

Newsletter

October 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 construction industry is still maintaining momentum, despite the slow pace in Hong Kong's economy recovery, following the global trend. In the Chief Executive's 2021 Policy Address, government has put much impetus on "Planning for the Future" and the "Northern Metropolis". This gives great assurance to our industry that continuous and increasing expenditure by government in various infrastructure and building projects, as easily realized in the large amount of public work projects being rolled out this year. Throughout this year, our Council was in close liaison with government departments to harmonise the bidding procedures and to create a better environment for Members' business development. Together with the increasing collaboration in Greater Bay Area, we anticipate more opportunities will come in both local and Mainland markets in the years ahead.

Meeting with the Qianhai Authority



On **Friday 7 October 2021**, ACEHK hosted a meeting for Council Members with a representative of the Liaison Office for Hong Kong, China (Guangdong) FTA Qianhai Shekou Administrative Committee, Prof Witman HUNG, Principal Liaison Officer. The purpose of the meeting was to better understand the latest development of the expanded Qianhai area and the potential opportunities for Hong Kong Consulting Engineers, in particular, areas such as building and infrastructure projects as well as tax concessions for individuals and companies working in Qianhai.

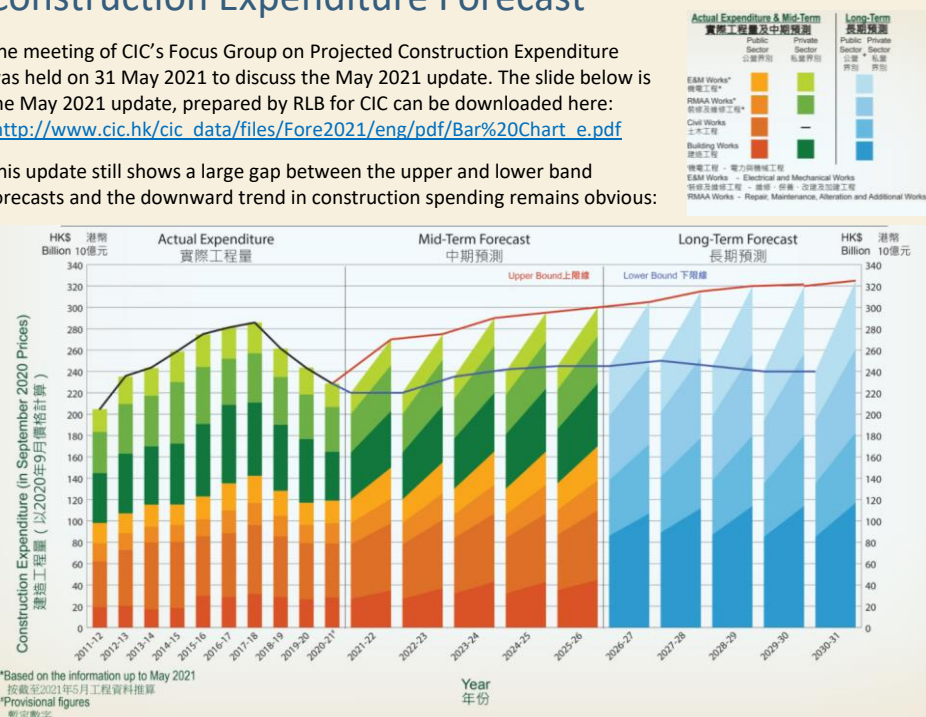
2021 Election Committee Subsector Ordinary Elections – Engineering Subsector

"Engineering Power (EP15)" were successfully elected by the engineering subsector to the 2021 Election Committee. EP15 represent a broad spectrum of the engineering industry, including consultants, contractors, government and industry. Heartiest congratulations to our engineering colleagues Otto POON Lok To, WAI Chi Sing, YIM Kin Ping, LEE Ping Kuen, Michelle TANG Ming Sum, Aaron BOK Kwok Ming, Eric MA Siu Cheung, Reuben CHU Pui Kwan, Thomas HO On Sing, Dorothy CHAN Ying Ying, Romeo YIU Fan Hung, CHIANG Tung Keung, Duncan WONG Wai On, Ian CHUNG Siu Ping, and SIU Yin Wai.

