

# Newsletter

May 2021



The Association of Consulting Engineers of Hong Kong  
香港顧問工程師協會

## Message from the Chair



Ir Kenneth Li  
Chairman, ACEHK

The Hong Kong Construction Industry has been affected by the COVID pandemic over the past year. The Newsletter this month shows the decrease in construction expenditure in the past year and it is still a challenge to the Industry in reviving an upward trend in the coming years.

While we have an expectation on the recovery of the economy and more government or private projects being rolled-out, it is also worthwhile to explore more opportunities in Greater Bay Area, which has been promoted strongly by the Government (see article below). In the past few months, the Council has participated in various forums on the new registration measures for consulting firms and professionals when working in Qianhai, Hengqin and the Greater Bay Area. We are delighted to see that more ACEHK members have joined the registration and so can avail to more business opportunities

Ir Kenneth Li  
Chairman

## Qianhai + GBA

Under the 備案管理辦法, consultant firms on the two government lists, i.e. AACSB and EACSB can acquire corresponding qualifications in the Qianhai by way of registration so that they can provide services in Qianhai directly. In order to facilitate more Hong Kong consultants to participate, the Qianhai Management Authority and DevB have worked together to simplify the registration procedure:

To encourage Hong Kong consultants to participate in GBA projects, DevB have promulgated *Interim Guidelines* that, with effect from **22 April 2021**, permit:

**1. One Registration – Three Systems (一辦三通)** covering the the nine cities of the GBA including Qianhai (深圳前海) and Hengqin (珠海橫琴). Firms who have registered in this system do not need to further make registration in the Qianhai and Hengqin systems.

**2. No Attestation Requirement (無須公證要求)** for firms applying for registration, who can now make a request to AACSB/EACSB to obtain certification letters. Submission of works experience (工程業績) is optional.

DevB provide a one-stop platform for GBA-related info: [https://www.devb.gov.hk/en/construction\\_sector\\_matters/service\\_promotion/gba/index.html](https://www.devb.gov.hk/en/construction_sector_matters/service_promotion/gba/index.html)

A webinar co-organised by Qianhai Management Authority and DevB, was held on **21 May 2021** with the aim of introducing these new registration measures. If there is further interest from member firms, ACEHK would be pleased to request DevB to organise additional meetings or webinars for members.

## 2020 AGM

Due to social distancing measures, the ACEHK's 44<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting (AGM) was held at online on 14 December 2020. Based on votes submitted by Member Firms, the new Council is listed on the next page.



## New Member Firms and Registered Principals

ACEHK welcomes the following new Member Firms and their RPs:

- Ben Tse & Associates Ltd and Ir TSE Wai Keung
- Sun Hung Kai Architects & Engineers Ltd and Ir LAU Chi Kin

ACEHK congratulates the following new RPs from current Member Firms:

- Ir Lewis LAU and Ir Luke LEUNG from Arcadis
- Ir Helen LEUNG, Ir Simon WONG, Ir Dr Johnny CHEUK, Ir Wilson CHAN and Ir Francis LEONG from AECOM
- Ir Eric LI and Ir FUNG Chi Keung from Mannings
- Ir YAU Yiu Fong, Ir George MANHO and Ir Patrick MOK from Aurecon
- Ir LAM Yik Chong from Atkins

