

Summary Notes of the 7th ARB Meeting 2008

Date: 12 November 2008

Nomination of Contractors Registration Committee Panel and Contractors Registration Committee

Having checked the availability of the 11 current serving members and going through the open nomination by e-circulation, in late October 2008 the Board has passed 11 names to the Building Authority for consideration of appointment for the next term of two years starting 2 January 2009.

Nomination of Authorized Persons', Registered Structural Engineers' and Registered Geotechnical Engineers' Disciplinary Board Panel

The Board was requested to nominate 5 registered architects for the Buildings Authority's consideration of appointment to APRSE/RGE DB for the next term of three years starting 1 April 2009.

To encourage nominations, the Board confirmed to post a 1-week notice onto both ARB and HKIA website as an open invitation, as well as to HKIA Corporate Members, for making suitable nominations amongst their staff strength. The interested nominees were requested to submit their CVs for ARB's review at the next meeting on 12 December 2008.

Meanwhile, the Secretariat would check with the 4 current APRSE/RGE DB members for their interest in being nominated for the next term.

ARB proposed e-format of certificate of renewal

The Board agreed with the legal advice given on 25 September 2008 that the "certificate" referred to in section 18 of the Architects Registration Ordinance (ARO) was undoubtedly a physical document with a view to providing evidence of registration, and confirmed to retain the physical certificate for all registered architects, instead of switching to e-certificate.

The Secretariat would help source alternatives to ease the paper weight by not using hardboard envelope.

Investment Plan

The House Committee proposed to take a more conservative approach and ARB's Certificate of Deposit with HSBC was confirmed by email on 29 October 2008. Relevant bank documents and signatories were arranged for this risk-reduced investment strategy.

Recognition of Non-local Professional Registration Qualifications

Registrar outlined the background of ARB progress in recognition of non-local professional registration qualifications since 6 August 2007. It was noted that the mutual agreement with Architects Accreditation Council of Australia (AACA) was entrusted to HKIA to act on, and negotiation with other registration bodies would be acted upon request.

Joint CPD Provisional Taskforce

Members agreed that mandatory CPD is a global trend and would help maintain professionalism from the public perspective.

It was suggested to further bring up this initiative with other professional institutes and registration bodies for deliberation to make the voice louder.

Lodge of a Complaint with ARB

It was suggested that official procedures for lodging a complaint should be developed and the Secretariat had surfed over the websites of the local registration boards for reference to ARB to start with.