Construction Expenditure Forecast

The meeting of CIC's Focus Group on Projected Construction Expenditure was held on 31 May 2021 to discuss the May 2021 update. The slide below is the May 2021 update, prepared by RLB for CIC can be downloaded here: http://www.cic.hk/cic_data/files/Fore2021/eng/pdf/Bar%20Chart_e.pdf

This update still shows a large gap between the upper and lower band forecasts and the downward trend in construction spending remains obvious:



The three periods were forecast as follows:

- **Historical** [Past 10 years] based on actual figures
- **Mid-term Forecast** [Years 2021-22 to 2025-26] 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 2026-27 to 2030-31] based on public sector (projects in progress and under planning) and private sector (based on the trend of real GDP growth)

Let's Have a Chat – Nurturing Young Talent in Industry



The first face-to-face event this year for our Young Members Committee (YMC) was to attend ArchSD's event at their Community Hub in July 2021. Our YMC representatives joined other industry professionals to share ideas on the training and ecosystem that could nurture and inspire our young talent to embrace the professional excellence, as well as innovation and creative solutions.

We were pleased to hear from the Young Members Society of Hong Kong Construction Association (HKCA) who gave insights into, the needs of and aspiration of their young members.

It is not surprising that long working hours continue to be a concern causing the high turnover rate within companies and the industry as a whole. A number of participants concur that they would like to see more changes made in the industry, especially "low price win all" tendering culture in order to provide for a more attractive working environment with work-life balance.

We look forward to having more constructive discussion with different parties of the industry and help shape the future for our young professionals.

New Member Firms and Registered Principals

ACEHK congratulates the following new RPs from current Member Firms:

- Ir Simon LAU Wing Cheong from Au Posford
- Ir Rupert LEUNG Kwok Yiu, Ir Vincent AU Chun Sang, and Ir Aaron MA Lun Kwong from Halcrow
- Ir William NG Siu Kee and Ir Malcolm James LORIMER from Jacobs

ACEHK Supporting Other Organisations

- Hong Kong Green Building Council *Green Building Award 2021*, the award presentation ceremony for which will held in **January 2022**
- Hong Kong Institute of Surveyors *Annual Conference 2021*, which was held on 25 September 2021
- Hong Kong Trade Development Council *Belt and Road Summit*, which was held on 1-2 September 2021

ACEHK Annual Awards 2020 – Congratulations to All Our Award Winners!

Overall Best Award Recipient



O.PARK1 – Transforming Organic Waste into Energy and Green Resources

This year's Overall Best Award was presented to the project team of *O.PARK1 – Transforming Organic Waste into Energy and Green Resources* for having the highest combined score of the four judging categories.

- Environmental Protection Dept
- AECOM Asia Company Ltd

Annual Award Recipients

Kai Tak Development – Stage 3 Infrastructure Works for Developments at the Southern Part of the Former Runway

- Civil Engineering and Development Dept
- Hyder-Meinhardt JV
- China Road and Bridge Corp

Contract No. DC/2018/03 – Expansion of Sha Tau Kok Sewage Treatment Works Phase 1 and Village Sewerage in Tong To

- Drainage Services Dept
- Binnies Hong Kong Ltd
- Build King Civil Engineering Ltd
- Kum Shing Construction Co Ltd

Shatin to Central Link Cross-Harbour Railway Immersed Tunnel

- MTR Corporation Ltd
- Penta Ocean – China State JV
- Arcadis Design & Engineering Ltd

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:

