

# **Proposed Members' Bill to establish the Hong Kong Institute of Qualified Environmental Professionals as a Statutory Body**

**Legislative Council Panel on Environmental Affairs  
25 March 2024 (Monday)**

( 1 )



# Expand the talent pool for environmental professionals to address climate change

- To address the various challenges due to climate change, President Xi Jinping of the People's Republic of China announced in September 2020 the aim to achieve carbon peaking before 2030 and carbon neutrality before 2060. The “dual carbon” goals is a central strategy for the Mainland, and laid out clear direction and strategies to establish a green, low-carbon and circular economy in the future.
- Hong Kong has also been actively promoting efforts to address climate change. The SAR government announced the “Hong Kong Climate Action Plan 2050” in October 2021, striving to reduce our carbon emissions by 50% before 2035 and achieve carbon neutrality before 2050. Under this development situation, the industry expects that the demand for environmental professionals in Hong Kong will become increasingly strong.
- In order to promptly seize the new growth momentum brought by the low-carbon transformation and the opportunities of cooperation with neighbouring regions, Hong Kong needs to improve the professional qualifications structure and continuous professional development of environmental professionals, enhance the status of relevant professional societies, and train more young people to become professionals with relevant knowledge and skills and continue to enrich the environmental professional talent pool.

# Overview of the Hong Kong Institute of Qualified Environmental Professionals (HKIQEP)

- The HKIQEP was established in 2015 by a group of interested parties from the corporate sector, public sector and existing environmental professional institutions
  - address the environmental challenges
  - turn into a development opportunity for Hong Kong as well as the GBA
- The HKIQEP aims to transform Hong Kong into a center of excellence in professional environmental services that is aligned with and supportive of developing the environmental services industry as one of the pillar industries of Hong Kong
  - Help create more quality jobs for our future and young generations to pursue green and sustainable career by providing a clear professional pathway
  - Further Hong Kong's longstanding strengths in professional industries



# HKIQEP Vision

- To develop Hong Kong as the Centre of Excellence for developing qualified environmental professionals in the Pearl River Delta (PRD) region.

# HKIQEP Strategy

- Developing a qualification process and registry of qualified environmental professionals
- Creating a market demand for qualified environmental professionals
- Strengthening environmental tertiary education
- Nurturing cross-disciplinary environmental professionals

# General Council

**President:** Mr. Freeman Cheung Chun Ming

**Vice-President:** Dr. Peter Louie Kwok Keung

**Vice-President:** Prof. Alexis Lau Kai Hon

**Honorary Secretary:** Mr. Wilson Tsui Bing Cheung

**Honorary Treasurer:** Ms. Grace Kwok May Han

**Councillor:** Dr. Jeanne Ng Chi Yun

**Councillor:** Mr. Samuel Kwong

**Councillor:** Dr. Vincent Cheung Tsz Fai

**Councillor:** Prof. Jonathan Wong Woon Chung

**Councillor:** Mr. David Yeung Bing Kwan

**Councillor:** Dr. Billy Hau Chi Hang



# Honorary Advisors

Ir Dr Hon Lo Wai-kwok



Prof. Christine Loh Kung-wai



Prof. Lam Kin-che



# Honorary Legal Advisor

Mr Eric Chiu Kin-fai

# Legal Representative for the Bill

Prof. Albert So Man-kit

# HKIQEP's Qualification System

- HKIQEP was established to promote, develop and maintain a qualification system covering the professional assessment of all six environmental areas:
  1. Environmental science, management and policy;
  2. Air;
  3. Noise;
  4. Environmental impact assessment and hazard assessment;
  5. Waste; and
  6. Water
- More than 1,200 participants have taken part in the examinations since 2015
- Growing membership (> 660) working in the environmental protection industry both in Hong Kong and the GBA
- Qualified environmental professionals play an important role in:
  - Meeting the current and future environmental expertise needs
  - Supporting the development of the environmental industry
  - Maintaining a register of suitably qualified environmental professionals in Hong Kong



# HKIQEP's achievements in the past

- *Members of the HKIQEP have, in their professional capacity, participated in all aspects of environmental protection in Hong Kong*
  - (1) many **pledging companies** from a wide range of industries, including property developers, engineering firms, consultancies, public utility companies and statutory bodies supported the continuous professional development of qualified environmental professionals in Hong Kong, and pledged to recognize qualifications accredited by the HKIQEP for environment-related positions, and to encourage relevant staff to pursue the HKIQEP's professional qualifications
  - (2) the **Youth Summit 2022** discussed and demonstrated how young environmental professionals across different sectors could take an active role in achieving carbon neutrality in the GBA



