

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. During the year, review has been made on the fees prescribed in reinstatement policy and the Board recommended that all non-resident members whose membership have lapsed and would like to apply for reinstatement of membership as non-resident members, shall only be required to pay a reinstatement fee of HK\$400; all arrears in subscription shall be waived.

The Board has also reviewed the arrangement of annual subscription of suspended members and recommended that any member whose membership is suspended shall be liable to pay the subscription for the whole of the financial year in which his suspension commences and upon expiry of the suspension period, if the member concerned would like to continue his membership, he shall pay all outstanding subscription. Any member under suspension is not required to pay the subscription for the intervening years when suspension is in force.

In addition, the assessment fee for members applying for an additional Discipline has also been reviewed and a reduction on the assessment fee from HK\$2,200 to HK\$1,500 will take effect from Session 2008/2009.

In an effort to enhance access by members to the publications issued or held by the Institution, Divisions and Committees, the Board decided to study the viability of setting up an e-library to keep such publications and a special task force was set up for the purpose.

Working closely with the Management Committee, the Board has reviewed the Composition and Terms of Reference of the Accreditation Board, Training Review Sub-committee and Conference Committee.

The Institution has generated more-than-expected income which could help to meet the resources that are required for the activities initiated in the year and is pleased to note that a healthy financial position of the Institution could be maintained. The Board also agreed with the investment strategy proposed by the Finance & Investment Committee and the investment plan will be implemented in the financial year 2008/2009.

The Board has continued to review the Institution's facilities. To meet the requirement of the Fire Safety (Commercial Premises) Ordinance and taking into consideration of security, fire safety and aesthetics, improvement works including installation of emergency lighting system and the glass fire-rated doors have been carried out. In addition, the Board has kept an eye on staffing-related matters of the Secretariat, the affairs of the Journal, the production of Diary as well as the financial accounts of the Institution's Yearbook. The Board is also designing a new design for the HKIE scarf for introduction in Session 2008/2009.

With the support of the Board members and the contribution and hard work of all Committees, the Board experienced a smooth progress in the year.

Finance & Investment Committee

The Finance & Investment 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 Committee reports to the Administration Board.

The Committee is pleased to report that for the financial year 2007/2008, the Institution continued to achieve a healthy financial and cash position with a surplus of HK\$3.39 million. The total income for the year was HK\$27.9 million, which was HK\$1.6 million more than that of last year. This was mainly due to increases in membership subscription, training fees, conference income and accreditation income during the year. Total expenditure for the year was HK\$24.5 million, which was HK\$1 million higher than that of

previous year, whereas the overall spending pattern remained broadly similar.

With an objective to generate a better financial return from the Institution's accumulated surplus, the Committee recommended an investment strategy for investing the Institution's accumulated fund and the plan will be implemented in 2008/2009.

Taking into account the Institution's financial position, the Committee has recommended maintaining the membership fees at its existing level for Session 2008/2009 and continuing with the early-bird discount to all members, whose subscription payments are made by cheque or cash before 1 April 2008. With close monitoring on spending, the Institution is expected to meet its financial budget in the coming financial year.



Journal Editorial Committee

Managing, supervising and monitoring the publishing of the Journal *Hong Kong Engineer*, *Hong Kong Engineer Online* and the *HKIE Yearbook* are the Journal Editorial Committee's main responsibilities. It is always the prime objective of the Journal Editorial Committee to make our periodicals a must-read to our fellow engineers. To understand readers' opinions on the Journal, the Committee conducted an online opinion survey from November to December 2007 in which thoughtful suggestions were collected.

In a bid to save our environment, the Committee took initiative to adopt the using of biodegradable plastic bags for the delivery of the *HKIE Yearbook 2008* and the *Hong Kong Engineer* starting from the April 2008 issue. Having awarded the Caring Organisation Logo for four consecutive years, the Institution also showed her support to other charitable organisations by providing free insertion service in the Journal. Members might recall that appeals from Po Leung Kuk, Médecins Sans Frontières and Hong Kong Red Cross have been received during this year.

On the financial front, the Publisher managed to maintain the Journal at a stable and healthy financial position. In this financial year, the Institution has been able to share the profit of about HK\$122,000 generated from both *Hong Kong Engineer* and the *HKIE Yearbook*.

