

Reports from Boards and Committees 2008/2009

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 use of abbreviated title of Honorary Fellows and the Board recommended that, in recognising the distinguished achievements of the Honorary Fellows, the abbreviated title of HonFHKIE shall be used by all Honorary Fellows including those who are Non-Corporate Members. The related amendments to the Constitution were approved by the Council and presented to the Special General Meeting for adoption.

The Board has also reviewed the classification of confidentiality of the proceedings and papers of the Council Meetings. It was recommended that proceedings and papers are “restricted” to Council Members only to avoid disclosure of information before a resolution is made. Papers for discussion containing matters which are strictly confidential in nature should be classified as “confidential”, and should be kept in a confidential manner. The Guidance Notes to Council Members were amended accordingly.

In reviewing the production of the *HKIE Diary*, the Board took serious consideration of members’ responses and recommended a study of the production need of the Diary together with other printed communications of the HKIE, including *Annual Report*, *the HKIE Yearbook*, *the HKIE Transactions* and *the Hong Kong Engineer* in a holistic manner.

The Board considered the viability study conducted by the special Task Force for setting up an e-library to collect and facilitate access by members to the publications issued or held by the Institution, Divisions and Committees, and decided to proceed with the setting up of the e-library to keep such publications.

Through the work of the Management Committee, the Board has reviewed the Composition and Terms of Reference of the Associate Members Committee and Public Relations Committee. Harmonisation of the “Composition” of the Executive and the Standing Committees has been conducted and the “Definitions” of the M&A Manual were amended accordingly.

The Board noted the issue of blurring of roles of the Discipline Advisory Panels and Division Committees in some instances, and initiated preparation of a paper for further deliberation.

Although income of the Institution was slightly reduced, the Institution continued to support various activities initiated in the financial year that are beneficial to members, such as Exhibition on Engineering a Better Hong Kong, the HKIE Engineering Career Seminar and the HKIE Retreat Meeting. With close monitoring on expenditure, the Institution has maintained a healthy financial position for the year. The investment plan approved by the Council has been implemented in the financial year 2008/2009.

The Board has continued to review the Institution’s facilities and management issues. The sound insulation of meeting rooms of the Institution has been improved during the year. In addition, the Board has closely monitored the market-related staff resource issues of the Secretariat, and initiated review of the design quality of the Journal.

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 2008/2009, the Institution continued to achieve a healthy financial and cash position with a surplus of HK\$1.16 million. Total income for the year was HK\$26.8 million, which was HK\$0.9 million less than that of last year. This was mainly due to reduction in deposit interest rate and conference income during the year. Total expenditure for the year was HK\$25.7 million, which was HK\$1.4 million higher than that of the previous year whereas the overall spending pattern remained broadly similar.

An investment plan for the Institution’s accumulated fund was introduced in this year where Tracker Fund has been purchased by installments. The investment is planned to be held for a minimum of five years. In the interim, dividend income will be generated for the Institution.

Taking into account the Institution’s financial position and the adverse economic situation, the Committee has recommended maintaining the membership fees at their existing level for Session 2009/2010 and to continue with the early bird discount to members whose subscription payments are made by cheque or cash before 1 April 2009. With close monitoring on spending, the Institution anticipates a healthy financial position in the coming financial year, and will continue to support the various initiatives to be introduced for the benefit of the Institution and members.



Ir Dr Andrew K C CHAN,
Chairman

Journal Editorial Committee

Endeavouring to make the Institution's periodicals a must-read to our fellow engineers, the Journal Editorial Committee manages, supervises and monitors the publishing of the *Hong Kong Engineer*, Hong Kong Engineer Online and the *HKIE Yearbook*. Serving as one of the effective communication channels in the Institution, the Committee is committed to disseminating quality and updated information among fellow members.

Reviewing and revamping were the main tasks of the Committee in Session 2008/2009. The Committee was invited to review all printed publications of the Institution, including the *HKIE Diary*. To begin with, the Committee revamped the cover design and layout of the Journal. The cover has been redesigned to create a more contemporary and stylish outlook since January 2009. The Committee further proposed to include lifestyle topics and more new and interesting elements into the editorial column. Review on the copyright issues is also approaching the final stage.

Having been awarded the Caring Organisation Logo for five consecutive years, the Institution has shown its continuous support to other charitable organisations by providing free insertion service in every edition of the Journal since March 2009. Appeals from Oxfam and Orbis were received in Session 2008/2009.

