

reports FROM BOARDS, COMMITTEES AND SUB-COMMITTEES

ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

The Administration Committee continued its work to interpret, develop and implement the Institution's policies on financial and administration matters, and co-ordinate administrative functions which involve more than one standing committee. The Committee



Ir Dr Alex S K Chan

has held five meetings and we are pleased to report significant accomplishments and new member services that would have been impossible without the ongoing support of our sub-committees.

A particular focus in this Session was maintaining prudent budget control. With the efforts of the Finance & Investment (F&I) Sub-committee, the Institution continued to sustain a stable and healthy financial position for the year and the forthcoming 2003-2004 financial year will see a balanced budget. To reflect the actual expenditure of most divisions and committees under the Learned Society Board, we have put forward a proposal to reduce funding allocations and have formulated a mechanism for application for supplementary provisions under the adjusted allocation. Recommendations from the F&I Sub-committee for a permanent reduction of annual subscriptions for Associate, Graduate and Student (over 25 years old) members and an Early Bird Discount to all members, which will be reviewed annually, were endorsed.

To limit the impact of fluctuations on the progress of the Institution to deliver planned activities and to provide funds to develop new initiatives, we have implemented a policy that ensures any new initiatives with resource implications must be referred to the F&I Sub-committee which will determine the availability of funding.

The Committee has also launched the production of new HKIE souvenirs including newly-designed ties, scarfs for our female members, car shields and wooden plaques. In addition, the provision of members' benefits offered by outside suppliers or vendors was resumed.

On the communications front, members and other visitors to the HKIE website began enjoying easier access under a revamped structure and a greater dynamic appearance. We have also made excellent progress with the launch of the i-version of our Journal and the refinement of guidelines for publication in the Pink Page and Institution & Division Activities Section.

The Committee continued its efforts to co-ordinate administrative functions with a review of the different roles and delineation of responsibilities of the committees involved in Institution Conference. We have also reviewed the Guidance Notes to Members of the Council, adopted the General Guidelines on Overseas Chapters' Expenses and Official Visitors of the HKIE and renewed the Publishing Agreement with the Publishers.

Through the establishment of the House Sub-committee, we have also strengthened our co-ordination with the Secretariat on major projects underway and their resource implications. The Committee also reviewed the staffing establishment of the Secretariat and introduced the Performance Incentive & Adjustment Plan, a new medical and dental scheme and a Code of Conduct for Secretariat staff.

This has been a busy and productive year for the Administration Committee. Progress was greatly assisted by the input of Committee members and the support of Sub-committees.

Finance & Investment Sub-committee

The Finance & Investment Sub-committee is responsible for the management of the 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 Sub-committee reports to the Administration Committee.

In the 2002/2003 Session, the Institution continued to sustain a healthy financial and cash position and achieved a surplus of HK\$4.38 million. The total income for the year was HK\$25.1 million, which was similar to last year. The total expenditure was HK\$20.7 million, a slight saving on last year's expenditure. Overall, spending patterns remain broadly similar.

In light of the adverse economic situation and having studied all possible impacts, the Sub-committee recommended a reduction in membership fees for three particular classes of members (Associate, Graduate and Student (over 25 years old)), effective with the 2003/2004 Session. Also, an Early Bird Discount for all members was introduced in the financial year 2003-2004. With a steady growth in membership and close monitoring of spending, the Institution is expected to meet its financial budget in the coming Session.

Journal Editorial Sub-committee

The Sub-committee has overhauled guidelines for submissions to the Journal by both editorial contributors and individual divisions. A Copyright Transfer Form was introduced for contributors to avoid potential copyright law infringements. We have also reviewed the complimentary mailing list of the Journal to ensure effective circulation of the publication to local and overseas partners and sister institutions.

After a review of the Composition and Terms of Reference, it was considered conducive to increase the number of members appointed by the Council from two to four. The new composition will be implemented in the next Session, subject to the approval of the Council.

The Hong Kong Engineer On-line was launched in July 2002. The archives, dating back to October 2000, has also been uploaded onto the web. Members can now read the Journal anytime and anywhere. The weekly update on the announcement in the Pink Pages has become a value-added service to members, providing timely information on forthcoming events.