## Recent ACEHK Activities

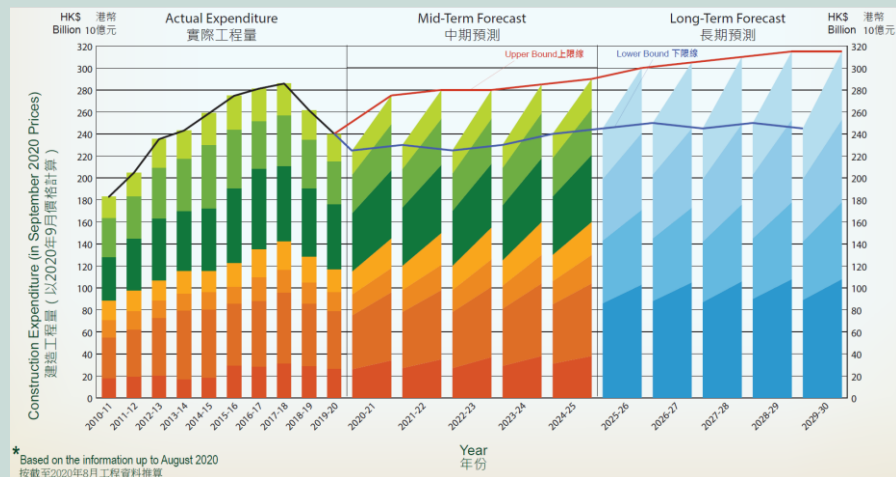
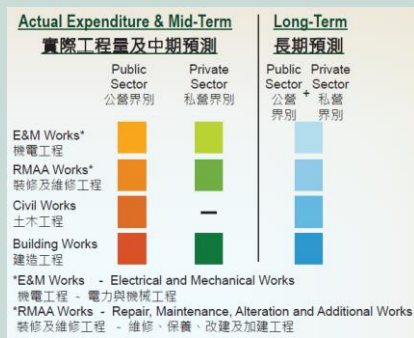
- **Government Liaison** was maintained regular dialogue with the Development Bureau (DevB) through the Consulting Engineering Committee (CEC) meeting and communication meeting with the Architectural Services Department (ArchSD) to exchange views on government practices and policies that may affect the delivery of consultancy services. The most recent meetings were held on 28 August 2020, 28 January 2021 and 25 March 2021.
- **Review on Minimum Entry Criteria for Consultants Lists of AACSB.** DevB recently circulated a proposal for relaxing the entry criteria for Building Services works and Structural works under AACSB, which would encourage non-local firms to bid. ACEHK is of the opinion that there is sufficient local competition in the market already without bringing in more firms, which would be detrimental to the interests of ACEHK Member Firms. ACEHK therefore advised DevB of our objection to these proposals. We understand that other professional institution that have been approached by DevB have also objected.

## ACEHK Supporting Other Organisations

- Supporting the Hong Kong Green Building Council *Green Building Award 2021*, with nominations open from **15 March to 15 June 2021**, finalists announced in **August 2021** and the award presentation ceremony will be held in **January 2022**
- World Green Building Council *Advancing Net Zero Ideas Competition* (registration closed on **7 May 2021**)
- HKIE Geotechnical Division webinar *Engineering a New Future of Cavern Development in Hong Kong* to be held on **25 May** at 7pm
- CEDD Annual Concrete Seminar 2021, which was a webinar held on **28 April 2021**

# Construction Expenditure Forecast

The third meeting of CIC's Focus Group on Projected Construction Expenditure was held on 21 August to discuss the September 2020 update and whether this will fully consider the impact of COVID-19 also the delayed approval of funding works by the Finance Committee of LegCo (approx. HKD 170 billion). The slide below is the September 2020 update, prepared by RLB for CIC ([http://www.cic.hk/cic\\_data/files/Fore2020/eng/pdf/Bar%20Chart\\_e.pdf](http://www.cic.hk/cic_data/files/Fore2020/eng/pdf/Bar%20Chart_e.pdf)). This shows a large gap between the upper and lower band forecasts and the downward trend in construction spending is already obvious:



The three periods were forecast as follows:

- **Historical** [Past 10 years] based on actual figures
- **Mid-term Forecast** [Years 2020-21 to 2024-25] based on public sector (projects in progress and under planning) and private sector (research data on building completion from property consultants)
- **Long-term Forecast** [Years 2025-26 to 2029-30] based on public sector (projects in progress and under planning) and private sector (based on the trend of real GDP growth)

## ACEHK Involvement on External Committees

Council Members sit on a number of committees to represent the views and the interests of ACEHK. Some committees are more active than others. The most recent updates since the last Newsletter are:

