



Ir Wong Kwok Lai

### ADMINISTRATION BOARD

The Administration Board is responsible for the interpretation, development and implementation of policy on financial and administration matters, and for the co-ordination of administrative functions that involve more than one committee under the Board.

Appraising administrative policy of the Institution from time to time is a central and fundamental role of the Board. Several guidelines have been developed and adopted in the Session. These include guidelines for retired members applying for subscription reduction, guidelines for reimbursement of expenses by members during official overseas visits, guidelines for handling souvenirs received by the Institution and guidelines for the approval and endorsement arrangement, which clarify the extents of delegated authority and define responsibilities of individual committees in the management of the Institution.

Working closely with the Management Committee, the Board has reviewed the Composition and Terms of Reference of various Committees/Sub-committees, including the Training Committee, Training Review Sub-committees, division committees, Community Service Committee and Public Relations Committee. Most of them have taken effect in the year whereas some of them are still in the process of discussion. Hopefully, they will be completed in the coming Session.

With an increase in income and close monitoring on expenditure, the Institution has maintained a healthy financial position during the year. The working groups set up by the President introduced their initiatives in the year and the resources required for implementation have been incorporated in the budget for 2006/2007.

The Board has always made a point to review meeting facilities in the Institution's premises regularly so as to provide comfortable meeting venues with upgraded facilities. The Board also kept abreast of changes to the establishment of the Secretariat, and monitored affairs of the Journal as well as the financial accounts of the Institution's conferences and the Yearbook.

Finally, the Board thanks all committees for their contributions and hard work. The Board could not have made progress over the past year without their support.

### Finance & Investment Committee

The Finance & Investment Committee is responsible for the management of assets and investments of the Institution. It is also responsible for the planning and monitoring of the Institution's income, expenditure and cash flow. The Committee reports to the Administration Board.

The Committee is pleased to report that in the financial year 2005/2006, the Institution maintained a healthy financial and cash position with a surplus

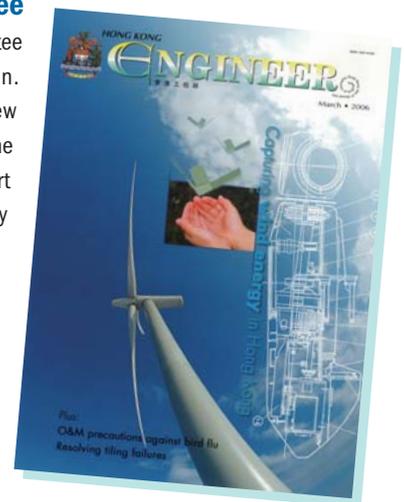
of HK\$3.64 million. The total income for the year was HK\$25 million, up HK\$1.26 million on last year. This was mainly due to more accreditation income and higher interest rates during the year. On the expenditure side, total expenditure was HK\$21.6 million, up HK\$0.6 million on last year. This was attributable to a series of activities organised during the year, including the Hong Kong Institution of Engineers Ordinance 1975 30 Years of Excellence Cocktail Reception and the HKIE Road Shows. Overall spending pattern remained broadly similar.

Taking into consideration the economic situation as well as the Institution's financial position, the Committee has recommended to maintain membership fees at their existing level for the 2006/2007 Session and to continue offering the early bird discount to all members who have made subscription payments by cheque or cash before 1 April 2006. With close monitoring on spending, the Institution is expected to meet its financial budget in the coming financial year.

### Journal Editorial Committee

The new composition of the Committee was implemented in this Session. We welcomed the joining of two new Co-opted Members appointed by the Council, and put in concerted effort to maintain and improve the quality of the Journal.

In an effort to present a fresh look to readers, the *Hong Kong Engineer* has adopted a new design since the March 2006 issue. We hope that members would find the new style more attractive and colourful.