Members' information has been included in the 2003 edition of the Yearbook. The listing of individual contact details will prove to be a useful networking tool for members.

In this Session, the Publisher continued to maintain the Journal and the Yearbook in a stable and healthy financial position. The Institution has been able to share the profit of about HK\$150,000 generated from the publications and the publishing agreement has been reviewed and renewed for another term of two years.



Management Sub-committee

The Management Sub-committee is responsible to the Administration Committee for the regular review and updating of the management and administration procedures of the

Institution. In this Session, the Sub-committee has held four meetings and made excellent progress in reviewing the Composition and Terms of Reference (TOR) of the standing committees and has proposed amendments to some of them where appropriate.

The review of those standing committees under the Administration Committee, Learned Society Board and Accreditation Board has been completed. Feedback from respective committees on the proposed amendments has been considered and the finalised recommendations will be presented to the Administration Committee and the Council for approval in the coming Session.

A review of the Composition and TOR of the standing committees under the Qualification and Membership Board is also well underway and our proposed amendments have been put forth to the Board for its initial consideration.

In addition to the specific recommendations made to individual committees, the Sub-committee has formulated a procedure for making amendments to the Composition and TOR of the standing committees. We have also mapped out some general recommendations for adoption by all standing committees mainly to standardise the wording of some textual phrases and define some common expressions for the sake of consistency in presentation.

Staff Resources Sub-committee

The Sub-committee is responsible to the Administration Committee for reviewing policy and guidelines for staff establishment, and for formulating policy and guidelines for salary levels and conditions of service for staff as well as maintaining an equitable remuneration system.

Following the appointment of Mrs Monica Yuen as the Secretary of the Institution in July 2002, the Sub-committee examined proposals to restructure the Secretariat. The division of work was studied and the scope of duties reviewed. The results of this review were encouraging and savings in staff cost achieved this year have contributed significantly to the surplus of the Institution. At the same time, the quality of work and the efficiency of the Secretariat has remained uncompromised. With the increase in activities of the Institution, the new look of the Secretariat can provide the appropriate level of support.

The Sub-committee also introduced a "Performance Incentive & Adjustment Plan". The principle of this Plan is to manage staff by objectives and a performance appraisal system has been designed to assess the performance of staff against the objectives established.

The Sub-committee also reviewed on staff medical and dental schemes and a new scheme was launched during the year.

QUALIFICATION & MEMBERSHIP BOARD

The Qualification & Membership (Q&M) Board continued its important role to uphold the quality of the membership qualification system. This year the total number of applications for Corporate and other classes of Membership reviewed by the Board were 783 and 948 respectively. The passing rate for Corporate Membership stood at 67.7%.

Two new Reciprocal Recognition Agreements were signed during this Session. Both were with UK Institutions, namely the British Computer Society and the Institute of Measurement and Control. Under active consideration are similar agreements with Shanghai Survey and Design Association (上海市勘察設計協會) and the Ministry of Construction of PRC. The

Board has laid down the principles under which the Institution is willing to reach agreements with counterparts represented by the aforementioned two organisations in



Ir James Y C Kwan

the Mainland. In addition, we are considering an agreement with the Canadian Council of Professional Engineers, and reviewing the existing Reciprocal Recognition Agreements with the Institution of Electrical Engineers and the Institution of Civil Engineers.

The Board also proposed policies in relation to Continuing Professional Development requirements for applicants under Reciprocal Recognition Agreements, fellowship admission procedures, criteria for selection and assignment of assessors for Associate Members and criteria for granting concessions to physically challenged candidates in professional assessment.

It has been a busy year for the Board, but with the full support of its members, it has been another fruitful year in the development of membership qualification.

Membership Application Statistics

Grade	Applications			
	Considered		Accepted	
	2002/2003	(2001/2002)	2002/2003	(2001/2002)
Fellow	40	(34)	28	(22)
Member	719	(788)	466	(537)
Graduate	616	(700)	595	(689)
Associate Member	11	(10)	11	(10)
Student	296	(363)	292	(362)
Companion	0	(3)	0	(3)
Affiliate	6	(1)	6	(1)
Additional Discipline	97	(111)	57	(60)
Total	1,785	(2,010)	1,455	(1,684)

Note: 1. Up to end of March of that year.

