



香港工程師學會

THE HONG KONG INSTITUTION OF ENGINEERS

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By mail and by fax at 2869 6794

4 May 2010

Clerk to Bills Committee
Bills Committee on Buildings (Amendment) Bill 2010
Legislative Council Secretariat
3rd Floor, Citibank Tower
3 Garden Road, Central
Hong Kong

(Attn: Mr Daniel SIN)

Dear Mr Sin,

Views on the Buildings (Amendment) Bill 2010

Further to our submission to the Buildings (Amendment) Bill 2010 (the Bill) in March 2010 and my attendance to the Committee meeting on 20 March 2010, I would like to draw your attention that while the Hong Kong Institution of Engineers is in support of the Bill, we would like to register our disagreement on the views of the Hong Kong Institute of Surveyors (HKIS) in regard to the Mandatory Building Inspection Scheme (MBIS) and Mandatory Window Inspection Scheme (MWIS) in the Building (Amendment) Bill 2010, in particular to the registered inspectors (RIs) qualification requirement as stated in paragraph 3a) of their submission. We are also disappointed that the attendees were not given a copy of their submission prior to the meeting in this instance.

Nevertheless, please find a copy of my verbal statement to the Committee meeting for your record.

Your attention in this matter is appreciated.

Yours sincerely,

Ir Dr Andrew CHAN, JP
President

Enc

AC/MY/KL

Verbal statement by the HKIE President to the LegCo Bills Committee Meeting

20 March 2010

- The HKIE wishes to state our clear support for both the MBIS, MWIS and the Buildings (Amendment) Bill 2010.
- We believe it is a sound and basic step towards making the necessary progress in rehabilitation of the aging building stock in our city, and it will also bring consequential benefit of improved public safety. This is key to a sustainable living environment. Indeed for a number of years (since 2005), the HKIE has supported the mandatory approach and the speeding up of such inspection and repair work as a matter of routine.
- We support the proposed target buildings in the MBIS and the approach of inspection, and we consider the proposed volume of work per year is reasonable. To this end, the HKIE is pleased to see the expanded pool of service providers (beyond AP/RSE to RPE etc.) which will help in terms of expertise and in meeting demand.
- We support that it is the owners' responsibility for inspecting and repairing their own properties. But at the same time we are pleased to see the interim assistance being offered to those really in need.
- Similarly we endorse the proposals for the MWIS.
- As to the implementation of the schemes, we have made suggestions recently to the committee that :
 1. To help building owners to judge performance of the R.I. and quality of the contractor's repair work, it would be useful to consider preparing guidelines and some form of control mechanism for ensuring quality and consistency; and
 2. For buildings without OCs and have difficulties in organising the inspection, it is worth the government considering some form of advisory assistance
- As to the Voluntary Inspection and the Voluntary Building Classification Scheme, whilst we agree the approach is basically sound, we believe it is advisable that appropriate publicity work is undertaken to explain to the public the relationship with the mandatory schemes.