Similar to last Session, a meeting on an opinion survey on the Journal was convened by the Committee on 12 October 2005. The meeting aimed to provide a forum for exchange of ideas and to further enrich the content of the Journal. Council Members and Chairmen, authorised persons for article submission, technical reviewers from divisions, Associate Members Committee, Safety Specialist Committee and Young Members Committee were invited to attend the meeting to share their insights with the Committee. In order to reach out to more members and to collect their views on the Journal, the Committee conducted an online readership survey – the first of its kind – from May to June 2006.

We endeavour to ensure that the Journal keeps abreast of the fast changing knowledge-based world. To this end, a new column entitled Research and Innovation was launched in the March 2006 issue so as to provide a communication platform that links up researchers and the members of the Institution. Responses from researchers on the column are encouraging. By publishing news on innovations from university research experts, we inform members of the latest research findings and technologies relating to

their fields and in return, they will facilitate the implementation and commercialisation of these innovations.

On the financial front, the Publisher continued to maintain the Journal at a stable and healthy financial position during the Session.

The Committee would like to express its gratitude to its Committee members and the Publisher for their zealous efforts in enhancing the quality of the Journal.

## Management Committee

The Management Committee reports to the Administration Board for the regular review and update of the Institution's policies and management procedures. In this Session, the Committee held three meetings and made prominent progress in reviewing the Composition and Terms of Reference (TOR) of the standing committees.

The Committee reviewed the Guidelines for Reinstatement of Membership as prepared by the legal adviser on the basis of principles set out in the amended version of the Constitution and recommended some amendments to the Administration Board. With input from the Continuing Professional Development Committee and the Qualification & Membership Board, the Guidelines for Reinstatement of Membership was finalised and approved by the Council. The Committee also reviewed the content of the Division Manual, following which a decision was made not to publish Division Manual – Terms of Reference and the duplicated information in the Division Manual – Operating Guidelines was taken out from the updated version of the Manual.

To avoid any divergence of interpretations, the Committee reviewed the current approval and endorsement arrangement and proposed the mechanism for such arrangement to the Administration Board. This was subsequently adopted in the Session.

On the review of the Composition and TOR of the standing committees, proposals were received from Training Review Sub-committees and the Community Service Committee to include a Deputy Chairman and a representative from the Young Members Committee in their composition respectively. The Council approved the recommended amendments on the Composition and TOR of these two Committees.

## Staff Resources Committee

The Committee is responsible to the Administration Board for reviewing policy and guidelines for staff establishment. It also reviews job specifications for Secretariat staff, formulates policy and guidelines for salary levels and conditions of services for staff and maintains an equitable remuneration system.

With the development in the various spectrums of activities of the Institution, the Committee has kept in constant review the secretariat support at different levels with even division of work at appropriate level of support. Proposals

on staffing support have been carefully considered against the resources available. It is worth reporting that the Committee has studied a proposal initiated by the Executive for additional staffing support in the qualifying areas and with the approval of the Administration Board, a Senior Manager post has been created for the purpose. At the same time, the titles of other posts with the same ranking as the newly created post are re-titled accordingly for the purpose of differentiating the ranking in the current staffing structure of the Secretariat.

With broad economic recovery and active labour market, there has been a relatively high staff turnover in the Secretariat. The Committee has introduced measures to address the issues including steps to provide promotion opportunities for staff within the Secretariat. As part of the strategies, the Committee also reviewed salary levels to establish benchmarking against market rates.

During the year, the Committee has reviewed the Long Service Award for staff members whose service with the Institution has reached 20 years and beyond. The existing Award covers the service of staff members of the Secretariat, full-time or part-time, who have continuous service of 10 years, and thereafter at an interval of each 5 years up to 15 years.

## QUALIFICATION & MEMBERSHIP BOARD

The Qualification & Membership Board had a busy and fruitful year developing and upholding the quality of the Institution's membership qualification system. This year, the total numbers of applications for Corporate and other classes of Membership reviewed by the Board were 733 and 946 respectively. The passing rate for Corporate Membership stood at 76.9%.



