

Report from Discipline Advisory Panels (DAP) 2011/2012



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The Discipline Advisory Panels continued to put efforts in upholding qualification standards, reviewing issues relevant to their respective Disciplines and offering advice on membership, qualifications, accreditation and training matters. Representatives of the Discipline Advisory Panels sit on the Education & Examinations Committee, Quality Control Committee and Training Committee to ensure consistent quality control on membership, academic and training assessments is in place.

For membership assessments, assessors are nominated by the Discipline Advisory Panels to serve as examiners in professional assessments. For academic and training assessments, representatives who sit on the Education & Examinations Committee and Training Committee are responsible for conducting assessments on behalf of their respective Discipline Advisory Panels.

We are pleased to report that nearly 1,000 membership applications were reviewed by the Discipline Advisory Panels during the Session.

Apart from actively participating in the Working Group on Competence-Based Assessment to develop competence-based assessment requirements for professional assessment, the Discipline Advisory Panels also gave valuable views to the newly-established Task Force on Associate Membership Route to Corporate Membership with a view towards exploring and developing an effective professional route that will assist Associate Members in becoming Corporate Members.

With regards to Reciprocal Recognition Agreements (RRA) with overseas institutions, both the Civil and Geotechnical Discipline Advisory Panels reviewed the proposed RRA with The Institution of Civil Engineers (ICE) with a view towards including the Geotechnical Discipline with corresponding recommendations. In addition, a proposed Agreement with the Chartered Institution of Highways & Transportation (CIHT) was reviewed by the Logistics & Transportation Discipline for consideration by the CIHT. At the moment, the Fire Discipline Advisory Panel is considering the establishment of a RRA with the Institution of Fire Engineers (IFE) and the discussions are well underway.

Various activities in the form of workshops and seminars were organised to promote the Disciplines. Sharing sessions for local biomedical engineering students were organised by the Biomedical Discipline Advisory Panel while three activities were successfully organised jointly by the Building Discipline

Advisory Panel and the Civil and Materials Divisions. Seminars were also held by the Control, Automation and Instrumentation Discipline Advisory Panel to promote the Discipline. Also during the Session, a working group was established with the Lift Escalator Contractors Association (LECA) and the International Association of Elevator Engineers (IAEE), to develop a road map for lift and escalator engineers under the Control, Automation and Instrumentation Discipline.

Various Disciplines devoted much effort to the development of professional assessment throughout the Session. The Geotechnical Discipline Advisory Panel conducted a detailed analysis of the past results of professional assessment. The Fire Discipline Advisory Panel reviewed and approved the addition of a post-graduate programme to the list of top-up studies on fire engineering. The respective Discipline Advisory Panels also actively participated in the accreditation activities of the Institution. Members were nominated to be visiting team members for degree and higher diploma programmes.

For Aircraft Discipline, the Discipline Advisory Panel has established the admission requirements for Founding Associate Members. During the Session, around 200 applications for Corporate Membership in the Aircraft Discipline were considered.

Following the formation of the Logistics & Transportation Discipline, a total of 135 applications for Founding Members were assessed during the Session. In view of the overwhelming demand, the Qualification & Membership Board approved the extension of the application period to 4 July 2013.

During the Session, professional views were given by Disciplines on different matters. The Fire and Marine & Naval Architecture Discipline Advisory Panels participated in the review of Application for Registration as an Approved Person under the Dangerous Goods (General) Regulations. The Gas Discipline Advisory Panel offered views on the proposed "Introduction of Registered Fire Engineer Scheme for the Implementation of Third Party Fire Safety Certification in Hong Kong". The Materials Discipline Advisory Panel participated in the Government Standing Committee on Concrete Technology (SCCT) to review the new Construction Standard, CS2, on the use of carbon steel bars for the reinforcement of concrete.

Last but not least, the HKIE Structural Examination 2011 was successfully held on 17 November 2011. A total of 248 candidates sat for the written examination.