The Chairman of the Committee would like to express his gratitude to all Committee members and the Publisher for their zealous support throughout Session 2007/2008.

Management Committee

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

Continuing the efforts made during Session 2006/2007, the focus of this Session was the overall review of the Composition and TOR of the standing committees for the purpose of consistency in presentation. The review exercise has started in last Session in which observations made and recommendations proposed were forwarded to the respective committees for initial consideration. In this Session, the Committee considered the feedback received from standing committees. As a result, further recommendations on the composition of some standing committees were proposed. Several rounds of communication with respective standing committees on the proposed amendments to their Composition and TOR were made. The review exercise will continue and is expected to be completed in Session 2008/2009.

Although efforts in this Session have been concentrated in the overall review of the Composition and TOR of the standing committees, we have also taken on board proposals for amendments to the Composition and TOR of Accreditation Board, Conference Committee and Training Review Sub-Committees. The Council approved the recommended amendments to the Composition and TOR of these three 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. Recommendations on staff establishment were approved for implementation in 2008 and title of individual post was revised and adopted.

In reviewing the salary levels for staff, the Committee has taken into account the market situation and kept a close watch on the market trend. For the year under review, the recommendation on salary review was adopted by the Administration Board. At the same time, the Committee also monitored the staff cost against the budget to ensure that appropriate level of service support to members in general will be provided.

With the active labour market and the high staff turnover in the Secretariat, the Committee has addressed the issue and assessed the current provision to recognise the performance of staff.

Reports from Boards and Committees 2007/2008

QUALIFICATION & MEMBERSHIP BOARD

During the period under review, the Qualification & Membership Board has taken efforts in the following three major areas:

- (i) Strategic development of membership
- (ii) Enhancement of the Institution's international standing and mobility of members
- (iii) Upholding the quality of membership admission

In the first area, the Board saw Hong Kong as a logistics hub in Asia and, in response to this positioning, initiated a Working Group in studying the feasibility of embracing "Logistics" as a Discipline. A Working Group report was submitted to and approved by the Board. The Board further asked the Working Group to submit a detailed proposal for establishing the "Logistics" Discipline. In addition, the Board has also initiated a Working Group in studying the feasibility of establishing an "Aircraft Maintenance Engineering" Discipline, noting that aircraft engineering in Hong Kong is competitive at the top international edge. It would be an excellent opportunity for the Board to explore further membership development in this Discipline.

In the second area, Reciprocal Recognition Agreement is an important tool for the Institution to enhance its international standing and mobility of its members. In this connection, the Board continued in reviewing the existing agreements and exploring opportunity for entering into new agreements. The agreement with Royal Institution of Naval Architects was renewed, while the renewal of agreement with the Institution of Mechanical Engineers is actively under review. Active negotiations are being made with the Society of Operations Engineers and Institution of Fire Engineers with a view to extending our international network. On the Mainland front, we are pleased to report that excellent results were achieved through the fourth assessment under the Mutual Recognition Agreement between the HKIE and the National Administration Board of Engineering Registration (Structural). 71 out of 75 of our members passed the assessment and attained the qualification of Class I Registered Structural Engineer this year.

No less important is the quality of membership which underpins the development and growth of the Institution. The Board continued to uphold the quality of members through its admission system. During the period under review, the following initiatives were made to this continuous process:

- (i) Two training sessions were conducted to Assessors in upholding assessment quality.
- (ii) Six appeal cases were dealt with by the appeal due process.
- (iii) A review was made and an appeal procedure was established for academic assessment applications.

Finally, I am pleased to report that this year had been a busy and fruitful year for the Board. The total numbers of applications for Corporate and other classes of membership reviewed by the Board were 698 and 1911 respectively. The passing rate for Corporate Membership stood at 70.6 % which is similar to those in the past five years.



Ir Dr Andrew K C CHAN,
Chairman

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION STATISTICS				
GRADE	APPLICATIONS			
	Considered		Accepted	
	2007/2008	(2006/2007)	2007/2008	(2006/2007)
Fellow	26	(46)	21	(35)
Member	617	(768)	428	(575)
Graduate Member	679	(503)	674	(498)
Associate Member	4	(4)	2	(2)
Companion	0	0	0	0
Student Member	1,243	(1,683)	1,231	(1,619)
Affiliate	3	(2)	3	(2)
Additional Discipline	151	(162)	105	(132)
Total	2,723	(3,168)	2,464	(2,863)

Note: Up to 31 March each year.

MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS				
Membership	31 Mar 05	31 Mar 06	31 Mar 07	31 Mar 08
Honorary Fellow	18	18	18	18
Fellow	836	855	873	876
Member	9,898	10,188	10,655	10,956
Graduate Member	4,142	4,184	3,979	4,146
Associate Member	1,973	1,832	1,718	1,631
Companion	23	23	19	17
Student Member	1,685	1,648	2,744	3,512
Affiliate	649	579	595	549
Total	19,224	19,327	20,601	21,705

Education & Examinations Committee

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

In the five meetings held during the Session, the Committee considered a total of 31 cases, of which 18 cases were accepted as meeting the academic requirements for Members; ten cases were rejected, and three cases were in progress.

In the year under review, the Civil and Mechanical Disciplines received the highest number of applications for academic assessment, followed by the Building Services and Environmental Disciplines.

During Session 2007/2008, the Committee also considered three applications under the Emerging Discipline Route approved by the Q & M Board in early 2007 for the Environmental, Information and Materials Disciplines. Applicants of all the three cases were accepted as holding a degree of applied science nature relevant to the applying Discipline.

Fellowship Committee

The Fellowship Committee reports to the Q & M Board on all recommendations relating to the election of Fellows. Five meetings were held in the Session and a total of 21 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.

During the period under review, recommendations on amendments to Fellowship criteria in relation to applicants from academic sector were made to the Q & M Board. The proposed amendments were fully supported by the Q & M Board and subsequently approved by the Council.

Professional Assessment Committee

The Professional Assessment Committee (PAC) is responsible for establishing and maintaining the procedures and system of assessments.

During Session 2007/2008, the Committee reviewed the grading system and subject guide on the "Professional Assessment Guide for Interviews of Normal and Mature Candidates" and was satisfied with the current system.

The Committee also reviewed its composition and agreed that any Discipline Advisory Panel could request a Deputy Professional Assessment (PA) Coordinator with reasons, in addition to the PA Coordinator, to be present in the PAC and such Deputy PA Coordinators are in attendance to the meetings only.

There were suggestions that for any candidate who failed an essay re-sit should be given an option to sit a full PA, and for candidates who have taken essay test only for a number of attempts over several years should be requested to take a full PA in order to

safeguard the professional standard of the Institution. Having reviewed previous relevant statistic, the Committee agreed to maintain the current practice and no amendment is necessary.

Two Induction Sessions were held to update Assessors on the PA process and practice. The PAC expressed gratitude to those Assessors who had helped the Institution in conducting assessments. A presentation was also made to Scheme "A" trainees in an orientation session organised by the Vocational Training Council.

Quality Control Committee

The Quality Control Committee reports directly to the 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 membership via Reciprocal Recognition Agreements with other institutions. It seeks to ensure that the prescribed assessment procedures are followed closely and can stand-up to scrutiny if subsequently challenged.

Five meetings were held in Session 2007/2008 and a total of 352 assessment results were reviewed. The passing rate was 63% this year as compared with 60% last year. The Committee also reviewed five appeal cases in Session 2007/2008. The Committee continued to achieve its mission to maintain a consistent quality standard of PA 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

In the year between 1 April 2007 and 31 March 2008, 49 companies were assessed, among which seven were newly approved companies, making a total of 178 companies approved for HKIE Scheme "A" training. It is pleasing to note that the number of registered trainees increased remarkably by 13.4 percent to 566 in total over Session 2007/2008.

Four Engineering Supervisor Workshops were successfully held during the year with 100 Engineering Supervisors attended and approved.

The Trainee of the Year Award 2007 was well received with the prizes presented at The Hong Kong Institution of Engineers Prize Presentation Ceremony held on 18 January 2008. President Ir Dr Lo Wai Kwok presented the prizes to the three awardees and the representatives from their companies. Awards included monetary prizes and certificates to winners and trophies to their companies.