# HKIQEP's achievements in the past (cont'd)

(3) **Graduate Environmental Mentoring Scheme (GEMS)** launched in response to the Government's initiative under the Green Employment Scheme facilitated the continuous development of environmental graduates and connected the graduates and the environmental industry professionals

(4) The **Accreditation Scheme** encouraged educational institutions to provide environmental degree programmes with appropriate breadth in fundamental environmental principles and depth in specific areas, and forged better collaboration between academic and practicing environmental professionals, with accredited undergraduate programmes at the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong Baptist University and The University of Hong Kong


(5) **Certification scheme to identify and certify modelling practitioners** was launched to support and encourage professional development of members of the HKIQEP in air and noise modelling which is a significant component in the environmental impact assessment and land use planning process in Hong Kong

(6) The development of an **Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG)** programme with a focus on environmental and sustainability perspectives as these would be instrumental in the increasing demand of transparency and assurance regarding ESG performance in the development of green finance in Hong Kong.

# HKIQEP's Recognition by Government

- **Development Bureau (DevB)**

Endorsed by the **Engineering and Associated Consultants Selection Board (EACSB)** as one of the qualification requirements for consultants to engage expertise as professionals in the environmental studies

 <p>The image shows the cover of the 'EACSB HANDBOOK'. The text on the cover includes: 'ENGINEERING &amp; ASSOCIATED CONSULTANTS SELECTION BOARD', 'EACSB HANDBOOK', 'HANDBOOK OF SELECTION, APPOINTMENT AND ADMINISTRATION OF ENGINEERING AND ASSOCIATED CONSULTANTS', and 'EACSB VISION 2020'.</p>	<b>Professional in Environmental Studies (P6)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>(1) A corporate member of the HKIE (Environmental Discipline) or equivalent; or</li><li>(2) A professional member of Hong Kong Institute of Qualified Environmental Professionals (HKIQEP), or equivalent; or</li><li>(3) A holder of university degree or equivalent in a relevant discipline, such as environmental science, with 8 years relevant post-qualification experience</li></ul>
---	---	--

- **Environmental Protection Department (EPD)**

HKIQEP's Professional Members to certify noise testing report under Noise Control Ordinance Cap.400D - **NOISE CONTROL (HAND HELD PERCUSSIVE BREAKERS) REGULATIONS**

Developed and launched the **Certification Scheme for Air and Noise Modelling Professionals** in collaboration with EPD to streamline the EIA and land use planning processes

# HKIQEP's Recognition by Business Sector

45 entities have already pledged to support the qualified environmental professionals in their recruitment of environment-related positions, and to encourage existing staff members to pursue a HKIQEP qualification.



Pledging Companies

Pledge Event Sponsors



# The Benefits of the Legislation Proposal

- Growing demand for skilled environmental professionals in environmental sustainability, climate change and carbon neutrality
- More quality jobs for our future and young generations to pursue green and sustainable career by providing a clear professional pathway
- Enhancing the qualifications of environmental professionals could create new job opportunities
- Qualified environmental professionals could also help in securing financing for environmentally sustainable projects
- Environmental professionals with expertise in sustainability could help companies by improving their environmental performance
- Developing the qualification of the environmental professionals could motivate and attract young talents to join the profession

# The Objectives of the Bill

- The purpose of the Bill is to give the HKIQEP the status of an incorporated body so that it will be a legal entity with perpetual succession and can only be dissolved by another statute passed by the Legislative Council
- This will ensure the existence and independence of the HKIQEP in the long run

# Consultation of Stakeholders

- The HKIQEP has long-standing support from the Environment and Ecology Bureau and Environmental Protection Department in the pursue of a professional qualification system and the continuous development for environmental professionals, and the support from the Administration has been instrumental in recognising the importance of professional qualifications in tackling global challenges such as climate change and carbon neutrality, and in meeting the increasing demand for skilled professionals in the field
- Taking a collaborative approach to ensure the Bill is well-received and implemented effectively, the HKIQEP also consulted a wide spectrum of other stakeholders affected by the Bill and their responses were positive and supportive with constructive exchanges at the engagement events.