Ir Dr Lo Wai Kwok

The Board was pleased to report that the Fire Discipline was formed in November 2005 and there are nearly 100 Corporate Members currently. An admission scheme for aircraft maintenance engineers to the Institution was also approved by the Board in the Session. The scheme is now being implemented.

The Institution and the National Administration Board of Engineering Registration (Structural)(全國註冊工程師管理委員會(結構)) held the 2nd Training and Assessment under the mutual recognition agreement for structural engineers in Haikou, Hainandao between 14 and 17 November 2005. A total of 26 Institution Members obtained Mainland qualifications.

The Reciprocal Recognition Agreements with the Chartered Institute of Building and Energy Institute were signed on 8 and 25 May 2006 respectively. Reciprocal Recognition Agreement with the Institute of Marine Engineering, Science and Technology was also renewed during this Session.

A sub-list of Building Discipline Members as Building (Project Supervision) Members has been established for the purpose of reciprocal recognition between Members of the HKIE in Building Discipline and the Supervising Engineers on the Mainland.

Meanwhile, discussions with the Mainland on the mutual recognition of building services, chemical, civil, electrical, geotechnical and mechanical engineers continued.

Last but not least, the Agreement of Co-operation on Recognition of Qualifications between the Institution and Chinese Society for Electrical Engineering (CSEE) (中國電機工程學會關於工程師資格認證工作合作協議) was endorsed by the Board and approved by the Council in May. Pursuant to the Agreement, the Institution would provide support in assisting CSEE in establishing its own qualifications system and to assist its training of the 1st batch of assessors and the 1st examination.

### Membership Application Statistics

Grade	Applications			
	Considered		Accepted	
	2005/2006	(2004/2005)	2005/2006	(2004/2005)
Fellow	41	(46)	32	(39)
Member	614	(561)	450	(384)
Graduate Member	600	(486)	600	(482)
Associate Member	4	(3)	4	(2)
Companion	0	(1)	0	(1)
Student Member	340	(366)	340	(364)
Affiliate	2	(5)	2	(5)
Additional Discipline	129	(68)	108	(42)
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,730</b>	<b>(1,536)</b>	<b>1,536</b>	<b>(1,319)</b>

Note: 1. Up to 31 March each year.  
2. For the grade of Member, the difference between the number of applications shown as 'considered' and applications shown as 'accepted' does not in all cases indicate a rejection. A significant number of professional assessments are still being processed.

### Membership Statistics

Membership	31 Mar 03	31 Mar 04	31 Mar 05	31 Mar 06
Honorary Fellow	18	17	18	18
Fellow	796	814	836	855
Member	9,365	9,638	9,898	10,188
Graduate Member	4,284	4,149	4,142	4,184
Associate Member	2,212	2,084	1,973	1,832
Companion	23	22	23	23
Student Member	1,656	1,780	1,685	1,648
Affiliate	616	727	649	579
<b>Total</b>	<b>18,970</b>	<b>19,231</b>	<b>19,224</b>	<b>19,327</b>

### Education & Examinations Committee

The Education & Examinations Committee reports to the Qualification & Membership Board on all recommendations regarding the individual assessment of academic qualifications for Member and for Associate Member (AM) applicants who are holders of non-recognised academic qualifications.

In the five meetings held during the Session, the Committee considered a total of 25 cases, of which nine cases were accepted as meeting the academic qualification for members; 13 cases were rejected, and three cases were pending until additional information was available from the candidates. One assessment case for AM was also considered and accepted.

The Geotechnical Discipline received the highest number of applications for academic assessment, followed by the Civil and Building Disciplines.

### Fellowship Committee

The Fellowship Committee reports to the Qualification & Membership Board on all recommendations relating to the election of Fellows. Six meetings were held in the Session and a total of 31 Fellows were recommended.