2. For the grade of Member, the difference between the number of applications here shown as "considered" and as "accepted" does not in all cases indicate rejection. A significant number of professional assessments is still in process.

Membership Growth

Membership	31 Mar 2000	31 Mar 2001	31 Mar 2002	31 Mar 2003
Hon Fellow	17	17	17	18
Fellow	766	779	784	796
Member	8,080	8,581	9,036	9,365
Companion	25	23	25	23
Associate	2,651	2,464	2,345	2,212
Graduate	4,046	4,234	4,276	4,284
Student	2,306	2,093	1,948	1,656
Affiliate	359	449	534	616
Total	18,250	18,640	18,965	18,970

Education & Examinations Committee

The Education & Examinations Committee, chaired by Ir Peter K K Lee, reports to the Q&M Board on all recommendations in regard to the individual assessment of academic qualifications for Graduate / Member and for Associate Member.

In the five meetings held during the Session, the Committee considered a total of 61 cases for Graduate / Member, of which 21 cases were accepted as meeting the academic qualification for Graduate / Member; 35 cases were rejected and five cases await additional information from the candidates. Three cases for Associate Member were considered.

Civil and Building are the most popular disciplines for academic assessment, followed by Geotechnical and Structural.

Fellowship Committee

The Fellowship Committee, chaired by Ir Roger S H Lai, reports to the Q&M Board on all recommendations in relation to the election of Fellows. Four meetings were held and a total of 28 Fellows were recommended. In addition, the Committee continues to provide valuable input on Fellowship matters, including advice on Fellowship admission criteria. It is the policy of the Committee to assess every application on its individual merits and the particular circumstances of each applicant are always fully considered by the Committee.

The Committee has reviewed the existing Fellowship criteria and recommendations were made to the Q&M Board on minor amendments to the presentation of the Fellowship criteria to applicants.

The Committee hopes to see more qualified applicants submit their applications for Fellow in the future.

Professional Assessment Committee

The Professional Assessment Committee is responsible for the establishment and maintenance of procedures and quality of assessments.

During the Session, it reviewed the development of Assessors for Associate Member and completed the setting of criteria for selection and assignment of Assessors for Associate Member. It also held Induction Sessions to update assessors on the professional assessment process.

In addition, the Committee provided valuable input on professional assessment matters such as establishing the principles for consideration of granting concessions to physically challenged candidates. It also continues to review the time-logged schedule, which is used for the monitoring of the professional assessment process.

Quality Control Committee

The Quality Control Committee (QCC), chaired by Ir Raymond K S Chan, is responsible for providing quality assurance on all professional assessments for Member and assessments for Associate Member status.

Five meetings were held in the Session and a total of 450 applications have been reviewed. The success rate is 55 % this year, as compared with 54% last year. The Committee continues to achieve its mission to maintain a consistent quality standard of professional assessment results across the 16 Disciplines of the Institution.

In addition, the QCC plays a role in vetting the applications pursuant to Reciprocal Recognition Agreements with other countries. In this respect, the QCC has successfully achieved the objective of its vetting functions to uphold the quality of members.

Training Committee

The HKIE Engineering Graduate Training Scheme 'A' registered a total of 525 trainees in the 2002/2003 Session.

Currently, 168 companies are approved to offer Scheme 'A' training with seven companies newly approved in the Session.

To show appreciation of the Training Committee for the significant contribution from Visit Team Members who had voluntarily assisted in 41 Assessment / Reassessment Visits, names of these 74 Visit Team Members were announced in the *Hong Kong Engineer*. Letters of gratitude as well as certificates were sent to each of the Visit Team Members.

A Task Force was formed with 16 representatives from Training Committee, Training Review Sub-committees, Associate Members Committee, Vocational Training Council and Continuing Professional Development Committee, to work out essential arrangements and possible structured training for Associate Members.

Four Engineering Supervisor Workshops were conducted with a total of 73 approved Engineering Supervisors who, in turn, have created a new training force backing the Engineering Graduate Training Scheme.

The Trainee of the Year Award competition received a record number of applications in 2002. The President presented the prizes to the three winners and representatives of their companies at the Prize Presentation Ceremony held on 24 January 2003. Awards included monetary prizes and certificates to winners and trophies to winners' companies.