On the financial front, the Publisher managed to maintain the *Hong Kong Engineer* and the *HKIE Yearbook* at a stable and healthy financial position.

With concerted effort from all Committee members and the Publisher, the Committee will keep striving to maintain high standard of the periodicals in the coming Session.

Management Committee

The Management Committee under the Administration Board is responsible for the regular review and update of the policies and management procedures of the Institution.

Continuing the efforts made during the last two Sessions, the Committee has concluded the overall review of the Composition and Terms of Reference (TOR) of the Standing Committees to give them a more precise and consistent presentation. Recommendations were also made to the quorum of some committees which have a larger membership. The Committee is pleased to report that the proposed amendments were approved by the Council.

While focusing on the review of the Composition and TOR of the Standing Committees, the Committee has also taken on board a review of the classification of confidentiality of the proceedings and papers of the Council. Proposed amendments to the Guidance Notes to Council Members were made and were approved by the Council.

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.

During the year under review, proposals for additional staffing support based on the workload and development of individual functional areas of the Secretariat with reference to the activities and initiatives introduced by the Institution were considered and approved for implementation in 2009 for the purpose of attaining even division and distribution of work at appropriate level of support and in turn improving the quality of services to members. In addition, title of individual post was revised and adopted in line with their job contents.

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 Administration Board adopted the Committee's recommendation on salary review. 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.

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QUALIFICATION & MEMBERSHIP BOARD

During the Session 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, noting that aircraft engineering in Hong Kong is competitive at the top international edge, I am pleased to report that the Aircraft Discipline was formed during the Session and it is envisaged that the first batch of aircraft engineers can be admitted to the Institution this year. In the meantime, the Working Group for Formation of Logistics and Transportation Discipline is preparing a detailed proposal for the formation of this Discipline. The Board will explore further the development of the new Disciplines.

In the second area, we consider the 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 reviewing the existing agreements and exploring opportunities for entering into new agreements.

The agreements with the Chartered Institution of Water and Environmental Management and the Society of Operations Engineers were signed during the Session while the agreement with the China Association for Science and Technology was renewed. Renewal of agreements with Engineers Australia and the Institution of Engineering and Technology are being finalised.

Active negotiations are being made with the 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 4th assessment under the Mutual Recognition Agreement between the HKIE and the National Administration Board of Engineering Registration (Structural) held in September 2008. 62 out of 70 of our members passed the assessment and attained the qualification of Class I Registered Structural Engineer this year.

Of equal importance 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 Session, the following initiatives were made to this continuous process:

- (i) Two training sessions were conducted to Assessors in upholding assessment quality
- (ii) Seven appeal cases were dealt with by the appeal due process

Finally, I am pleased to report that this year had been a busy and fruitful year for the Board. A total of 584 and 1,775 applications for Corporate and other classes of membership were reviewed by the Board respectively. The passing rate for Corporate Membership stood at 71.1% which is in line with the past five years.



Ir Reuben P K CHU,
Chairman

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION STATISTICS		
GRADE	APPLICATIONS	
	Considered	Accepted
	2008/2009	2008/2009
Fellow	30	21
Member	504	354
Graduate Member	695	677
Associate Member	1	1
Companion	0	0
Student Member	1,107	1,094
Affiliate	3	3
Additional Discipline	102	70
Total	2,442	2,220

Note: Up to 31 March 2009.

MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS				
Membership	31 Mar 06	31 Mar 07	31 Mar 08	31 Mar 09
Honorary Fellow	18	18	18	19
Fellow	855	873	876	885
Member	10,188	10,655	10,956	11,204
Graduate Member	4,184	3,979	4,146	4,362
Associate Member	1,832	1,718	1,631	1,554
Companion	23	19	17	16
Student Member	1,648	2,744	3,512	4,161
Affiliate	579	595	549	520
Total	19,327	20,601	21,705	22,721

Education & Examinations Committee

The Committee had a busy year and a total of 54 cases were received during the Session. Among them, the Civil Discipline received the highest number of applications for academic assessment, followed by the Mechanical and Structural Disciplines.

During the Session, the Committee also considered one application under the Emerging Discipline Route approved by the Qualification & Membership (Q & M) Board in early 2007 for the Environmental, Information and Materials Disciplines. The applicant of this case was accepted as holding a degree of applied science nature relevant to the applying Discipline.