- **BIM Committee** (formerly the CIC Working Group on BIM). Stakeholders Engagement Forum for the Construction Digitalisation Roadmap was held on 9 March 2021 and attended by ACEHK. There was an Informal Discussion Session for the CIC Fee Evaluation Study on 16 March 2021 and ACEHK joined the discussion on the development and formation of BIM guide in the generation of MEP digital joins for statutory submissions.
- **DevB – Steering Committee on Construction Innovation and Technology Fund (CITF)**. The CITF Steering Committee meeting was held on 22 September 2020 and attended by ACEHK. It discussed government subsidy to support project consultants for the wider adoption of MiC for private sector building projects; to dispense with the sub-ceiling for BIM training and BIM adoption in order to allow more flexibility for the applicant to use the overall \$0.8M subsidy and uplifting of subsidy for the use of prefabricated rebar. A CITF focus group meeting on evaluating the effectiveness the CITF was held on 2 February 2021 and attended by ACEHK.
- **EMSD Building Energy Code – Performance Based Working Group and Lighting Working Group**. Meeting held on 4 May 2021 in which ACEHK were advised that there would be a forthcoming update of the Energy Code coming soon.
- **HKTDC – One Belt One Road**. On 25 February 2021 it was announced that the next Belt and Road Summit will be held in November 2021.
- **FSD – Ventilation Installation Liaison Group**. The 65<sup>th</sup> Liaison Group Meeting was held on 11 March 2021 and attended by ACEHK.
- **Security of Payment Legislation (SOPL) Task Force**. On 25 March 2021 ACEHK expressed concern of having a document similar to SOP for consultants in the industry and suggested setting-up a separate working group to handle this issue.
- **CIC – Task Force on Reasonable Consultancy Fee Evaluation System**. Comments returned from ACEHK Members on 22 May 2020. Meeting was held on 21 February 2021 regarding the inspection report provided the consultants. Government's fee was excluded in this fee evaluation system study. VC meetings on Informal Discussion Session were conducted and attended by ACEHK.
- **Hong Kong Green Building Council (HKGBC) – Infrastructure Project Rating System Committee**. In the meeting held on 1st March 2021, DevB reported that the Project Rating System was still under them and they were thinking whether the DevB or CIC would invite consultants on the development of this system. Also, DevB presented Green Finance initiatives to the members.
- **CIC – Task Force on Quality Site Supervision Practice**. Since last year, CIC has uses a registration system for technically competent persons in private sector to provide quality supervision.

## ACEHK Council Members

Position	Name	Company
Chairman	Ir Kenneth LI	WSP
Vice Chairman	Ir Stephen MAK	Meinhardt
Hon Secretary	Ir Andy KWOK	Binnies
Hon Treasurer	Ir Stephen LAI	AECOM
Past Chairman	Ir James SZE	Arup
Council Member	Ir Victor CHEUNG	J Roger Preston
Council Member	Ir Johnny LAM	Aurecon
Council Member	Ir Francis SOOTOO	MVA
Council Member	Ir Chris LEE	CM Wong
Council Member	Ir James PENNY	Arcadis
Council Member	Ir Dickson LAW	Atkins
Co-opted	Ir Alexi BHANJA	SMEC
Co-opted	Ir Philip CHAN	Au Posford
Observer	Ir Ole WONG	Mott MacDonald
Secretariat	Bernice CHENG	c/o OM Link

## Upcoming ACEHK Events in 2021

### Annual Awards



- **Promote** awareness and enhance presence of the engineering industry
- **Showcase** and give due recognition to truly excellent projects
- **Share** and highlight practices and management that made projects successful

This event is a prime opportunity for all of us across the engineering industry to be enlightened on what engineering excellence can be. We are confident that this event will be a success, and will act as an accessible platform for valuable project and experience sharing. **Now open for entries!**

Each submission must include an Application Form and an Illustrated Report. Details are posted on the ACEHK website [www.acehk.org.hk/new/event-detail.php?id=21&lang=en](http://www.acehk.org.hk/new/event-detail.php?id=21&lang=en) or you may also contact [annualawards@acehk.org.hk](mailto:annualawards@acehk.org.hk)

### Annual Seminar

“Stepping into a New Era – Sustainable Construction Industry” is scheduled for **Tuesday 1 June** as a half-day afternoon webinar. Keynote speakers from DevB and speakers from consultants and universities. Details are posted on the ACEHK website [www.acehk.org.hk/new/event-detail.php?id=22&lang=en](http://www.acehk.org.hk/new/event-detail.php?id=22&lang=en)

### Annual Dinner

As the COVID-19 situation and social distancing requirements are still unpredictable, the date and venue of the 2021 Annual Dinner has not yet been confirmed ... but watch this space!

### Annual General Meeting

Scheduled on the evening of **Wednesday 8 December 2021** at the Hong Kong Club in Central. Please note in your diary!

## Website and Feedback

The new ACEHK Website is up and running, so please visit <http://www.acehk.org.hk> to check out all the ACEHK events and latest news.

Members are welcome to provide feedback on any issue to the ACEHK Chairman at: [chairman@acehk.org.hk](mailto:chairman@acehk.org.hk)