It is the policy of the Committee to assess each application on its individual merits and each applicant's particular circumstances are always fully considered by the Committee.

The Committee would be pleased to see more qualified applicants submitting their applications for Fellow in the future.

### Professional Assessment Committee

The Professional Assessment Committee is responsible for establishing and maintaining the procedures and quality of assessments.

During the Session, the Committee updated the definition and scope of professional assessment with a view to bringing them in line with the existing interpretation. It also revised the assessment form and internal procedures for professional assessment of mature candidates. The Committee also reviewed the guidelines for the mature route in allowing the assessors to request candidates to attend essay tests where necessary.

Two Induction Sessions were held to update assessors on the professional assessment process and practice, and a presentation was made to Scheme 'A' trainees in an orientation session organised by the Vocational Training Council.

The Committee also approved the procedures in invigilating essay tests in ensuring better quality control by the assessors.

## Quality Control Committee

The Quality Control Committee reports directly to the Qualification & Membership Board (Q & M Board) and is responsible for providing quality assurance on all professional assessments for Members, as well as assessments for Associate Members and applications for Reciprocal Recognition Agreement with other institutions.

Five meetings were held in the Session and a total of 348 applications for professional assessment were reviewed. The passing rate was 61% this year as compared with 55% last year. Two cases of alleged misconduct during professional assessment were also handled and referred to the Q & M Board. The Committee continued to achieve its mission to maintain a consistent quality standard of professional assessment results across the 18 Disciplines of the Institution and to uphold the quality of our members admitted via Reciprocal Recognition Agreements with other institutions.

## Training Committee

We were pleased to note that the number of registered trainees had a remarkable increase of 22% to 483 in total in this Session.

With the establishment of Scheme 'A' training for the Fire (FRE) Discipline, the Secretariat is now in the process of finalising the necessary training documents including the Model Training Guide and Core Objectives with the Fire Discipline Advisory Panel. The Fire Scheme 'A' training would be the 18th discipline training scheme set up in the HKIE. Subsidy is being sought from the Vocational Training Council to fund the training of FRE Discipline trainees in the future.

The Trainee of the Year Award competition was well received with the prize presented at The Hong Kong Institution of Engineers Prize Presentation Ceremony held on 20 January 2006. President Ir Dr Greg Wong presented prizes to the three winners of "Trainee of the Year Award 2005" and the representatives from their companies. Awards included cash prizes and certificates to winners and trophies to winners' companies. A review on the selection criteria of the competition was also conducted and endorsed by the Committee. Apart from a change on the weighting factors for each key assessment criterion, a new criterion on the trainees' personal vision and mission for the future was also added.

Following the setting up of the 1st Electronics training scheme, another tenant company under the Hong Kong Science and Technology Parks Corporation (HKSTP) has recently been approved to provide the Scheme 'A' training in Information Discipline. It is expected that this approval would make great strides in encouraging more HKSTP tenants to apply for the training scheme in a supportive way in the future.

## LEARNED SOCIETY BOARD

The Board continued to maintain liaison with Mainland and overseas organisations alike, and to foster interdisciplinary collaboration amongst various divisions and committees to promote information exchange and provide networking opportunities. A wide range of activities including awards, conferences, seminars and visits were organised by divisions and committees. These activities are reported in later sections of this Report.



Ir Peter Y Wong

In accordance with the three-year rolling plan for the 2005/2006 to 2007/2008 Sessions, the Board held discussions on the proposed action tasks to be followed up by the Board and divisions. Recognising that enhancement of engineers' status is a long-term and continuous task, the Board recommended to the Council that a statement on raising the standing of engineers was to be included as one of the objectives of divisions. As a related subject, the Board also discussed the initiative of publishing best practice guidelines by divisions so as to raise the profile of engineers. We were pleased to note that there were plans in the pipeline.