In addition, the Committee endorsed the proposal for top up courses for fulfilling the academic requirements for the Materials and Fire Disciplines. At the request of the Q & M Board, the Committee considered the report from the Task Force on Potential Engineering Disciplines and made recommendations to the Board on the recognition of academic qualifications from Mainland universities.

Fellowship Committee

The Committee recommended a total of 24 applications during the period under review. It is the policy of the Committee to assess each application on individual merits and each applicant's particular circumstances are always fully considered.

In addition, four nominations for fellowship were supported by the Fellowship Committee during the Session.

Professional Assessment Committee

During the Session, the Professional Assessment Committee was invited by the Q & M Board to study the suggestions of the Task Force on Potential Engineering Disciplines on modification of the Mature Route for admission of Mainland engineers in consideration of their academic and experience background. The Committee submitted to the Q & M Board a proposal suggesting that creation of a new route might be a better option to accommodate this particular type of candidates. A revised proposal was made, which has broadened the targets to candidates not only confined to Mainland engineers, but those possessing engineering academic qualifications of high quality which are not accredited engineering degrees, subject to further postgraduate enhancement of engineering competence to maintain the qualification standards. The Q & M Board supported in principle the revised proposal and the Committee will prepare a detailed proposal for implementation.

Two Induction Sessions were held to update Assessors on the Professional Assessment process and practice, and to collect feedbacks from the Assessors which have been conveyed to the Committee members for the various Discipline Advisory Panels to review the current assessment mechanism. The Committee expressed gratitude to the Assessors who had helped the Institution to conduct assessments. A presentation was made to Scheme "A" trainees in an orientation session organised by the Vocational Training Council.

The Committee also considered and agreed to the Geotechnical Discipline Advisory Panel's proposal on providing a guidance note on Professional Assessment to candidates for better understanding of the scope of the basic geotechnical knowledge typically required by the Discipline.

Quality Control Committee

During Session 2008/2009, the Committee received a total of 291 assessment results. The passing rate was 58% as compared with 62% last year. The Committee also reviewed four appeal cases and one further appeal case in the Session. The Committee continued to achieve its mission of maintaining a consistent quality standard of professional assessment across the 18 Disciplines of the Institution and upholding the quality of our members admitted via Reciprocal Recognition Agreements with other institutions.

Training Committee

In Session 2008/2009, 34 companies were assessed among which nine were newly approved companies, making a total of 180 companies approved for the HKIE Scheme "A" training. It is pleased to note that the total number of registered trainees reached 619, a remarkable increase of 8.56% over the last Session.

Four Engineering Supervisor Workshops were successfully held during the year with 85 Engineering Supervisors attended and approved.

The Trainee of the Year Award 2008 was well received with President Ir Peter Y Wong presenting the prizes to the three awardees and the representatives from their companies at the Hong Kong Institution of Engineers Prize Presentation Ceremony held on 9 January 2009. Awards included monetary prizes and certificates for the winners and trophies for their companies. Other essential tasks accomplished by the Committee during the year included the matching of 21 local accredited/re-accredited university degree programmes with Scheme "A" Disciplines, and assessing 35 mis-match cases.

Through the combined efforts of various promotion activities for the Formal Training Scheme to Associate Membership, we are glad to have the first company approved to provide the training scheme in Building Services Discipline. It is expected that such approval would make great strides in encouraging more companies to apply for the Formal Training Scheme to Associate Membership in a supportive way in future.

Having solicited support for the training of professional engineers in fire engineering, Scheme "A" training was established for the Fire Discipline in providing vital training elements to engineering graduates. It is pleased to have the first company approved for Scheme "A" training in the Fire Discipline.

The Working Group on Promotion of Scheme "A" Training and Formal Training Scheme for Associate Membership was set up under the Committee with a view to promoting Scheme "A" training to companies and graduates. The Working Group proposed to organise a large-scale promotion seminar for potential companies interested in setting up the training scheme, and on-campus roving exhibitions/talks will be arranged for engineering graduates/students as well.

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LEARNED SOCIETY BOARD

The Board continued its role as a forum for co-ordinating learned society activities carried out by its Divisions and Committees. It was another fulfilling Session with drive and dynamism demonstrated by a record of over 400 activities and events organised by different Divisions and Committees.