Ir Dr C K Lau, the President (front row: fourth from the left), Ir Dr Greg C Y Wong, Vice President (front row: third from the left), awardees of the Trainee of the Year Award (back row) and their company representatives at the HKIE Prize Presentation Ceremony

LEARNED SOCIETY BOARD

The Board continued to oversee the co-ordination of learned society activities organised by divisions and committees and to foster collaboration with other engineering institutions. With the joint efforts of divisions and committees, over 400 activities including conferences, seminars, talks and visits were organised. Information on divisions' and committees' activities is reported in later sections of this *Annual Report*.

To strengthen relationships with our counterparts in the Mainland and overseas, the Board recommended to the Council the establishment of an Agreement of Co-operation with the China Association for Science and Technology. The Board also supported proposals to establish an agreement with the Energy Institute and to renew an agreement with the American Society of Civil Engineers. Arrangements will be made for the adoption of these agreements.

A noteworthy development on overseas chapters was the appointment of the Officers of the committees of the UK Chapter and Australian Chapter. Issues discussed and resolved in relation to the operation of the overseas chapters included the registration of overseas chapters in their respective countries and the development of general guidelines on overseas chapters' expenses and procedures for official visitors of the HKIE.

To promote the engineering profession among younger people, a Task Force was formed to review the HKIE's student prizes for higher education students studying engineering courses and for Form six secondary school students. Recommendations were made to attract talented students to pursue engineering as a career. At divisional level, the Board encouraged and supported the divisions' initiatives to offer scholarships to engineering students involved in their respective disciplines.



Ir Dr Greg C Y Wong

The Board has continued to enhance the image of the Institution. A media kit and a set of guidelines on inviting media to events, along with media training courses were offered to divisions. This will help develop good relationships with the media and encourage media coverage of divisional activities and events. About 10 news reports on divisional activities were recorded during this Session.

Another major initiative has been the co-ordination of “in-house” Continuing Professional Development (CPD) programmes organised by Scheme ‘A’ companies for trainees and graduates of other Scheme ‘A’ companies. The proposal was well supported by the CPD Committee and aims to help trainees and graduates to fulfill their annual CPD requirements as well as to lessen their financial burden. Led by the Local Representative Co-ordinator, a working group was set up to co-ordinate the programmes under the proposed scheme and to review the scheme upon its completion. I was pleased to report that the first trial programme was held in late June 2003.

With the Council’s approval, an Ad Hoc Committee on Arbitration and Alternative Dispute Resolution was set up to provide members with fundamental knowledge of mechanisms available for dispute resolution. With a record number of over 400 members registering, the Committee’s inaugural event entitled “Engineer – A Key Player in Construction Dispute Resolution” was successfully held on 27 March 2003.

Other matters discussed during the Session included a comprehensive review of the Division Rules and the Composition and Terms of Reference of the standing committees under the Board, the Guidelines for the Reference of Organisers and Participants of Outbound Activities, the declaration of interest of members of the Board and divisions and committees under the Board, and the revised term of office for the Local Representative Co-ordinator and Deputy Co-ordinator.

I would like to use this opportunity to extend my sincere thanks to all Board members for their invaluable support and contribution throughout this Session.

Community Service Committee

The Committee continued to strengthen its role by providing prompt and constructive comments on consultation papers, nominating members to serve on external boards and committees, and contributing professional services to the community.

This Session, a total of 12 consultation papers on a wide range of engineering issues were prepared. In response to the consultation of the Provisional Construction Industry Co-ordination Board (PCICB) on the “Guidelines on Subcontracting Practice”, the Committee organised a forum on 6 December 2002 to collect members’ views on the issue. Ir Russell Black, Chairman of the PCICB’s Working Group on Management of Subcontracting, gave a brief introduction on the guidelines at a forum, which was well received by members. The Committee also organised two other forums jointly with the Public Relations Committee. These forums focused on the Chief Executive’s Policy Address 2002 and the 2003-2004 Budget.

A total of 32 nominations were made to various government departments, tertiary institutions and other organisations. The Committee also reviewed and further improved the mechanism for making nominations onto external boards and committees. A declaration of interest form was introduced to address the issue of potential conflict of interest.