As part of our continued drive to promote the engineering profession and the Institution to secondary students and engineering undergraduates, the Board reviewed the HKIE's student prizes and made recommendations to the Council for approval. At divisional level, proposals from divisions and committees for setting up various student prizes and competitions were approved.

A noteworthy development on the proposed amalgamation of Nuclear and Gas & Energy Divisions was the Council's approval for the Board's recommendation on continuing the status of Nuclear Division as a Division without a representative in the Council. Noting the concerns as well as implications on the proposed "three-letter" abbreviation of the name of the Division after amalgamation, and in consideration of the latest development of the nuclear power plants on the Mainland and the learned society activities organised by the Nuclear Division in promoting the Institution, the Board agreed that it would be desirable to maintain the Nuclear Division in the Institution.

On divisional matters, there was much deliberation on the suggestions of the Administration Board in response to the Building Division's proposal for increasing the number of co-opted members. In view of divisions' concerns on the suggestions, the Board decided not to accept the suggestions and invited divisions to further discuss whether there was a need to increase the maximum number of committee members to be elected at the Division Annual General Meetings.

There was a review on the Division Rules and the Composition and Terms of Reference of Community Service Committee and Public Relations Committee. The Council approved the recommendations made by the Board. Other matters discussed during the Session included the expiry of the Agreement of Co-operation with the Institution of Electrical Engineers, circulation of notices on divisions' activities via emails and chairmanship of divisions.

The support of divisions and committees in co-ordinating learned society activities and in developing new initiatives to raise the profile of the Institution was appreciated. Without such support, the Board could not have made such satisfactory progress.

### Community Service Committee

The Community Service Committee (CSC) continued to enhance its role in co-ordinating responses from divisions and committees and members to consultation papers and in nominating members to serve on external boards and committees of the Government and other organisations.

In this Session, a total of 30 invitations for opinions ranging from engineering-related matters to issues of public concern were received from various Government departments, higher education institutions and professional organisations. On 4 March 2006, the Committee co-organised a forum with the Public Relations Committee to solicit members' views on the Future Development of the Electricity Market in Hong Kong Stage II Public Consultation. Subsequently, the Institution submitted its position paper to both the Economic Development and Labour Bureau and the LegCo Panel on Environmental Affairs for their consideration.

The Committee also received a total of 48 invitations from Government departments and other organisations asking for the HKIE representation on boards and committees. To maintain effective communication with Committee members and to ensure that the nomination process is open and transparent, the Committee further improved the mechanism of making nominations onto external boards and committees.

On the community service front, the Committee continued to co-ordinate our free professional advice to the public on matters relating to safety and maintenance of buildings through the Building Management Resource Centres (BMRCs) of the Home Affairs Department. Presentations were given at talks and workshops organised by the BMRCs to convey a proper message to the public on building management and maintenance issues.

To better facilitate the Committee in promoting voluntary service, the Committee supported the Executive's suggestion to include a provision in its Composition and Terms of Reference to encourage members to participate in community work and to include a representative from the Young Members Committee on the CSC.

The dedicated support and contribution of members have helped ensure that endeavours of the Committee for the Session were completed successfully. Their tremendous support is gratefully acknowledged.

### Conference Committee

Co-hosted by the Ministry of Construction and the Environment, Transport and Works Bureau, the Annual Conference was held in Xian from 20 to 22 September 2005. More than 50 papers from Hong Kong and the Mainland were presented at the Conference to address the theme "Construction Economics, Real Estate and Urban Disasters". The Organising Committee was led by President Ir Dr Greg Wong and consisted of key members from eight professional bodies and associations relating to the construction industry. Over 300 delegates from Hong Kong and the Mainland attended the Conference.

The staging of the "Conference on International Experience and Potential Application of Renewable Energy in Hong Kong" was one of the initiatives taken by the HKIE in support of the HKSAR Government's sustainable development strategy. It was held on 6 and 7 October 2005 in Hong Kong and over 200 delegates attended. The sharing of international experience was particularly useful. The Conference was well supported by consulate offices of the Netherlands, Sweden, the United States of America and the United Kingdom which arranged eminent experts from their countries to make presentations as keynote speakers.

