

Letterhead of THE LAW SOCIETY OF HONG KONG

From the President

5 October 2001

Dear Member,

At the time that you read this letter I shall be in Christchurch, New Zealand representing the Law Society firstly at the Law Asia Conference and then at the annual meeting of Presidents of Law Associations in Asia (POLA). However during my absence there are a couple of matters to which I would like to draw your attention.

Professional Indemnity Scheme

For those of you who have been following events in relation to renewal of indemnity cover for the year 2001/2 you may be interested to know that members of the Council and the directors of Hong Kong Solicitors Indemnity Fund Limited (“the company”) have met with two solicitors who have been in correspondence with the Law Society over the increased contributions. During the meeting the solicitors were informed that one of the benefits of entering into the 5 year contracts with re-insurers was to provide a period of premium stability whilst an in-depth review of the Professional Indemnity Scheme took place. That review by an independent person/body will take place so that before the expiration of the 5 year contracts in 2005 a decision will have been taken and, if necessary, legislative amendments put in hand to maintain the existing mutual fund or to demutualise or put into effect such other options as may be proposed. We shall be asking the general membership for a mandate to carry out the review particularly since it is likely to involve very considerable expense for the Law Society and the company. I would welcome suggestions from members as to the identity of any potential consultant who might carry out such a review. The consultant clearly must not be associated as broker or otherwise with any organisation which might be seen to benefit either from retaining the status quo or on demutualisation but has nevertheless, wide experience of professional indemnity insurance. Please contact the Secretary General (sg@hklawsoc.org.hk) with particulars of any suggestions you may wish to make as to who might carry out such a review.

Solicitors Changing Rooms at the High Court

On a more mundane note the Law Society has been asked by the Judiciary whether we are willing to release the two rooms at LG1/F of the High Court that are currently “earmarked” as being Male & Female Solicitors’ Changing Rooms. The Council does not wish to dispense with the use of these rooms but in the event that members are unaware of their existence I attach a plan provided by the Judiciary so that you may make better use of them.

Yours sincerely,

Herbert Tsoi
President