Following the establishment of the Formal Training Scheme to Associate Membership in the three pilot disciplines (including Building Services, Civil and Manufacturing & Industrial Engineering Disciplines), promotional activities and seminars have been held to explain details of the scheme and to provide advice to companies that are interested in setting up the training scheme.

Moreover, the Committee accomplished a number of essential tasks including: matching of 18 local accredited/re-accredited university degree programmes with Scheme "A" disciplines, and assessment of 28 mis-matched cases.

LEARNED SOCIETY BOARD

It is pleasing to report that the Board has embodied its pledge to maintain a strong and close link with Divisions and Committees as well as to encourage and foster collaboration with fellow professional organisations on the Mainland and overseas. The Board is pleased to note that over 500 activities and events of various kinds were organised by Divisions and Committees throughout the Session.

In order to maintain a strong collaboration with professional organisations on the Mainland and overseas and to further a global network for members, the Board recommended to the Council and secured approval on the renewal of Agreements of Cooperation with The Institution of Engineers, Sri Lanka, The Beijing Association for Science and Technology, The Institution of Civil Engineers as well as China Association for Science and Technology. At the divisional level, the Board endorsed a Memorandum of Understanding between the Environmental Division and Guangxi Association for Science and Technology.

On the approval of the Council, the Board initiated the establishment of a new Fire Division during the Session and is pleased to report that the first annual meeting of the Division was held in early June 2008, and Chairman and Ordinary Members of its first Committee for Session 2008/2009 were duly elected at the meeting.

As one of the major initiatives, it is encouraging to inform members of the setting up of three Student Chapters in the University of Hong Kong, the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology and the Hong Kong Polytechnic University respectively during the Session. Inaugural ceremonies were organised to mark this important milestone of the Institution with the presence of the President, deans of engineering of the universities and other guests to share with fellow Student Members on their career development as professional engineers. To further provide advice on the role and direction of Student Chapters, the Council approved the Board's suggestion to invite Council Members to be Advisors of the Student Chapter Committees and the arrangement will be made in Session 2008/2009.

To continue to provide the professional advisory service to the community, the Board is pleased that the Council has approved the arrangement with Property Management Advisory Centres for free professional advice to property owners and residents.

On the recommendation from the Community Service Committee, the Board endorsed the review on the guidance note for members serving on external committees as well as the procedures for responding to requests for nominations. The revised guidance note and procedures serve to assist members in performing their roles for the respective external committees and boards.

The Board has also coordinated with Divisions and Committees on various corresponding arrangements to proceed with the action tasks as assigned under the Three-year Rolling Plan.

As regards divisions' matters, the Board is in support of the concerted effort by Divisions and Committees to organise various student prizes and competitions during the Session to the betterment of the engineering profession. It is also delightful to note that funding support from the Professional Services Development Assistance Scheme has been granted to projects initiated by Divisions.

The Board is pleased with the continuous support from Divisions and Committees over the past year, which shall always be the key to the development of learned society activities.



Ir Reuben P K CHU,
Chairman

Community Service Committee

The Community Service Committee (CSC) has endeavoured to facilitate a proactive approach for the participation of members in public affairs with a view to enhancing community involvement of the Institution. The Committee has continued its concerted efforts to coordinate responses from Divisions, Committees and members for consultation papers, as well as to make nominations for external boards and committees upon request.

During Session 2007/2008, 26 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 and that views and comments were collected from members for the preparation of the HKIE response.

The Committee has also processed 48 invitations from Government departments and higher education institutions for nominations of the HKIE representatives to serve on their boards and committees.

A total of 146 members were nominated to these positions to provide professional advice.

Responding to topical issues in the community, the Committee and the Public Relations Committee co-organised a forum on "Ten Major Infrastructure Projects" on 7 January 2008 during which Mrs Carrie Lam, Secretary for Development, Development Bureau of the Government was invited to brief members on the latest development of the ten infrastructure projects. Views and opinions on the implementation of the infrastructure projects were presented at the forum.

On the community service front, the Committee has made contacts with the Home Affairs Department (HAD) to express the Institution's interest to widen its members' scope of participation in public affairs at the district level. Positive responses have been received, and a consolidated list of HKIE members who are ready to provide community works across the 18 districts has been sent to the HAD to facilitate further coordination with individual District Councils (DC).