# Supporting Letters Received

## Govt and other Public Bodies

1. EPD
2. HKIE
3. HKIP
4. HKIA
5. BEC

## Other Institutes

1. HKIEPO
2. EMAHK
3. GBACNA
4. HKMEA
5. CRECCHKI
6. NESS
7. HKIOA
8. BSOMES
9. HKICM
10. HKGFA
11. HKIEIA
12. HKWPEA

## Universities

1. The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology
2. The University of Hong Kong
3. The Chinese University of Hong Kong
4. The Education University of Hong Kong
5. City University of Hong Kong
6. Hong Kong Baptist University
7. Hong Kong Polytechnic University

## Think-tanks

1. Civic Exchange
- 2 Green Council

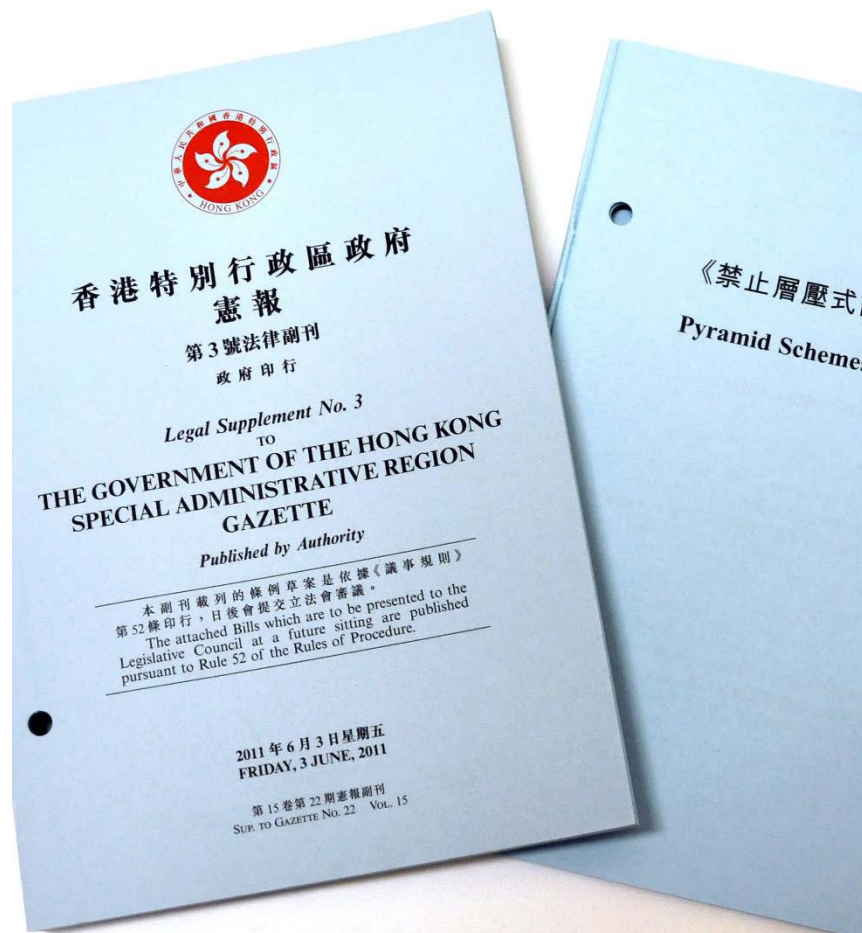
## Private Companies

1. AECOM
2. Arup
3. China Harbour Engineering Co Ltd
4. Meinhardt

# Private Member's Bill

The Bill does not relate to:

- Public expenditure
- Political structure
- Operation of the Government





# Law drafting

- The Bill conforms to both the form of bills according to the Rules of Procedure of the Legislative Council of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region and the general form of Hong Kong legislation
- Certificate has been issued by the Law Draftsman of Department of Justice

## DRAFTING LEGISLATION IN HONG KONG

A GUIDE TO  
*Styles & Practices*

LAW DRAFTING DIVISION  
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE



Section(s)	Short title
S1	
S2	Interpretation
S3	Incorporation of Hong Kong Institute of Qualified Environmental Professionals
S4	Objects of the Institute
S5	Powers of the Institute
S6	Vesting of Property
S7	Establishment of General Council
S8	Powers of General Council
S9	Membership
S10	Existing Constitution to become Constitution of the Institute
S11	Particulars to be delivered to the Registrar of Companies
S12	Saving

# Thanks