At the turn of the Session, a year plan for the Board has been crafted and Divisions and Committees have formulated their activities plan in a co-ordinated manner. One of the major initiatives introduced during the Session was the setting up of a number of specialist groups. The purposes of these specialist groups are to create values and hence bring benefits to members in knowledge and skills other than engineering that are essential to the engineering profession. Three specialist groups, namely the Project Management Specialist Group, Women in Engineering Group and State Affairs & Study Alumni, were set up during the Session. Other specialist groups are in the pipeline and it is anticipated that these groups could be formally established in the coming Session. Virtual forums were set up for the groups to facilitate exchange of views amongst members. To put in place a structure for the development of these specialist groups, an Ad Hoc Committee was established to oversee their operation, which will report regularly to the Board on the progress of the groups.



Ir Dr CHAN Fuk Cheung,
Chairman

For the benefit of Divisions and Committees in the organisation of activities, three different sets of guidelines have been developed for reference of Divisions and Committees when they invite other organisations to act as co-organisers or supporters for their activities with or without financial commitment; or when they are invited as supporting organisations of activities organised by other organisations.

As regards the service of Council Member (Division) in the Council, the Board reviewed the Division Rules on election of Council Member (Division) with a view to ascertaining members who have already served in the current Session would not be eligible to stand for election as Council Members (Division) for the next Session. It is anticipated that the revised requirement is to be introduced in the next Session.

Since the introduction of the Professional Services Development Assistance Scheme (PSDAS) by the Government, Divisions and Committees have initiated different projects and submitted applications to the PSDAS for funding support. On the direction of the Executive, the Board has devised guidelines for reference of Divisions and Committees when making an application.

Recognising the need for resources for the overseas chapters to organise activities to promote the image of Hong Kong and with support from the Council, additional funding will be made available to the overseas chapters based on the guidelines drafted for the purpose.

The Board is pleased to report that during the Session, Student Chapters were established in the Chinese University of Hong Kong, City University of Hong Kong and the Hong Kong Institute of Vocational Education (Tsing Yi). Together with these newly formed Student Chapters, the Institution has established altogether six Student Chapters and the target is to complete the setting up of all eight Student Chapters within the next Session.

A noteworthy event organised during the Session was a seven-a-side soccer competition, entitled "Engineers' Charity Soccer Cup" for the HKIE Project Sichuan Trust Fund by the Task Force on Fund Raising for Sichuan Earthquake Recovery. With the support of Divisions and other engineering companies, the event was successfully held from March to April 2009 and a total amount of over HK\$130,000 was raised for the Fund.

It is the unstinting support and invaluable input from members of the Board, Divisions and Committees that have made a quantum leap in the learned society activities during the Session and my sincere thanks go to them all.

Community Service Committee

The Committee continued to play a significant role in facilitating a proactive approach for the participation of members in public affairs with a view to enhancing the community involvement of the Institution as well as the standing and visibility of the engineering profession.

In an effort to further promote volunteerism amongst our members and recognise their contributions in rendering community services, the Committee is pleased to report that with the support from the Council and Learned Society Board, the HKIE Professional Volunteers Service Accreditation Programme has been launched. In collaboration with the Council of Volunteering and Agency for Volunteer Service, three types of awards, namely Silver Certificate Award, Gold Certificate Award and Leadership Bauhinia Award have been established under the

Programme to acknowledge the excellence of our members who keep devoting their expertise and efforts to serving the community. Being the first of its kind, we hope that this new Programme will foster a spirit of participation in public affairs within the Institution.

The Committee has continued to co-ordinate responses from Divisions/ Committees and members to consultation papers as well as to make nominations for external boards and committees upon request.

During the Session under review, 22 invitations for opinions ranging from engineering related matters to issues of public concern were received from various Government departments, higher education institutions as well as professional organisations and views and comments were sought from members for the preparation of HKIE submissions.

The Committee has also processed 57 invitations from Government departments and external organisations for nominations of HKIE representatives to serve on their boards and committees. A total of 164 members were nominated to these boards and committees to provide professional input where necessary.

As in previous years, a consolidated list of HKIE representation in the 18 districts have been sent to all District Councils to restate our members' interests to serve the 18 districts and participate in local community affairs when suitable opportunities arise in future.

The Committee has also provided free professional advices on building maintenance to property owners or residents through the Property Management Advisory Centres of the Hong Kong Housing Society.

The earnest efforts and enthusiastic support from members of the Committee are highly appreciated and gratefully acknowledged. Without their support, the Committee could not have made such progress.