To capitalise the implementation of the districts' minor works programmes, the Committee has confirmed with the HAD that they would help relay the message that HKIE members are willing to contribute to the implementation of the programmes to respective DC for necessary coordination in future.

The Committee also made arrangement to provide free professional advice on building maintenance to property owners/residents through the Property Management Advisory Centres of the Hong Kong Housing Society.

In order to provide a clearer and more comprehensive guidance note for members serving on external boards and committees, the Committee revised the "Guidance Note for the HKIE Representatives Nominated by CSC on External Committees" and the procedures for responding to requests for nominations and opinions.

With invaluable support and contributions from members, the Committee has fostered the spirit of participation in public affairs within the Institution.

Conference Committee

The Institution was busy in hosting a number of large regional and international conferences during Session 2007/2008.

The International Conference on Electrical Engineering 2007, held from 8 to 12 July 2007, was jointly organised by the Institution, the Chinese Society of Electrical Engineering, the Institute of Electrical Engineers of Japan and the Korean Institute of Electrical Engineers. With the theme of "Intelligent, Clean, Efficient Electricity for the 21st Century with Focus on Sustainability and Reliability", the Conference was attended by 70 delegates from Hong Kong and 370 from overseas.

Co-organised by the Institution and the Shanghai Association for Science and Technology, the Hong Kong and Shanghai Symposium on Science and Technology 2007 was held from 18 to 19 October 2007 in Hong Kong. To commemorate the 10th anniversary of the joint symposium, the theme of the Symposium this year was "Retrospect and Prospect: Collaboration between Hong Kong and Shanghai on Science and Technology".

The Guangzhou-Hong Kong-Macau-Taiwan Engineers (Hong Kong) Forum 2007 was held from 29 to 30 November 2007 to foster collaboration and exchange within the region. The theme of the forum was "Information Technology and Digital City". It was jointly organised by the Institution, the Guangzhou Association of Engineers and the Macau Institution of Engineers. Over 140 delegates from Hong Kong and 60 from other places attended the Forum this year.

The International Conference on Waste Engineering and Management, held from 28 to 30 May 2008, was co-organised by the Institution and the Canadian Society for Civil Engineers. The Conference focused on examining the management and engineering challenges that lie ahead in waste engineering and management. This significant event was attended by over 80 delegates from overseas and 110 from Hong Kong.

Continuing Professional Development Committee

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

During Session 2007/2008, over 160 courses were planned by the Committee jointly with 14 endorsed CPD course providers with more than 1,900 participants. Honorary speakers were also invited to deliver free CPD talks on a wide range of topics for our members and received an overwhelming response from members. Free CPD courses of common interest topics were jointly organised by the Committee with Divisions for our members. Furthermore, the Committee co-organised with Young Members Committee (YMC) in offering free CPD courses/activities for the HKIE YMC members on a free-of-charge basis, with a fixed budget borne by the CPD Promotional Fund.

The mandatory CPD requirements for Corporate Members were implemented on 1 January 2006. All Corporate Members are required to undertake a minimum of 30 hours of CPD per year. Following a grace period of two years to enable Corporate Members to familiarise with the requirements, an audit on individual compliance will be conducted in 2009 on members' CPD attainment in 2008.

Public Relations Committee

The Public Relations Committee (PRC) adopts a proactive approach to promote the engineering profession to its stakeholders, fellow members, the media, the youngsters and the general public. The respective Work Groups have devoted splendid efforts and attained outstanding accomplishments in Session 2007/2008.

To arouse the public's awareness on green engineering, the Work Group on Events and Publicity and the Hong Kong Science Museum jointly organised the "Engineering a Green Future" programme from December 2007 to March 2008. The programme was comprised of a one-month special exhibition, a series of seven green engineering lectures and six green engineering tours. With the combined efforts of the Government departments and the industry, the series raised public interest in the environmental works of engineers. Overwhelming responses had been received with over 1,000 participants joining the programme. To share our vision and aspirations on Hong Kong's infrastructure development with the public, the Committee organised a roving exhibition entitled "Engineering a Better Hong Kong" staging in Shatin New Town Plaza, Hong Kong Central Library and Hong Kong Cultural Centre in May and June 2008 respectively. The Institution's views on the infrastructure development of five key areas, namely Buildings, Energy, Environment, Information and Transport, were showcased in the exhibition.

