

Housing Experience  
outside HK  
香港以外的房屋事務經驗



## Speech by Mr Ian Richardson, President, CIH

At the Annual Dinner Hosted Jointly by the CIH (Asian Pacific Branch) and the Hong Kong Institute of Housing



*Mr. Ian Richardson, President, CIH*  
英國特許房屋經理學會會長李義仁先生

Chairman, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen.

Can I begin by saying how pleased I am to be here this evening and to be able to visit my friends and colleagues in the Asian Pacific Branch during my year as President.

It is a great privilege and honour for me to be the President of the Chartered Institute of Housing. My work has always been in the housing field and I have been involved with the Institute throughout that time. Each President is different but I offer you one detail of my background which, I understand, is perhaps unique: prior to being Chief Executive of Two Castles Housing Association I have had four employers. As an undergraduate on a year's

professional placement with what is now the Home Group I worked for Alan Kilburn - a former President of the Institute who I know is a good friend of many of you in the Asian Pacific Branch. After graduating, I worked for Plymouth City Council for two years when I worked for Peter Williams who has also been an Institute President. I then worked for a further two years at Wolverhampton, for Chris Gittins, a third Institute President, and between 1985 and 1998 I worked at Newcastle City Council for David Butler who prior to becoming the Institute's Chief Executive was himself an Institute President. Four employers, four Presidents - all of whom have valued the links between the CIH in the UK and colleagues here in Hong Kong and which now as President myself, I am delighted to endorse this evening.



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The past twelve months since your last annual dinner have been another busy period for the Chartered Institute, both in the United Kingdom and internationally.

In the UK housing now has a much higher profile than at any time in the recent past.

The CIH plays a key role in driving forward housing policy and this will become increasingly important as we approach a General Election in the UK which is likely to be held in May or June next year. As we work to influence Government Policy, high on our list of priorities will be the need to increase the supply of affordable housing, for key workers and those in greatest housing need - particularly in the South East of England but also in other "hot spots" of the UK economy. In doing so we want to build new neighbourhoods which comprise a mix of tenures and income groups so helping support the UK Government's overriding policy objective of creating sustainable communities. And at the same time we want to demonstrate that the housing industry in the UK makes effective use of Government funding by pursuing efficiencies in both the provision and management of housing.

But as well as these 'domestic concerns' the CIH also needs to respond to developments that are taking place internationally.

The CIH already has a large overseas membership, principally here in Hong Kong, forming a significant part of our over 18,000 members, working around the world to improve housing.

In the last few months I have represented the CIH at international events in Chicago, in the United States and Cape Town, in South Africa - and I am particularly grateful to the Asian Pacific

Branch for arranging visits to Shenzhen and Chongqing as well as here in Hong Kong to learn more about the particular issues that you face in this part of the world.

Of course the needs of the housing industry in England, Hong Kong and elsewhere in the world are different. Housing policy and housing practice have to be set within the context of very different economic circumstances, societies and cultural values.

But whatever differences there may be between us; policies to create sustainable communities, ensuring adequate housing for those in greatest need and doing so in a way which encourages different organisations and different sectors of the community to work together more effectively are not restricted to any one country and there is much to learn from each other.

The CIH however has a unique role in working with colleagues in different countries to ensure that people working in housing have adequate education, training and professional support to develop housing solutions which meet local needs.

In Hong Kong we have worked closely with colleagues at the Hong Kong University and City University in Hong Kong to develop education programmes which meet local needs and we are fully committed to supporting the continued success of these courses.

We also recognise the growing demand for developing housing management skills in other parts of the Asian Pacific.

In recent years my colleagues on the Asian Pacific Branch Executive Committee have done much to extend networking with individuals and to strengthen communications with friendly organisations in the Peoples Republic of China

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and we will continue to work with the Asian Pacific Branch over the next few months to promote new routes for membership for distinguished professionals already working in China, and to develop Distance Learning programmes to support further professional development.

Members of the Asian Pacific Branch of the CIH deserve full acknowledgement for their vision and professionalism and on behalf of the CIH's Council I would like to thank all those members who contribute to that vision and to those who continue to promote the role the CIH can play in driving up standards.

Chairman, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, the Chartered Institute of Housing's charitable objective is to develop the art and science of housing management.

In recent years the expectations placed on housing professionals have grown. We have acknowledged this in our mission statement which focuses on the contribution we as housing professionals make to the wider, well being of communities.

Next year we will be developing our work programme through a new three years Business Plan. Our progress will be framed around five critical success factors:

- Improving individual and organisational performance
- Shaping the policy agenda
- Being an inclusive professional body
- Becoming the market leader in the products and services we provide, and
- Building our own capacity

As an organisation our ability to develop this agenda will only be possible with your continued support. I hope that we will be able to meet again to progress these objectives both in the UK and here in the Asian Pacific and to continue to develop the CIH's role as a truly international organisation.

In closing my speech, I would like to reflect on the time I have spent in Hong Kong and China and to share with you some brief thoughts before I return to the UK tomorrow. My visit has been interesting and I have learnt a great deal in a short space of time about the work you are doing in the fields of housing and property management. I respect the strong links, which exist between the CIH Asian Pacific Branch and the Hong Kong Institute of Housing and those links are confirmed by the office sharing arrangements and by this joint annual dinner. This sharing also leads me to my final point: it is not money, policies, systems or processes that make things happen - it is people; and I have been enormously impressed by the obvious skill, experience and commitment of everyone I have met. But most of all I have been impressed by the friendliness and hospitality extended to me by all of you. This credit extends to China where the English word most often spoken to me, and always with a smile was welcome.

I will carry home with me excellent memories of what I have learnt about housing in this part of the world, and about the many places I have visited and things I have seen but, most of all, it will be the memory of the people who have shared their precious time with me that I will treasure most.

Thank you very much indeed.