Conference Committee

The Conference Committee has been actively involved in the planning of Institution conferences. The events have provided a valuable platform for members to interact, exchange and network with external bodies, both local and overseas.

The Guangzhou-Hong Kong-Macau-Taiwan Engineers (Hong Kong) Forum 2008 was held from 11 to 12 December 2008 in Macau to foster collaboration and exchange within the region. It was jointly organised by the Institution, the Guangzhou Association of Engineers, the Macau Institution of Engineers and the Chinese Union of Professional Civil Engineer Association. The theme of the Forum was "Regional Transportation Network and Tourism Development". Six papers from Hong Kong were presented at the Forum which was attended by 40 members from Hong Kong.

The Committee has also contributed to the planning of the Shanghai-HK Symposium on Science and Technology to be held in Shanghai in October 2009. The Symposium aims to foster the cooperation between Hong Kong and Shanghai in contributing to the exchange of technical knowledge and experience in the economic development of these two major cities in China.



Guangzhou-Hong Kong-Macau-Taiwan Engineers (Macau) Forum 2008

Continuing Professional Development Committee

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

Joining forces with 16 CPD course providers, the Committee planned over 190 courses covering occupational safety and health, technical matters and general professional subjects during Session 2008/2009. These courses attracted more than 2,000 participants. Free CPD courses on common interest topics were jointly organised by the Committee with Divisions and received overwhelming response from members. The Committee and Young Members Committee (YMC) also co-organised free CPD courses and activities for YMC members with a fixed budget borne by the CPD Promotional Fund.

The mandatory CPD requirements (minimum 30 hours per year) for Corporate Members were implemented starting from 1 January 2006. Following the two-year grace period to enable Corporate Members to familiarise with the requirements, an audit on individual compliance was conducted in early 2009 on Members' CPD attainment in 2008. A computer-generated random sampling of 1% for compliance audit had been conducted in February 2009 on all Corporate Members. For those Members who were selected for checking, they would be asked to submit evidences of CPD attainment. A CPD Special Panel was set up under the Committee to review and make recommendations to the Committee on any follow up actions on for non-compliance or appeal cases.

Public Relations Committee

The Public Relations Committee adopts a proactive approach to promote the engineering profession to the public. The respective Work Groups have devoted tremendous efforts and attained remarkable accomplishments in Session 2008/2009.

To enhance the status of engineers, appreciate their contributions to the society as well as to promote the profession to students of secondary schools and higher education institutions, the Committee produced a new corporate video in June 2009 introducing the 19 engineering Disciplines, including the newly launched Aircraft Discipline. The video would be showcased in Institutional events such as exhibitions, career talks and seminars to arouse public's interest in the engineering profession and distributed to secondary schools and tertiary education institutions.

Under the School Ambassadors Programme, the Work Group on Career Talks recruited 72 volunteers as School Ambassadors to deliver career and school talks to students of secondary schools and higher education institutions on a year-round basis. During the Session, about 50 talks were delivered to over 6,440 students from secondary schools, Hong Kong Institute of Vocational Education and universities.

With a view to strengthening our ties with local District Councils, the Work Group on District Relations proactively sent invitation letters to the 18 District Councils introducing the HKIE and inviting them to visit the Institution. A courtesy visit by Yau Tsim Mong District Council was successfully held in June.

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To enhance the professional image of engineers and to introduce the engineering Disciplines 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. All 18 articles of the series had been published between March 2007 and September 2008.

The success of these outreaching activities relies heavily on the zealous participation and strenuous support from the Committee members, School Ambassadors and other individual helpers. We look forward to having an equally rewarding year ahead.

Publications Committee

Under the leadership of a strong editorial panel and the generous support of a group of intellectuals and experts both locally and worldwide, the international standard and quality of the *HKIE Transactions* have been upheld. The Publications Committee is pleased to report that the paper submission, readership and subscription levels are increasing steadily. To explore the potential market on the Mainland, six specialists in different engineering Disciplines had been invited as the Transactions International Advisors to attract quality paper submissions from the Mainland. The Committee would like to express its

wholehearted appreciation for the advisory and editorial panels as well as the Transactions International Advisors and paper reviewers for their staunch support throughout the Session.