In an effort to attract younger generation into the profession, the Work Group on Career Talks organised the "HKIE Engineering Seminar – Get Ready to be an Engineer" in collaboration with the Education Bureau on 18 April 2008 at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre. The seminar enabled the participants to have a better understanding on the engineering profession and the Institution. The seminar was well attended by over 120 career teachers, students from secondary schools, Hong Kong Institute of Vocational Education (IVE) and universities as well as members of the Institution. With the support of various local higher education institutions, an exhibiting section was also concurrently held at the

same venue where information desks had been set up to answer participants' enquiries. Under the School Ambassadors Programme, more than 30 talks were delivered to over 5,200 students from secondary schools, IVEs and universities. In order to enrich the attractiveness of the Programme, another new PowerPoint presentation demonstrating the efforts engineers have made towards the sustainable development of Hong Kong was launched in this Session.

To provide a platform for the HKIE members to discuss the development and implementation of the ten infrastructure projects as set out in the Policy Address, a forum on "Ten Major Infrastructure Projects" was jointly organised with the Community Service Committee (CSC) on 7 January 2008. We were honoured to have Mrs Carrie Lam, Secretary for Development, Development Bureau of the Government attended the Forum where members enjoyed direct and constructive dialogues with her.

With a view towards enhancing the relationship with local districts, the Work Group on District Relations organised two courtesy visits to the Shatin and Kowloon City District Councils in April and May 2008 respectively.

To strengthen the professional image of engineering and to introduce the 18 Disciplines of the Institution to the public, the Work Group on Mass Media collaborated with the South China Morning Post to publish the "HKIE Engineering Series" in the Industry Focus Column of the Classified Post. Eleven articles on Electrical, Building, Mechanical, Biomedical, Geotechnical, Gas, Information, Environmental, Fire, Control, Automation & Instrumentation, and Materials Disciplines were introduced in this Session.

The aforementioned activities were only highlights of the works done for Session 2007/2008. The concerted effort from the PRC members and the enthusiastic support from our School Ambassadors as well as other individual helpers are highly appreciated and gratefully acknowledged.

PLANNING COMMITTEE

The Committee is pleased to report that another effective execution of the planning cycle had been achieved in accordance with its set time frame and flow chart. As one of the major duties, the Committee reviewed the progress of the action tasks as laid down in the Three-year Rolling Plan for Sessions 2007/2008 to 2009/2010 and is delighted to note that most of the planned tasks have been taken on board by different boards and committees for necessary actions.

With the aim to map out the future development of the Institution in the coming Sessions, the Committee considered and accepted the next Three-year Rolling Plan for Sessions 2008/2009 to 2010/2011, which was introduced by the three Vice Presidents of the Session with recommendations on the initiatives to achieve the four major goals in the Plan. The Committee also suggested that an archive system be set up on the tasks which were initiated in the previous Plans in the categories of "completed tasks" and "ongoing tasks" to facilitate the drafting of future Three-year Rolling Plans.

As in previous years, the Strategic Planning Meeting, under the auspices of the Planning Committee, was also held which provided an effective platform for deliberation on various important issues of members' concern. The meeting discussed the report of the Task Force on Future Membership Development and its recommendations on the strategies at different levels regarding the ways in which the HKIE membership could be sustained and increased; the promotion of Scheme "A" training to Graduate Members and engineering companies; the professional recognition of Associate Members and the HKIE's position in the international arena. In order to nurture the establishment of potential engineering disciplines and for the purpose of smooth implementation in the long run, the Committee suggested setting up a task force to sketch out a framework for a list of potential engineering disciplines so that a more comprehensive working plan can be sustained.

Publications Committee

With the unstinting support of a group of local and overseas intellectuals as well as under the strong leadership of an expert editorial panel, the *HKIE Transactions* has upheld its international standard in publishing quality papers to members of the Institution, practitioners and researchers of various engineering fields during the Session. The steady growth of both submission and subscription levels of the *HKIE Transactions* is attributed to the hard work of our Editors and Associate Editors who are professionals from different engineering specialties.

