

HKQAA Symposium

“Build the Livable City, Shape a Sustainable Community”

(25 August 2023, Hong Kong) Hong Kong Quality Assurance Agency (HKQAA) held a symposium at Hong Kong Maritime Museum today. The officiating guest was Mr Tai Sheung Shing, Victor, JP, Acting Secretary for Housing of Hong Kong Special Administrative Region. Special guests were Mr Zhou Zhuohao, Director of the Construction Market Supervision Division of Housing and Urban-Rural Development Department of Guangdong Province; and Mr Yang Yanzhang, Assistant Dean of Shenzhen Academy of Metrology and Quality Inspection, Shenzhen Administration for Market Regulation.

Political and business leaders from the Greater Bay Area (GBA) explore livable city strategies

The sustainable development of cities has emerged as a vital concern in this era. As one of the pioneers in fostering sustainability in the GBA, HKQAA invited renowned leaders and experts from the GBA to share their insights into this important topic at the Symposium. The aim is to support the United Nation and the Government in addressing climate change and promoting green and sustainable development.

The Shenzhen Administration for Market Regulation served as the collaborating organisation for the event. Expert speakers included Mr Ryan Ip, CFA, MRICS, Vice President and Co-Head of Research of Our Hong Kong Foundation; Ms Zhou Quan, Member of the 14th National Committee of the CPPCC, Deputy Chief Engineer of Guangdong Provincial Academy of Building Research; Mr Ng Wang Tsang, Andy, Chairman of Hong Kong General Chamber of Social Enterprises; Ir Dr Cary Chan, JP, Executive Director of Hong Kong Green Building Council; Ir Allan Chan, MH, Permanent Supervisor of Hong Kong Construction Association; and Professor Thomas Ng, Head of the Department of Architecture and Civil Engineering, City University of Hong Kong.

Symposium's contribution to inclusive and sustainable development

The Symposium was live-streamed throughout the day, attracting an online and offline audience of over 800 senior executives from government departments, professional organisations, academic institutions and businesses in the GBA.

Ir C.S. Ho, Chairman of HKQAA, said, “It is hoped that the event can draw upon our collective wisdom to explore forward-looking strategies on topics such as innovative construction methods, green and low-carbon initiatives and inclusive communities, to accelerate the sustainable development of cities in the GBA.”

The Hong Kong Maritime Museum was chosen to be the event venue since it is a good example of an inclusive and sustainable community. It promotes historical and cultural

heritage, as well as social inclusivity through a social enterprise collaboration project called Café 8, which supplied refreshments for the Symposium. The Café provides employment opportunities for individuals with learning disabilities.

New services promote the application of innovative construction methods

As one of the leading conformity assessment bodies and standard setters in the GBA, HKQAA organises industry exchange activities and has taken the lead in developing a range of services in green and sustainable finance, carbon neutrality, climate risk management and ESG disclosure. The Agency is dedicated to actively participating in the development of national, international and industry standards and committed to promoting sustainable development within the industry.

Ir Ho explained, “We support the construction industry in addressing challenges and trends by developing new initiatives and services for promoting the adoption of Modular Integrated Construction (MiC), Building Information Modeling (BIM), and the Common Data Environment (CDE). These aim to drive improvements in efficiency and sustainability performance by promoting the adoption of innovative construction methods.”

Recognising organisations and companies that contribute to green and sustainable development

A presentation ceremony for the “Green and Sustainability Contribution Awards 2023” was held at the Symposium. The Awards aim to encourage companies to incorporate sustainable practices into their management decisions and daily operations, and recognise their efforts and contributions. This year, 400 companies and venues from Hong Kong and other cities in the GBA were honoured. For details, please refer to the awardee list in the appendix.

Dr Michael P. H. Lam, Chief Executive Officer of HKQAA, said that he expected these organisations to play a leading role in encouraging more industry members to put sustainable development concepts into practice. HKQAA will continue to collaborate closely with all sectors of society to jointly build a sustainable future.

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Mr Tai Sheung Shing, Victor, JP, Acting Secretary for Housing of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (Middle); Mr Zhou Zhuohao, Director of the Construction Market Supervision Division of Housing and Urban-Rural Development Department of Guangdong Province (second from left); Mr Yang Yanzhang, Assistant Dean of Shenzhen Academy of Metrology and Quality Inspection, Shenzhen Administration for Market Regulation (left); Ir C.S. Ho, Chairman of HKQAA (second from right); Dr Michael P. H. Lam, CEO of HKQAA (right)



Group photo with the main guests, HKQAA Governing Council members and guest speakers



(left) Ir C.S. Ho, Chairman of HKQAA
(right) Mr Tai Sheung Shing, Victor, JP, Acting Secretary for Housing of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region



(left) Mr Zhou Zhuohao, Director of the Construction Market Supervision Division of Housing and Urban-Rural Development Department of Guangdong Province
(right) Mr Yang Yanzhang, Assistant Dean of Shenzhen Academy of Metrology and Quality Inspection, Shenzhen Administration for Market Regulation



Guest speakers (left to right): Mr Ryan Ip, CFA, MRICS, Vice President and Co-Head of Research of Our Hong Kong Foundation; Ms Zhou Quan, Member of the 14th National Committee of the CPPCC, Deputy Chief Engineer of Guangdong Provincial Academy of Building Research; Mr Ng Wang Tsang, Andy, Chairman of Hong Kong General Chamber of Social Enterprises



(second left to right): Ir Dr Cary Chan, JP, Executive Director of Hong Kong Green Building Council; Ir Allan Chan, MH, Permanent Supervisor of Hong Kong Construction Association; and Professor Thomas Ng, Head of the Department of Architecture and Civil Engineering of City University of Hong Kong; Mr Ryan Ip, CFA, MRICS, Vice President and Co-Head of Research of Our Hong Kong Foundation, joined the panel discussion; (left) facilitator, Mr. K.T. Ting, Chief Operating Officer of HKQAA



Group photo with HKQAA Governing Council members and representatives from awarded construction organisations, showcasing the industry's efforts in promoting green and innovative construction methods and aligning with the government's strategies to develop livable cities.



Group photo with representatives of the awarded organisations from different industries, collaborating to contribute to sustainable development



Over 800 senior executives from various government departments, professional organisations, academic institutions, and businesses in the GBA joined the Symposium physically or virtually throughout the day.