This year, one Transactions paper was awarded the HKIE Transactions Prize, and three exceptional overseas papers were awarded the HKIE Outstanding Paper Award for Young Engineers and Researchers 2008. These overseas Awardees were also invited to present their winning papers and accomplishments before over 40 members, academics and engineering students at a Technical Seminar held on 22 September 2008 at the Hong Kong Polytechnic University. These award-winning papers together with the seven shortlisted ones were published in the special issue of the *HKIE Transactions* in December 2008. Building on the success of last year's competition, the 2009 Award was launched in February. The Committee was gratified to have received an encouraging number of submissions locally and from overseas countries including Australia, Birmingham, Ireland, Malaysia, Singapore and the USA.

In future, the Committee would continue to facilitate the exchange of information and knowledge in the engineering community by publishing high quality *HKIE Transactions*.

PLANNING COMMITTEE

In accordance with the timeframe and flow chart of the planning cycle, the Committee has continued its effort in formulating long-term strategies and reviewing the development plans of the Institution. During the Session, the Committee kept reviewing the development progress of the planned action tasks of the Three-year Rolling Plan for Sessions 2008/2009 to 2010/2011 and it is encouraging to note that some of these tasks have been successfully completed and a majority are already in the pipeline.

In considering the next Three-year Rolling Plan for Sessions 2009/2010 to 2011/2012 prepared by the three Vice Presidents of the Session, a theme has been put forward for the purposes of better utilisation and co-ordination of resources and to bring impact to the membership in general and the community at large. The four major goals as laid down in the previous Plan have also been modified to coincide with the objectives. The Plan was well noted and accepted by the Committee.

Same as the previous Sessions, the Committee held the Strategic Planning Meeting to chart strategies for the future development of the Institution. The meeting focused on the discussion and deliberation of important issues of members' concern including membership promotion strategies and ways to enhance the professional recognition of the Associate Membership.

The Committee is pleased to report the effective execution of the planning cycle and decided to consider in due course the future role and development of the Institution based on the way forward as suggested by fellow members in the HKIE Retreat meeting.



Ir Dr LO Wai Kwok,
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. At present, a total of 103 engineering degree programmes are accredited by the HKIE. During the year, the Board carried out seven accreditation visits to local institutions to evaluate 37 engineering degree programmes.

In accordance with the Washington Accord rules and regulations, every jurisdiction with full signatory status is required to undergo a verification process every six years. A Washington Accord Review Panel completed such process on the HKIE in November 2008. With representatives from the United States, New Zealand and Japan, the Review Panel observed the HKIE Accreditation Board meeting on 14 October 2008 and two HKIE accreditation visits to the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology and City University of Hong Kong from 17 to 18 November 2008 and 20 to 21 November 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-based Accreditation for evaluators. To facilitate the implementation of outcomes-based accreditation in Hong Kong, the HKIE Secretariat observed an accreditation visit conducted by the Engineers Ireland from 12 to 13 March 2009.

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



Ir Kenneth K HSU,
Chairman

Accreditation Committee for Computer Science Programmes

The Committee has entered into 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 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 Institution was invited to join as a full member of the Seoul Accord, an international mutual recognition on accreditation of Computing and Information & Communication Technology (ICT)-related programmes. With full support by the Committee, an application for full signatory status was submitted to the Seoul Accord in February 2009 and the application was subsequently approved at the Seoul Accord General Meeting held in Kyoto, Japan in June 2009. In this regard, the Institution becomes one of the full signatories of the Seoul Accord and there are currently eight signatories in the Seoul Accord including Australia, Canada, Chinese Taipei, Hong Kong, Korea, Japan, the United Kingdom and the United States.

Currently, the Hong Kong education system is undergoing a major change to "334" structure to be implemented in 2012. Outcomes-based teaching and learning and the subsequent accreditation have become emerging issues both locally and internationally. In view of this, the Committee established a Working Group to review the accreditation criteria for Computer Science programmes to make it more in line with the international trend and requirement.

Accreditation Committee for Higher Diploma Programmes

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

At present, more than 70 higher diploma and associate degree programmes are accredited by the HKIE. During the year, the Committee carried out seven accreditation visits to evaluate 18 higher diploma and associate degree programmes. Ir Jolly Wong, Chairman of the Accreditation Committee for Higher Diploma Programmes thanked all Committee members, visiting team chairmen and members for their valuable contributions.

With the implementation of "334" structure (a new academic structure for senior secondary and higher education in Hong Kong) in 2012 and the use of outcomes-based teaching and accreditation around the world, the Committee established a Working Party to review the accreditation criteria for higher diploma and equivalent programmes with a view to getting in line with the international trend and requirement.