The Committee continued to oversee and co-ordinate the provision of free professional advice to the public through the Building Management Resource Centres (BMRCs) of the Home Affairs Department. With the extension of the service of the BMRC to the New Territories East, the co-ordinators of the HKIE help co-ordinating free professional advice to four BMRCs located in Hong Kong, Kowloon and New Territories East and West.

The Committee will continue to provide prompt responses to consultation papers and invitations for nominations to serve on external boards and committees, and to encourage members to participate in community services.



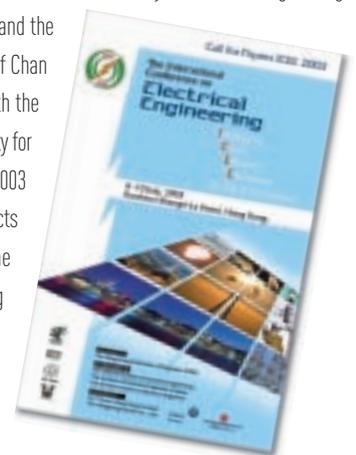
Ir Y C Koo, Chairman of Community Service Committee (centre) at the HKIE Forum on “Guidelines on Subcontracting Practice”

Conference Committee

A number of Institution conferences were scheduled in 2003. These included the International Engineering Meetings (IEM 2003), International Conference on Electrical Engineering (ICEE 2003) and International Conference on Pollution in the Metropolitan and Urban Environment (POLMET 2003).

However, as a result of the outbreak of SARS and the travel advisory issued by the World Health Organisation (WHO) in March, the IEM 2003, originally scheduled to be held in Hong Kong in June 2003, was relocated to Rotorua, New Zealand. The Institution of Professional Engineers, New Zealand (IPENZ) hosted the event. The venue change also resulted in the cancellation of two Engineering Education Workshops originally planned to be held concurrently with the IEM 2003. The decision to transfer the event to New Zealand was difficult, but the responsive action by the Organising Committee has been well supported by the international engineering community. Full refunds were made to all sponsors affected by the relocation. The Chairman of the Organising Committee, Ir Dr Alex S K Chan, thanked all members of the Committee and individuals for their contribution of time and effort, and the desire to make IEM 2003 a success.

The ICEE 2003 is co-organised by the HKIE, the Chinese Society for Electrical Engineering, the Institute of Electrical Engineers of Japan and the Korean Institute of Electrical Engineers. Ir Prof Chan Ching-chuen is the Conference Chairman. With the theme of “Intelligent, Clean, Efficient Electricity for the 21st Century”, the response to the ICEE 2003 Call for Papers is encouraging. Over 300 abstracts have been received from Japan, Korea, the Mainland and Hong Kong. Following the lifting of the WHO travel advisory and the containment of SARS, the Institution has decided that the ICEE 2003 will be held in Hong Kong as originally scheduled from 6 to 10 July 2003.



The POLMET 2003 will take place at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre from 3 to 5 November 2003. The theme of the Conference is “Sustainable Urbanisation – The Challenge in the Changing Economy”. The Organising Committee is led by the President Ir Dr LAU Ching-kwong. Over 60 abstracts have been received from overseas and Hong Kong. Both the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the World Bank Group have nominated their representatives to present their keynote papers at the Conference.

Continuing Professional Development Committee

The Continuing Professional Development Committee (CPDC) continued to promote, promulgate and administer Continuing Professional Development (CPD) on behalf of the Institution.

To continue the success of the series of free Special CPD conducted during the last Session, the Committee collaborated with the Safety Specialist Group to organise a free CPD related to Safety Management on the Mainland for members. The Committee also co-organised with the Young Members Committee (YMC) free CPD courses and activities for YMC members. This was financed by the CPD Promotional Fund.

An action plan has been drawn up for the implementation of a Mandatory CPD for Corporate Members. The Working Group surveyed local professional bodies and other relevant engineering institutions on the definition, scope, requirements and implementation methods related to CPD. After consolidating preliminary comments from divisions, a draft report with a list of Questions & Answers, together with a proposed Sequence of Actions, was presented to the CPDC and Learned Society Board for initial approval. Feedback will be collected from Corporate Members through their divisions. A revised report will be presented to the Council for approval to be followed by a 3-months consultation period for collection of Corporate Members' views directly. It is planned to have the scheme implemented in 2005 at the earliest.