The 2005 Guangzhou-Hong Kong-Macau-Taiwan (GHMT) Forum was held on 11 and 12 November 2005 with the aim of fostering better collaboration and exchange between the regions. It was co-organised by the Guangzhou Association of Engineers, the Macau Institution of Engineers, the Chinese Union of Professional Civil Engineer Associations and the HKIE. A delegation of 30 members from Hong Kong attended this Forum held in Macau.

The Institution has been actively involved in different conference activities. They have provided a valuable platform for members to interact, exchange and network with external bodies, both local and overseas. The Committee has also undertaken the planning of the forthcoming conferences due to be



Conference on International Experience and Potential Application of Renewable Energy in Hong Kong

held over the next two Sessions, including the Shanghai-HK Symposium on Science and Technology, International Conference on Climate Change, International Conference on Electrical Engineering and International Conference on Waste Engineering and Management.

### Continuing Professional Development Committee

The Continuing Professional Development Committee continued its efforts to promote, promulgate and administer Continuing Professional Development (CPD) among members of the Institution.

Joining forces with course providers, we planned over 200 courses covering occupational safety and health, technical matters and general professional subjects and attracted more than 900 participants. Honorary speakers were also invited to deliver free CPD talks on a wide range of topics for our members. Response was overwhelming. The Committee also co-organised, in conjunction with the Young Members Committee (YMC), free CPD courses and activities for YMC members with fixed budget funding by the CPD Promotional Fund.

Mandatory CPD requirements for Corporate Members came into effect on 1 January 2006, with a grace period of two years to enable Corporate Members to familiarise themselves with the new requirements. As a support measure, the online CPD logbook service, designed exclusively for members to help them maintain a systematic record of their CPD participation electronically was put into operation in April 2006.



Launching of Mandatory CPD for Corporate Members

Subsequent to the establishment of a formal training route to Associate Membership, the new CPD requirements for candidates utilising this formal training route were also finalised so as to act in accordance with the conviction that CPD is of value to the members, to the profession, to the industry and to the society at large.

### Public Relations Committee

The Public Relations Committee (PRC) strives to promote the image of the engineering profession to fellow members, the media and the general public. In addition to well-established activities such as the HKIE School Ambassadors Programme and meetings with District Councils, new endeavours were also made during the Session. Thanks to the concerted effort of the Work Groups and Task Forces of the Committee, we had another fruitful year in accomplishing a number of challenging tasks.



Launching Ceremony of the HKIE Road Shows – Engineers for the Environment

To reach out to more people in different districts, the Publicity and Event Work Group took up the responsibility for organising a series of HKIE Road Shows entitled "Engineers for the Environment" at Maritime Square and Telford Plaza in March and April respectively. With support of our members from the public and private sectors, both Road Shows received overwhelming response. Hundreds of visitors were captivated by the displays which showcased the contributions and achievements engineers made in building a sustainable and green Hong Kong. The Committee would like to express special gratitude to the Young Members Committee and the HKIE Toastmasters Club in hosting two interesting talk-shows at the Road Shows. Besides contributing to a sustainable Hong Kong, engineers also play a significant role in providing a safe living environment for our citizens, especially in times of natural disasters. On this front, the Institution played a key role in the month-long exhibition at the Science Museum entitled "Reducing Natural Disasters – Safer Living" as one of the co-organisers.

