

Message from the Chairman

Dear Members,

It has been five years since our Branch was renamed the "Asian Pacific Branch" in 2001, and now we are eagerly awaiting the coming of our 40th birthday in November. In recognition of the marked achievement of APB, our Headquarters in Coventry has announced that it will hold its Council Meeting in Hong Kong. A delegation of around sixty council members, headquarters staff and their spouses will come to Hong Kong to participate in a series of activities including our 40th Anniversary Housing Conference and the joint dinner with HKIH to be held at the Holiday Inn Golden Mile Hotel. This is going to be a memorable occasion in the history of APB and also a milestone in the development of professional housing management in Hong Kong.

In these few months, Hong Kong has seen the inauguration of the second phase of CEPA which further strengthens the ties between Hong Kong and China in areas of trade, transportation, tourism, finance and reciprocate recognition of a diversified disciplines of professions in both territories. The

Institute is optimistic that housing management practitioners in Hong Kong will eventually be accepted as having the same professional status as our Chinese counterparts for practising in the mainland.

Our Institute at the same time has also been striving in further advancement and development, on a national and international basis. Our joint professional property management course with the Wuhan University has entered into the second year and we can expect to play host to some of its outstanding students when they visit Hong Kong on an orientation programme towards end of this year. We have been actively assisting the Macau Property Management Association and the Housing Bureau of Macau in their bid to launch a training course for their property management practitioners. Graduates of this programme are expected to have attained a level of qualification recognizable by the Macau SAR for future licensing purpose. A delegation from APB also visited our counterparts in Taiwan in May in an exploratory tour to study their



professional training. Hopefully, we can export our expertise in housing management education to the island of Formosa very soon.

Locally, our Training Officer has been busy validating housing management course of the Opening University of Hong Kong. Discussions are also underway with the Hong Kong Polytechnic University and the Vocational Training Council on programme validation and related matters.

Members are aware that we have recently moved to our new joint office in Shui On Centre. The new office is more accessible via public transport and is equipped with training facilities to cope with the rising demand for training and CPD requirements.

Members of our Institute continue to participate in the various advisory bodies, to attend public forums, and to help channeling our members' views to the Government on important policy issues. These include matters relating to Mandatory Building Inspection Scheme, the Amendments to BMO, the

Kai Tak Development, the Tamar Site Development, the West Kowloon Cultural District Development and the others.

I am delighted to see that our Institute and members have broadened our sphere of development into the Asian Pacific Region, continued to enrich our professional knowledge in the industry and contributed to community affairs that would enhance the living quality of the people of Hong Kong.

In the advent of APB's 40th anniversary, I am soliciting your full support to make our Housing Conference and Annual Dinner on 24 November, 2006 a great success.

Mr Ricky Yuen
Chairman
Chartered Institute of Housing Asian Pacific Branch