



Press Release

The Hong Kong Institution of Engineers expresses concern over the Ombudsman's investigation report

(Hong Kong, 19 April 2025) The Hong Kong Institution of Engineers (“HKIE”) expresses concern over the direct investigation report released by the Office of the Ombudsman regarding occupational safety and health (OSH) in the construction industry. The HKIE has always attached great importance to OSH in the construction sector, stressing that all practitioners, regardless of their rank or role, must prioritise safety under all circumstances. The HKIE is deeply concerned by the report’s findings that some “competent persons” have signed prescribed forms without properly inspecting the relevant equipment or machinery, and even pre-signed multiple forms in advance in some cases. Such procedural breaches may pose risks to the safety and quality of engineering projects. The HKIE believes that such issues must be addressed with high level of seriousness and improvement measures implemented.

In recent years, serious site accidents have occurred repeatedly, resulting in tragic loss of life. The HKIE is alarmed by the reported conduct of those “competent persons” who signed certification documents without thorough inspection. Under existing mechanisms, should any such incidents involve HKIE members, the HKIE will handle the matter with due seriousness. Where professional misconduct is identified, appropriate and commensurate disciplinary actions will be taken in accordance with the Constitution, the Rules of Conduct, and Disciplinary Regulations, to uphold the professional integrity and standard rightly expected of our members, and to meet the expectations of the wider public.

The HKIE encourages engineers to actively apply technological innovations in the design of safety systems and risk assessments, and to work intimately with architects, technicians, and other professionals. In parallel, training for system operators should be strengthened. By integrating innovative technologies and enhanced safety measures into the overall project lifecycle, engineers may work towards creating and maintaining a safer and more sustainable working environment, safeguarding the lives and well-being of frontline practitioners and advancing OSH in the construction industry.

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