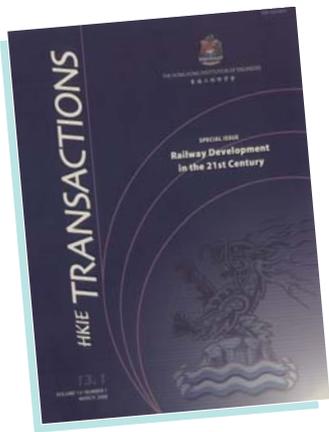
Another highlight event of the Session was the launching of the "Hong Kong Engineering Archive" website, which was an important initiative for the engineering profession. With the effort and guidance of the Mass Media Work Group, the website, uploaded initially with winning projects of "The 10 Engineering Wonders in Hong Kong", was successfully kicked off in May. The website is targeted at the general public. Visitors can easily access and browse through the website to understand more about engineering projects and achievements in Hong Kong. Following the launching, the Committee was thrilled by enthusiastic response as submissions of projects for inclusion in the Archive flooded in. We hope that, over time, the Archive will become a valuable and rich repository of engineering records of Hong Kong.

The Career Talks Task Force kept doing well in promoting the profession to potential engineers at schools. In this Session, our School Ambassadors delivered more than 20 career talks to over 1,500 students. The District Relations Work Group organised a highly successful visit for members of the Central & Western District Council to the Institution in January 2006. In collaboration with the Community Service Committee, a well-attended forum was organised to facilitate members' deliberation on the stage II public consultation for the future development of the electricity market in Hong Kong.

This report hardly covers all the activities and work done during the Session. The splendid efforts from all PRC members and the unstinting support from our School Ambassadors as well as other individual helpers are appreciated and gratefully acknowledged.

### Publications Committee

The Publications Committee endeavours to raise the standard of the *HKIE Transactions* in terms of the quality of papers published, content variety and sources of submissions. It is our ultimate goal to publish a technical journal which receives worldwide recognition. To attract quality papers and broaden submission sources, a special *Transactions* leaflet and submission guidelines have been sent to engineering departments of top universities on the Mainland and a considerable number of universities in Asia and Australia. Divisions of the Institution were also invited and encouraged to nominate quality papers from their paper awards for submission to the *Transactions*.



In an effort to provide readers with comprehensive knowledge on cutting-edge technology and development, a Special Section on "Combustion and Energy Utilisation" and a Special Issue on "Railway Development in the 21st Century" were published in this Session. The Committee would like to express its gratitude to the responsible editors and guest editors for their tremendous support.

The prize presentation ceremony of the HKIE Transactions Prize 2005 was successfully held in September 2005. Three Transactions papers were awarded the HKIE Transactions Prize and one was awarded the HKIE Transactions Prize (Young Engineers). With an aim to encourage young engineers and researchers to publish their works and develop in their professional fields, the Committee initiated and launched the HKIE Outstanding Paper Award for Young Engineers/Researchers in April 2006. In view of the wider scope of the new Award and the similar targeted groups,

the Committee decided not to pursue the existing HKIE Transactions Prize (Young Engineers) for better allocation of resources. Upon the deadline for submission in May 2006, the Committee was thrilled to see that the new Award received an encouraging number of submissions from students, researchers and scholars of local universities, as well as practitioners from engineering consultancy firms and Government departments. Building on this year's success, the Committee hopes that the Award could be extended to young engineers and researchers worldwide in the near future.

Regarding subscriptions of the *HKIE Transactions*, the Committee is delighted to note that subscriptions are maintained at a level similar to last year.

### ACCREDITATION BOARD

As a signatory to the Washington Accord, the Institution has successfully established itself as an internationally recognised accrediting authority for the accreditation of engineering degree programmes in Hong Kong. The Accreditation Board consists of 19 members, including two from overseas, namely Prof Ira Jacobson from the United States and Prof D A Nethercot from the United Kingdom.



Ir Prof Ko Jan Ming

At present, a total of 90 engineering degree programmes are accredited by the HKIE. During the period under review, the Board carried out seven accreditation visits to the Chinese University of Hong Kong, the City University of Hong Kong, the Hong Kong Polytechnic University, the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology and the University of Hong Kong to evaluate 31 engineering degree programmes. The Board started its 1st accreditation visit in 1995. A normal cycle of accreditation lasts approximately five years and the Board is now in its 3rd cycle.

