Master top-up. Unless HKIE would be satisfied proper monitoring system was installed by ECUK, in the

interim, the RRA must include a clause that MICE admitted under this status must be assessed by HKIE before admitting to MHKIE; and

- (c) RRA is for admission to MHKIE and vice versa to MICE. RRA is not as a document of strict equal membership status from HKIE's point of view.

At this point, Ir Edwin CHUNG Kwok Fai commented on the delay in discussion on the academic qualification issue of ECUK during the June 2020 IEAM meeting for two years. If academic issue could not be resolved, there could be problem in the requirements of admitting members and if this would be the case, there could be problem to satisfy clause 3.1 of the RRA.

In response to the President's views on the proposed RRA with ICE, comments from Council Members were summarised below:

- ◆ The proposed clause 2.1a had been widely drafted. Setting WA recognised academic qualifications or equivalent as a mandatory requirement in the RRA would limit the admission of members via different routes.
- ◆ While there might be a concern on the appropriateness of the combinations of a UK 3-year Bachelor degree plus a Master top-up, a UK 3-year Bachelor degree plus an appropriate Master top-up was still considered meeting the requirements in the WA Review.
- ◆ Clause 3.5 of the RRA clearly stated that "Each Institution shall retain full discretion as to the admission of any candidates to their membership". It might not be necessary to reiterate that the RRA was not as a document of strict equal membership status.
- ◆ Discipline Advisory Panels (DAP) would maintain discretion to require applicants including those from RRA route to go through professional assessment under the existing mechanism if there was doubt about the qualification and experience of the applicants.
- ◆ Under the current arrangement, the Secretariat would seek confirmation from the overseas institution concerned for those applications via RRA route, on whether the academic qualification held by the applicant was recognised under WA or individually assessed by the professional institution. Such information would then be provided to DAP for consideration.

- ◆ RRA already had clauses to allow the HKIE to conduct assessment for its gate-keeping role.

After discussion, the Chairman proposed to consolidate the responses from Members to the President for views and discussion with the Chairman of the Q & M Board first and any revisions to the RRA would then be circulated to Members for further consideration in a week. However, as many Council Members expressed opinions that a decision should be made on the proposed RRA at the meeting, the Meeting decided to proceed with voting on the proposed RRA. With the proposal supported by a majority vote, the proposed RRA with ICE as set out in Annex II to the Paper was approved by the Meeting as presented.

(Post-meeting note I: The President apologised for being absent from the meeting due to medical advice. From the draft meeting record, the President considered the Council Members were not well-briefed on the matter, in particular the current position of the HKIE status. It is not due to IPP Ringo's chairmanship, but because of the time he needed in collating information in comparing with the draft template. A list of points will be circulated to Council, hopefully also before the next Q & M Board meeting. The President holds the view it is his responsibility to ensure the Council to have all relevant information for consideration before making a resolution.)

(Post-meeting note II: The President noted the Council received a copy of IPP Ringo's letter to WA Chair noting HKIE position as WA Signatory. The Council was informed there is an on-going discussion on the issue of the combination of BEng and MSc between HKIE and ECUK. From correspondences received, the President noted the Council understands Clause 1.1 is about mutual membership admission with measures for enforcement. With the above, the Council decided to keep the original version as resolved.)

(Post-meeting note III: The Secretariat would retrieve relevant records and advise the Council if the HKIE position established in 2018 had been deliberated and approved by the Council before. If needed, an Accreditation Board paper might be required on this front to ensure thorough deliberation.)

3.2 Membership fees for 2021/2022

The Meeting approved to maintain the membership fees for financial year 2021/2022 at the current level.

3.3 Early bird discount for 2021/2022

The Meeting approved the proposal to continue to offer a 2% early bird discount for membership subscription for financial year 2021/2022,

which would only apply to members settling their subscriptions by cheque, cash or Faster Payment System (FPS) before 1 April 2021.

3.4 1st forecast for 2020/2021 and draft budget for 2021/2022

Ir CHOW Lap Man, Chairman of the Finance & Investment Sub-Committee, was invited to present the financial forecast for financial year 2020/2021 and the draft budget for financial year 2021/2022 as set out in Appendix I to the Paper. The Meeting noted the estimated surplus for the financial year 2020/2021 and the anticipated deficit in the draft budget for financial year 2021/2022.

After consideration, the Meeting approved the financial forecast for financial year 2020/2021 and the proposed budget for financial year 2021/2022 as presented.

There being no further business, the meeting was declared closed at 6:30pm.