In response to the development needs of Associate Members, the Associate Members Committee proposed new CPD requirements for Associate Members and applicants of Associate Membership. The Council at its meeting of 16 January 2003 approved the CPD requirements for (i) Associate Members (Voluntary Scheme) and (ii) CPD requirements for candidates who apply for Associate Membership through normal or mature route, with implementation on 1 February 2004 in both cases.

To further advance collaboration with the ICAC in the production of the booklet "Ethics in Practice - A Practical Guide for Professional Engineers" in 2000, CPDC and ICAC jointly produced 20,000 copies of a CD-ROM "E-Learning Package for Professional Engineers". CD-ROMs will be sent to all HKIE Members in July this year. A web-based version has been designed for universities and technical institutes to upload the material onto intranet systems for easy access by undergraduates.

Public Relations Committee

The Public Relations Committee continued to take effective and proactive initiatives to promote and enhance the image of the HKIE and the engineering profession. The Mass Media Sub-committee, led by Ir K P Yim, strengthened communication channels with both print and electronic media. A number of media briefings were organised to provide professional views in response to specific incidents of public concern. The media coverage was positive, informative and widespread. Two media skills training seminars were specially organised for the Institution's appointed spokesmen. Takungpao now runs a column for engineers where more than 30 articles have been published over the year.

We welcomed a range of high level Government and community leaders as keynote speakers for the Public Affairs Talks. Speakers included the Hon Henry Tang, Secretary for Commerce, Industry and Technology, Ms Zheng Shuna, Division Chief of the Liaison Office of the Central People's Government in the HKSAR, Legislative Councillors Ir Dr the Hon Raymond C T Ho and the Hon P C Lau, Prof Cheng Kai-ming, Pro-Vice-Chancellor of the University of Hong Kong, our Past President Ir Otto L T Poon, Chairman of Energy Advisory Committee, our Honorary Fellow Ir Allen P F Lee, National People's Congress Deputies Ms Maria Tam and Mr Wang Rudeng, Assistant Director & Director General of Hong Kong Island Sub-office, Liaison Office of the Central People's Government.

The District Relations Sub-committee, led by Ir Y H Cheung, organised constructive dialogue with Wong Tai Sin, Wanchai and Eastern District Councils, introducing the HKIE and the contributions engineers make to society. We also met with Dr the Hon Patrick C P Ho, Secretary for Home Affairs, who appreciated very much engineers' support and participation in community services.

The Events and Publicity Sub-committee, led by Ir George C W Cheng, continued to promote the engineering profession to university and secondary school students and the public with career talks and exhibitions. The Work Group on Career Talks, led by Ir Louis F S Lock, successfully delivered presentations to most local universities and HKIVEs. In line with the objectives of the Presidential Address to recruit a new generation of engineers. The Secondary School Ambassadors scheme was initiated to improve relationships and enhance the communications with local secondary schools. A working group, led by Ir Paul Y C Chan, continued to work closely with the Science Museum, organising four popular science lectures which were well received by HKIE members and the public.

Sincere thanks go to the zealous commitment of our committee members and the tremendous support of the President, our LegCo Representative and all other guests.



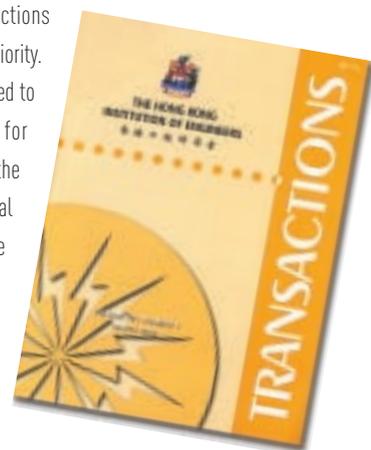
The Hon Henry Tang is the first policy secretary appointed under the new accountable system to deliver a Public Affairs Talk to the HKIE members

Publications Committee

Members will be aware that, from the year 2003, Transactions is published four times a year to accommodate the increasing number of contributed articles. Enhancing the quality and increasing the quantity of Transactions papers has always been a Committee priority. To ensure this, divisions have been invited to recommend award winning papers for submission to Transactions. Plans for the publication of special issues and special sections containing quality papers are also in the pipeline.