- **Focus Group Meeting on NEC Matters.** ACEHK met with DevB on 27 July to discuss matters relating to NEC contracts. Topics covered NEC in Hong Kong; performance of NEC contracts vs GCC contracts; NEC policy in Hong Kong Public Works; NEC4 and DevB NEC Suit; and an update on the pre-bid and ACC cl. C9 for NEC Target Contracts.
- **DevB – Consulting Engineering Committee.** Meeting was held on 12 July where DevB reported that there would be more government work in the years ahead. Permanent Secretary S H LAM encouraged ACEHK members to join project bidding in the opportunities in Greater Bay Area.
- **CIC – BIM Committee.** Further to the meeting held in March on the BIM Guide for using BIM in generation of MEP digital drawings for statutory submissions, CIC said in July that it has identified software “BricsCAD” that can produce all MEP-related BIM models and generate 2D drawings.
- **ArchSD** – a communication meeting was held with ACEHK on 28 May during which the topic of whether ArchSD would accept independent employment of consultants rather than making them a subconsultant under the architect was discussed. ArchSD selected three projects as trial run for the new format of employment.
- **EMSD Building Energy Code – Performance Based Working Group and Lighting Working Group.** Meetings held on 24 June and 29 Sept in which EMSD echoed government’s pledge on becoming carbon neutral. Updated BEC will be further launched by end this year.
- **HKTDC – One Belt One Road.** Meeting was held on 24 June 2021 and ACEHK is the supporting organisation. Global Forum Annual Roundtable was successfully conducted on 3 September 2021.
- **FSD – Ventilation Installation Liaison Group.** The 66th Liaison Group Meeting was held on 29 July 2021 and attended by ACEHK. Part XI, Circular Letter No. 4/96 proposed revision were discussed in the taskforce meeting. Comments were raised from the members during the meeting subject to FSD consideration and acceptance. BC would circulate the Fire Safety Requirements in Mechanical Ventilating Systems in due course.
- **Security of Payment Legislation (SOPL) Task Force.** Meeting held on 26 August 2021.
- **EMSD – Working Groups on Development of Best Practices for Operation and Maintenance of E&M Asset.** Meeting held on 26 August 2021.
- **CIC – Task Force on Reasonable Consultancy Fee Evaluation System.** Meeting was held on 24 June.
- **Hong Kong Green Building Council (HKGBC) – Infrastructure Project Rating System Committee.** The 5th meeting was held on 4 August. DevB shared interim findings of the study on infrastructure analysis assessment tool. PSGO presented a road map to CIC about the timeline to implement a local assessment tool. DevB also considered inviting consultants to develop a local assessment tool.
- **DevB – Focus Group of Consultancy Services on Forecasting the Demand and Supply of Site Supervisory Personnel, Technicians and Professionals in Hong Kong Construction Industry.** Meeting held on 26 August 2021 and ACEHK suggested DevB look into the personnel issues for the entire industry.
- **BD – Task Force on Industry Adoption of Electronic Submission Hub (ESH).** Meeting held on 24 August 2021. BD requested ACEHK send a representative to join the trial session on using the ESH.
- **BD – Authorized Persons, Registered Structural Engineers and Registered Geotechnical Engineers Committee (APSEC).** Meeting held on 13 August and ACEHK raised the building services air duct/equipment mounting support issue under AOB – another round of discussion will be arranged.
- **HyD – Review Panel under the Land (Miscellaneous Provisions) Ordinance.** HyD invited ACEHK to nominate three members to sit on the panel in their personal capacity.
- **CIC – Construction Expenditure Forecast Task Force.** Meeting held on 31 May 2021. The construction expenditure forecast was updated (see page 1).

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 Francis SOOTOO	MVA
Council Member	Ir Chris LEE	CM Wong
Council Member	Ir Dickson LAW	Atkins
Co-opted	Ir Alexi BHANJA	SMEC
Observer	Ir Ole WONG	Mott MacDonald
Observer	Ir Francis YAU	Aurecon
Secretariat	Bernice CHENG	c/o OM Link

ACEHK Events in 2021

Annual Seminar and Annual Awards



The ACEHK Annual Seminar 2021: *Stepping into New Era – Sustainable Construction Industry cum Annual Award Presentation* was held on **1 June 2021** at HKCEC. The event was well attended by 106 physical guests and 242 webinar participants.

Special thanks to Ir S H LAM JP for delivering an inspirational and insightful keynote speeches to delegates. Also thank all our speakers, moderators, panelists, sponsors and partners, as well as supporting organizations, for making this seminar a success.

Event photos are here:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/191136689@N06/albums/72157719331735969>

ACEHK Webinar

The Scope in an NEC4 Engineering and Construction Contract (ECC) is a key document usually prepared by the Client. So many projects suffer from a significant number of changes after contract award, creating uncertainty. ACEHK therefore organized a webinar entitled *The Scope of Getting It Right (Pre-contract) and Changing It (Post-contract)* on **10 October 2021** with Mr Robert GERRARD, Senior NEC consultant and Secretary, NEC Users’ Group Accredited Mediator and Dispute Resolution Advice.

Annual Dinner – Upcoming

The Annual Dinner is planned to be held on **Wednesday 1 December 2021** at the Langham Hotel in Mong Kong. Please note in your diary! A formal invitation will be circulated soon ...

Annual General Meeting – Upcoming

Scheduled on the evening of **Wednesday 8 December 2021** at the Hong Kong Club in Central. Please note in your diary! Any legitimate resolutions to be included in the AGM should be submitted to the Honorary Secretary, Ir Andy KWOK, at kwoky@bv.com no later than **Wednesday 27 October 2021**.

Website and Feedback

The ACEHK Website is <http://www.acehk.org.hk> and can be used 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