



31 January 2002

BY FAX & POST
#45 3886 0252

Mr. Robert W. Foster
President FIG
International Federation of Surveyors
Lindevangs Allé 4
DK-2000 Frederiksberg
Denmark

Dear President Robert Foster

**Membership application of the Hong Kong Institute of Engineering Surveyors
to become a member of FIG**

Thank you for your letter of 19 December 2001.

Our General Council has carefully considered the suggestion made by your Council that HKIS and HKIES should form a national FIG Forum that could assume international responsibilities and be the member of FIG from Hong Kong. I wish to inform you regrettably that this Institute considers your suggestion not acceptable.

We have put forward our views why we object to HKIES to become a member of FIG in our previous correspondence to FIG. However I wish to elaborate further our view points as follows.

Our Institute has been established under the law of Hong Kong as a professional surveyor institute, i.e. the Hong Kong Institute of Surveyors Ordinance. It has very stringent requirements for election as member of our Institute and code of practice for member to comply with in order to maintain a high standard of professionalism. Indeed this arrangement is at par with allied construction professional institutes, such as, the architects, engineers, and town planners. Our Institute is open to anyone for election as member provided they have the requisite academic qualification and experience.

Our membership is a well recognized qualification for employment as professional surveyors in many government departments, some 1500 in number, and some are occupying key official posts such as director or commissioner of departments, while another 1,500 members are working in private sector as employees or partners, or even own business. Indeed, most of the surveyors employed in the government are our members whilst only a small number are with overseas professional qualifications. Also our membership is the only recognized local qualification for admission as Registered Professional Surveyors of the Professional Surveyors Registration Board. Under the Land Surveyor Ordinance our membership is the only recognized local qualification to become Authorized Land Surveyors to carry out land boundary survey work. It is obvious therefore that the HKIS is the only local professional surveyor qualification recognized and well received in Hong Kong. In fact our Institute is playing an important role in the professional and political arena and the government would consult us on all policy matters related to surveying.



Our Institute covers a wide scope of professional activities including property general practice, quantity survey, building survey, development and planning, and land surveying. Definitely, engineering survey is one of the activities that our members are engaged in at a professional level both in the public and private sector. For example, all engineering survey units in the government are in-charged by professional surveyors holding HKIS membership. Understandably, besides professional surveyors who provide professional input and supervision there are other supporting staff engaged at technical level, such as survey technicians. Therefore our Institute is fully qualified to represent professional practitioners in all fields of surveying, including engineering surveying, in Hong Kong and is fully competent to advise on surveying matters relevant to here.

We are of the opinion that FIG is a reputable international organisation with members of high professional standard and representing their respective countries or regions, fields of expertise or academics. Indeed we are very honoured to be a member of FIG. We are concerned if FIG should admit some group of lesser standing it would undermine its status. We therefore sincerely wish that the FIG Council would seriously consider our points of objection to admitting HKIES as a member association.

Regards

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to be 'Hak Chan', is written across the page.

Hak Chan
President