In line with the standard practice of other Washington Accord signatories, the Accreditation Board has formed a Working Party to conduct a review on accreditation criteria for engineering degree programmes.

The Institution took part in certain Washington Accord activities during the year. As our representative, Ir Kenneth Hsu, Deputy Chairman of the Board, chaired the Washington Accord verification visit to Singapore on 16 to 19 January 2006. He also observed the accreditation visit to Korea University conducted by the Accreditation Board for Engineering Education of Korea on 20 to 25 May 2006.

The Board is committed to maintaining a high standard in its activities. To this end, it has been working closely with universities and higher education institutions in the year of review.

## Accreditation Committee for Computer Science Programmes

The Committee, now in its 5th year of operation, has laid down a solid foundation for the operation and development of a robust accreditation system for Computer Science degree programmes in Hong Kong. It plans to complete the 1st cycle of accreditation exercises to Computer Science programmes in the near future, and other programmes are scheduled for accreditation in the coming Session. Four Computer Science degree programmes have been accredited for the City University of Hong Kong, the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology and the Chinese University of Hong Kong.

The Committee has striven to effect a well-balanced representation amongst industry members, academics and experts from all fronts of the Computer Science discipline.

For long-term development plan, specific focus has been made to the development of bilateral recognition agreements for computer science education with other economies. Ir Jolly Wong, Chairman of the Committee, has visited and opened up a dialogue with the Australian Computer Society (ACS) for developing a mutual recognition of Computer Science degree programmes accreditations. Invitation to the ACS to observe an accreditation visit in Hong Kong is being arranged.

## Accreditation Committee for Higher Diploma Programmes

At present, a total of 51 higher diploma and associate degree programmes are accredited by the HKIE. During the period under review, the Committee carried out six accreditation visits to evaluate 16 higher diploma programmes.

For Sydney Accord verification, the Institution was removed from the transitional schedule and approved as a Full Signatory of the Sydney Accord during the year. All the higher diploma and associate degree programmes, including computer technology programmes accredited by the HKIE, are fully recognised by other signatories.

## PLANNING COMMITTEE

The Committee was delighted to report that the 1st planning cycle – from planning, implementation to review – was completed successfully. With the initiation of the planning cycle as recommended by the Strategic Planning Meeting held in late 2003, the Planning Committee of the 2004/2005 Session devised a flow chart outlining the time frame of the planning cycle and also discussed the 1st three-year rolling plan of the Institution for the 2005/2006 to 2007/2008 Sessions. During the Session, the Committee reviewed the 1st three-year rolling plan and noted the progress on the action tasks for the 2005/2006 to 2007/2008 Sessions. Many of the proposed action tasks have been taken on board by various boards/committees and the Secretariat.

Another important matter discussed was the next three-year rolling plan for the 2006/2007 to 2008/2009 Sessions. Recommendations were made to the Vice Presidents in preparing the three-year rolling plan and reviewing the plan in the future. These included a road map for the implementation of specific action tasks as identified to achieve the goals, setting the priorities of specific action tasks and a separate list of on-going tasks.

As in previous years, the highlight of the year was the Strategic Planning Meeting held with the Executive. The meeting had a discussion on the Composition and Terms of Reference of the Committee and reviewed the time frame and flow chart of the planning cycle. The focus of the meeting was on the deliberation of important issues, including the formation of new and emerging disciplines, new definition of engineering, repositioning of the HKIE in relation to its membership base and the HKIE's position in the international arena. Other issues discussed included the HKIE as an agent for the Mainland's examinations in Hong Kong and the number of students opting for engineering degree courses. The meeting also considered and exchanged views on the interim reports of the three working groups, which were set up by the President to draw up new proposals for the implementation of the action tasks of the three-year rolling plan for the 2005/2006 to 2007/2008 Sessions.



Ir James Y C Kwan