In order to provide a value-added service to members, the Committee took the initiative to explore the feasibility of online publication of Transactions. An initial scheme has been proposed to make the content index and abstract of Transactions papers available on the HKIE website. This will be an important move in terms of bringing Transactions into the information age.

This year, we are delighted to celebrate the 10th Anniversary of Transactions. To commemorate this remarkable occasion, the Committee decided to produce a



CD-ROM with a collection of 10 years' archives of Transactions papers. In addition, a 10th Anniversary Edition highlighting "Emerging Technology in the 21st Century" will also be published.

The Transactions Prize has been reviewed with some major overhauls this year. To increase prize giving flexibility, a total of up to three prizes will be given to outstanding articles, independent of their categorisations. We have also introduced the HKIE Transactions Prize (Young Engineers) in this Session. The selection process has been rigorous and we look forward to announcing the first winner of the prize during the forthcoming Presidential Address in September.

We are pleased to note that the subscription for the year has been kept at a similar level 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 accreditation of engineering degree programmes in Hong Kong.



Ir Prof Ko Jan-ming

At present, a total of 65 engineering degree programmes are accredited by the HKIE. During the period under review, the Board carried out five accreditation visits to the Hong Kong Polytechnic University, the University of Hong Kong and the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology to evaluate 21 engineering degree programmes. The Board started its first accreditation visit in 1995. The normal cycle of accreditation is five years and the Board is in the middle of the second cycle.

In line with the standard practice of other Washington Accord signatories, the Accreditation Board formed a Working Party to conduct an interim review which looked at minor amendments to existing accreditation criteria and procedures.

The Board continues to maintain a high standard in its activities and has been working closely with the universities and the higher education institutions in order to achieve this.

Accreditation Committee for Computer Science Programmes

The Committee, in its second year of operation, laid down a solid foundation for the development of accreditation of Computer Science programmes in Hong Kong. Full accreditation was granted to the BSc (Hon) in Computer Science of the City University of Hong Kong using the accreditation criteria of Computer Science – the first accreditation of its kind. The composition of the Committee was expanded to include a broader range and a balanced mix of industry and academic experts from the various fields of computer science, information engineering, and information technology. Following discussions with the local universities in Hong Kong, the Committee was proud to report that it had attracted full attention and support from many Computer Science programmes to seek accreditation from the Institution.

On the future development, a Task Force was formed and chaired by Ir Prof W C Siu, Deputy Chairman of the Committee, to review the accreditation criteria of other major Computer Science accrediting authorities with a view to enhancing the existing criteria and investigating bilateral recognition agreements with groups that have systems comparable to the HKIE.

Accreditation Committee for Higher Diploma Programmes

The Committee conducted its first accreditation visit to a higher diploma programme provided by a non-government funded institution. This visit was chaired by Ir Jolly C K Wong, a member of the Committee.

During the period under review, the Committee conducted accreditation visits to eight higher diploma programmes and two associate degree programmes. Of these, two are computer technology programmes.

For Sydney Accord verification, representatives from Ireland, South Africa and United Kingdom observed an accreditation visit to the City University of Hong Kong on 20 February 2003. This visit was chaired by Ir Dr Alex S K Chan, Vice President of the HKIE.

PLANNING ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Committee continues to be responsible for formulating and updating medium and long term plans, and to review the role, overall performance and objectives of the Institution.

This Session, the Committee planned to hold its meeting concurrently with the Strategic Planning Meeting to discuss and chart strategies for the future development of the Institution. However, due to the outbreak of SARS in Hong Kong, the meeting originally scheduled for mid-April was cancelled. The objectives set for the meeting had focused on the discussion and deliberation of the Institution's status, achievement and development potential in the international arena; its repositioning in relation to its membership base and the boundaries of engineering, and the development of the IT Discipline. The main regular business of the Committee – an overall review of the Five-Year Plan 2000 – 2005 and its strategies and priorities for action was also on the agenda.

It is hoped that an account on the outcome of the discussion will be presented to members in the next report.



Ir Dr Joseph M K Chow