At the Presidential Dinner held in September 2007, three Transactions papers were awarded the HKIE Transactions Prize. The prize presentation ceremony of the HKIE Outstanding Paper Award for Young Engineers/Researchers 2007 was also held on the same occasion. Building on the success of the first competition which took place in 2006, the Committee is pleased to report that this year's competition was open to worldwide young engineers or researchers and an overwhelming response was received. Amongst the 11 shortlisted papers, the Panel of Judges has selected two overseas papers for this year's Award. These overseas awardees were invited to present their papers and share their accomplishments with our members at a technical seminar. A special issue of the *HKIE Transactions* with all award-winning and shortlisted papers was published in December 2007. Following the path of success, the 2008 Award was also launched in January 2008. The Committee is gratified to have received an encouraging number of submissions from both local and overseas countries including Australia, Ireland, Japan, Malaysia, Singapore and the USA.

The Committee would like to extend its sincere gratitude to the advisory and editorial panels as well as the Transactions International Advisors and papers' reviewers for their tremendous support throughout the Session. In future, the Committee will continue to facilitate the exchange of information and knowledge in the engineering community by publishing high quality *HKIE Transactions*.



Ir WONG Kwok Lai,
Chairman

ACCREDITATION BOARD

As a full signatory to the Washington Accord, the Institution has established itself as an internationally recognised body for the accreditation of engineering degree programmes in Hong Kong. The Accreditation Board consists of 18 members, including two from overseas, namely Prof Gilbert Brown from the United States and Prof David Anderson from the United Kingdom.

At present, a total of 99 engineering degree programmes are accredited by the HKIE. During the year, the Board carried out three accreditation visits to local institutions to evaluate 17 engineering degree programmes. The accreditation visit to the University of Hong Kong conducted on 28-29 February 2008 was observed by two delegations from the China Association for Science and Technology (CAST) and the Board of Engineers Malaysia to facilitate the exchange of accreditation best practices. The Institution also received another two groups of delegates from CAST to observe the accreditation visits to the University of Hong Kong and the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology on 1-2 April 2008 and 22-23 April 2008 respectively.

During the year, the Accreditation Board organised a training workshop for visiting team members in conducting accreditation visits. In addition, Prof Ira Jacobson, the Board's past overseas member, was invited to conduct a one-day workshop on *Outcomes Assessment* for university staff involved with curriculum development using an outcomes-based approach.

The Board is committed to maintain a high standard of accreditation service. To this end, the Board has worked closely with local universities and conducted exchanges/discussions with other accreditation authorities in the region during the year.



Accreditation Committee for Computer Science Programmes

The Committee has entered in the middle of its second five-year accreditation cycle. It has laid a solid foundation for the operation and development of a robust accreditation system for Computer Science degree programmes in Hong Kong. Eight Computer Science degree programmes have been accredited in the City University of Hong Kong, the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, the Chinese University of Hong Kong and the Hong Kong Polytechnic University.

During the year, the Committee organised a discussion session for the Committee members and faculty members of computer science-related departments in the engineering faculties of the five Hong Kong universities to facilitate their exchange on the HKIE accreditation system and criteria for computer science programmes.

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 a long-term development plan, the Committee will explore opportunities to develop bilateral recognition agreements for computer science education with other economies.

Accreditation Committee for Higher Diploma Programmes

The Institution has become a full signatory of the Sydney Accord since 2003. All the higher diplomas and associate degrees, relevant to engineering, engineering science and computer technology programmes accredited by the HKIE, are fully recognised by other signatories including Australia, Canada, Ireland, New Zealand, South Africa and the United Kingdom.

At present, a total of 62 higher diploma and associate degree programmes are accredited by the HKIE. During the year, the Committee carried out five accreditation visits to assess 23 higher diploma programmes. Ir Jolly Wong, Chairman of the Accreditation Committee for Higher Diploma Programmes thanked all Committee members, visiting team chairman and members for their significant contributions.

Likewise, the Committee plans to conduct a review on the accreditation criteria for higher diploma and equivalent programmes. This review will take into consideration not only recent developments in outcomes-based accreditation around the globe, but also the local issues of qualifications framework and relevant new academic structure for senior secondary and higher education in Hong Kong, i.e. the "3-3-4" system.