



THE HONG KONG INSTITUTION OF ENGINEERS

Australian Chapter

NEWSLETTER

No. 1/2010

Welcome to the first newsletter of the Australian Chapter of the HKIE 2010 and the Year of the Tiger.

Messages from the Chapter Chairman

I am pleased to compile this annual report to our Australian members that we have completed two major undertakings in 2009.

The Chapter Committee discussed the idea of offering incentive to Hong Kong students studying in Australian universities to learn intelligently and be part of the community of Hong Kong engineers when they return to Hong Kong after graduation. The Hong Kong Engineering Student Book Prize was developed since late last year and implemented this year. The prize is awarded to students who have the highest GPA (or equivalent) in their third year with is a cash prize of A\$200 plus free membership for one year (entrance fee and one year subscription of HK\$280). The student must be either from Hong Kong overseas students or Australian students but have the right of abode in Hong Kong. Five students won the prize from 5 universities (see separate section below). The Chapter Representative in the State of the student presented a certificate and a cash voucher to the students. Processing of their application forms as a student member is in progress.

Due to Australian legal requirement, any organisation responsible for public activities must have public liability insurance. This requirement has restricted the Australian Chapter Committee in many respect to organise activities for members. To obtain insurance cover, the entity must legally exist, i.e. as a registered organisation in Australia. The Committee discussed this issue for a long time and decided to register for the status of Incorporated Association. The Australian Chapter is now registered as an Incorporated Association in Victoria under the name "HKIE – Australian Chapter Inc." and certificate A0051492Y. This registration has been approved by HKIE Council in January this year.

The first official activity of the Australian Chapter was hosted by the Presidential visit by Ir Dr. Andrew Chan on Monday 28 September 2009. The President officially inaugurated the formation of the Australian Chapter.

We'll continue to develop services to our members in Australia, within the constraints that we are operating. I would like to thank members who responded to our Newsletters and contacted us. I look forward to meeting as many members in Australia as possible in future activities.

New Committee Member Ir. Ken Poon

I was graduated from Hong Kong Polytechnic University in 1975 and had worked as a structural engineer then a senior structural engineer in the Hong Kong Housing Authority for 26 years. I migrated to Perth in 2005 and have been working a lecturer in Central Institute of Technology from 2006.

Members in Adelaide and Hobart

We would like to have one member from SA and Tasmania to join the Committee as the contact point in those states as well as assisting in activities there. If you are interested, please contact the Chairman.

Meeting the President

The Australian Chapter Chairman Dr John Mo and Deputy Chairman Ir Raymond Pau visited HKIE Head Office on 03/12/09 and met with HKIE President Dr Andrew Chan and Vice President Ir K K Choy. It was agreed the President's visit to Sydney in September 2009 attracted the member's attention and therefore future visits by HKIE officials to other capital cities in Australia would be beneficial to the Australian Chapter members. The Head Office will give more advanced notice so that more activities of this type can be organised in 2010.

New Chapter

Committee 2009-2011

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What is the implication of signing the Mutual Recognition Agreement between HKIE and Engineers Australia

HKIE and Engineers Australia have entered into bilateral agreements in the HKIE Presidential visit to Australia in November, last year. The principle of this Mutual Recognition Agreement is that, under normal circumstances, an engineering professional, who lives and practises for an extended period in Australia, should seek membership, at the appropriate grade, of an appropriate engineering association in Australia, in this case, from Engineers Australia. Likewise, an Australian engineering professional living and working in Hong Kong can seek membership from HKIE.

Apart from Engineers Australia, HKIE has established Mutual Recognition Agreements (MRAs) with Institutions around the world, mostly signatory of the Washington Accord. A member of these engineering body, on application, will be accorded an equivalent level of membership in that country and vice versa. In some cases, the agreements cover more than one grade of membership and occupational category. The agreement with HKIE covers Chartered Status and registration on Australia's National Professional Engineers Register (NPER). Both Chartered Status and registration in Australia can be obtained using an application form from Engineers Australia via the following link:

http://www.engineersaustralia.org.au/shadomx/apps/fms/fmsdownload.cfm?file_uid=17B21946-CE99-ED1B-EB37-B7D2D0678EAE&siteName=ieaust

Members who would like to seek membership of Engineers Australia through this route can contact one of the Committee members for assistance.

Web site

The Australian Chapter has an official web site operated by HKIE HQ. It is still limited at the moment but at least we have a starting point. Please feel free to search for information there and suggest improvements. The URL of the web site is:

<http://www.hkie.org.hk/eng/html/aboutthehie/overseaschapters.asp>

What would you like?

The Australian Chapter is physically diverse throughout Australia. We have about 300 members distributed in all states. The Committee would like to organise activities for the Australian Members but we need to know what you want to see and we'll try to manage the logistics for implementing these ideas. Some ideas from the Committee are:

What do *you* think we should organize?

What do *you* want to do?

What are *your* interests and,

What do *you* think would be of interest to us as a group?

Please get your thinking caps on and drop us an e-mail, or make a phone-call giving us your thoughts on this and we'll try to organize some events.

The HKIE Engineering Student Book Prize 2010

This year, once again, we invite 11 Australian universities to nominate their best Hong Kong engineering student to receive a HKIE Engineering Student Book Prize. We hope that through this type of activities, we promote HKIE to the students here and foster future opportunities for engineering graduates from Hong Kong to have greater contribution to the profession both in Australia and Hong Kong.

The following universities have been invited this year:

The University of Queensland
Queensland University of Technology
Griffith University
University of Sydney
University of New South Wales
RMIT University
The University of Melbourne
Monash University
The University of Western Australia
The Curtin University of Technology
University of Technology, Sydney

HKIE welcome ex-members to rejoin

HKIE Head Office advised the Committee that ex-HKIE members are welcomed to rejoin as overseas members while the rejoin fee and previous balance will be waived. If you know any ex-HKIE member, (including retired member) please encourage them to contact the Chairman Ir Dr John Mo for more details.



Year of Tiger

1914, 1926, 1938,
1950, 1962, 1974,
1986, 1998