

To: Legislative Council Panel on House

**The Hong Kong Institute of Surveyors
Paper on Housing Managers Registration Ordinance**

The Hong Kong Institute of Surveyors is a professional body with members dealing with all aspects of property including housing/ residential management. The Institute has some 6,000 members including students. Surveyors are active in the maintenance and management of buildings, and have assisted greatly during the SARS outbreak.

Currently the Institute has around 100 members working in the Housing Management field. Section 12 of the Housing Managers Registration Ordinance allows registration of those in a housing management body the membership of which is accepted by the board as being as a standard not less than that of a member of the Hong Kong Institute of Housing. Members of Hong Kong Institute of Surveyors have been involved in the management of residential buildings for many years. We are of the view that membership of the Institute is of no less a standard than the Hong Kong Institute of Housing.

We ask that practitioners experienced in the Housing Management field now be accepted for registration under section 12(a)(ii) of the Ordinance, basing on experience. It should be noted that registration as such is not a pre-requisite for working in this field.

It should also be noted that a number of the current Housing Managers Registration Board members are also members of the Hong Kong Institute of Surveyors, though appointed in different capacities.

We feel arrangements put in place by the Housing Managers Registration Board that surveyors write 3 papers, prior to consideration for registration is unreasonable, for experienced professionals, and this has never been accepted by the Hong Kong Institute of Surveyors. They were instituted without consultation. They are administrative in nature, and not part of the Ordinance.

The unfortunate effect of these provisions is to put unreasonable obstacles in the way of registration. There is no level playing field. They act as a road block to registration by other practitioners in the field, not members of the Hong Kong Institute of Housing.

Prominent surveyors work in the Housing Management field, in both the private and public sectors, in senior positions. People such as these have vast experience in the field, and would enhance and improve the register of Housing Managers.

We ask for a level playing field, fairness and equal treatment, for all experienced professionals including those of us of the Hong Kong Institute of Surveyors. Registration should be based on experience. We also ask that the Hong Kong Institute of Surveyors being a broad based property institute, now be given designated places on the registration board.

There is a broad range of professionals working in the Housing Management field, the ordinance should reflect this fact, and the constituency of the board should be changed to accordingly.

Now may be the time to further improve property management setting up clear in Hong Kong, in general through registration of all practicing property managers, coupled with statutory requirement that all property management bodies must meet.

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