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Annual Report for 2020/2021

The year 2020/2021 was still a challenging year for HKAEE and the whole building industry. The COVID-19 continues to dominate our lives and makes any physical activities impossible due to observing the social distancing requirement. Amidst this pandemic period, HKAEE had organized various webinars to effectively engage our members and other professionals online. We also continued our contributions on various institutional and government energy-related matters. The Board of Directors (BoD) held six (6) numbers of meetings in this term. I am pleased to report the key activities below.

1. Membership

As of September 2021, our membership has total 111 members including 52 Life Members, 3 Fellow Members, 41 Ordinary Members, and 15 Corporate Members. Our full membership is recognized by the Hong Kong Green Building Council (HKGBC) as one of the qualifications eligible for applying their RCx Professional. This represents our membership status has further valued and recognized by the industry.

2. Technical Webinars

To promote retro-commissioning for energy saving, the Association co-organized with the HKGBC a webinar on "Energy Performance Improvement on Existing Buildings – Cases Sharing on Retro-commissioning" on 4 Dec 2020. Our past president, Colin Chung presented "System and Energy Performance Optimization through Retro-commissioning". Whereas, our guest speaker, Gary Hui presented the "Pragmatic Application of RCx with Case Studies – A Guide for Speed to Energy Savings". Riding on the success of overwhelming attendance of this webinar, we noted the industry's earnest demand for technology application in retro-commissioning. So, we further co-organized with AEE HK Chapter a series of three webinars under a theme of "Energy Retro-Commissioning Technical Talks for HVAC Systems – Knowledge, M&V and Big Data Analytics." Three experts in the RCx field were invited to deliver the following technical talks.

- RCx basics and HVAC RCx opportunities presented by Victor Leung;
- How M&V integrating in RCx Project presented by Gary Chu; and
- Retro-commissioning Using Big Data Analytics Approach for Optimization, Fault Diagnostics, Measurement and Verification presented by Franco Mok.

All those webinars were successfully finished with resulting in a very encouraging attendance with more than 130 professionals in each webinar.

In addition, our Director, Dr. Sam Hui hosted another online technical talk on “Impact of COVID-19 on Building Energy Management Strategies.” This talk was also well received by the attendants.

Apart from the above webinars, we also supported over twenty (20) numbers of technical webinars, conferences, and other activities organized by our long-term partnering engineering institutions.

3. Training & Education

Due to COVID, our plan of hosting the 2nd round of solar PV installation professional training workshop needs to be suspended. We have supported BEAM Society Training program, Training Course on Energy Audit for Building Energy Efficiency hosted by Energy Institute-HK Branch and other training courses.

We will explore different ways to host the training and education programmes in the coming term, such as introducing more about the concept of carbon neutral, etc.

4. Participation in related Government Committees and Energy Events

The Association has actively contributed views and inputs on various energy-related affairs launched by the HKSAR Government through online consultations and regular meetings.

As invited by different Bureau / Department of the HKSAR Government, the President has attended the following meetings to provide the technical views for consideration.

- 2021/22 Budget Consultation mainly on building a livable city;
- 2021 Policy Address Consultation mainly on Environment and Sustainable Development; and
- Energy Efficiency and Conservation and Renewable Energy Sub-Committee Meeting on Proposal on the Coverage of New Potential Products under the Fourth Phase of the Mandatory Energy Efficiency Labelling Scheme (MEELs).

In May 2021, EMSD initiated the Building Energy Code (BEC) and Energy Audit Code (EAC) Review for 2021 Edition. This is the 3rd review by the EMSD on the energy codes for the purpose to tighten up the energy efficiency requirements. HKAEE has been a member of the Taskforce and various Working Groups over ten years. Our representations are as follows:

Taskforce: Eric Lau

Lighting Working Group: HW Yu

Air-conditioning Working Group: Eric Lau

Lift Working Group: Ringo Shea

Performance Based Working Group: Julie Wong

Energy Audit Working Group: Colin Chung

HKGBC had officially launched the Retro-Commissioning Registration Scheme in 2019. The Association continues as one of the Registration Committee members. Together with other engineering institutions, we have been providing our professional views and advice to HKGBC for establishing the implementation details, such as detailed registration requirements, services capacities, registration fees, review and support on approval of applications of two levels of practitioner professional.

As reported, the Association has further collaborated with the HKGBC to co-organize the Cases Sharing on Retro-Commissioning webinar. We all received the HKGBC's recognition on all our organized webinars in relation to Retro-Commissioning as their certified CPD hours.

On the industry side, HKAEE was invited by Building Services Operation and Maintenance Executives Society (BSOMES) as a Committee Member for showcases selection on the project of "Strengthening the Technical Capability and Regional Collaboration in Implementing Retro-commissioning (RCx) in Buildings".

In respect of the collaboration with utility companies, the Association has been invited by China Light and Power (CLP) to join the Judging Panel of the CLP Smart Energy Award 2021 and the assessment was conducted in July 2021. From servicing the Judging Panel, we anticipated a genuine demand for energy saving advice and technical support from those small and medium-sized enterprises. It inspires a direction to us to provide our technical services to those SMEs whenever appropriate in the future. We will further explore the possible cooperation opportunities with the local power companies and the relevant party.

5. Mainland Liaison

Our Mainland Liaison Committee Chair, Ir Richard Chan passed away on 7 April 2021 at the age of 94. He co-founded our Association in 1980 and was the Association's President in 1981. Richard had been the Chairman of Mainland Liaison Committee since 2009. Under his leadership, the HKAEE provided many opportunities to our members and industry professionals to participate in various technical exchange seminars with the counterpart societies, universities, and government departments in Mainland China. We missed Richard a lot and thanked you again for his tremendous effort and contributions to the Association.

Under the situation of COVID-19, we still could not have the opportunity to organize any activities on the Mainland. Meanwhile, the BoD will look for a suitable candidate to take up the chair position of Mainland Liaison Committee.

6. AEE HKC Liaison

The strategic alliance with the Association of Energy Engineers (AEE) – Hong Kong Chapter (HKC) was continued. In this term, HKAEE and AEE (HKC) have jointly organized those retro-commissioning webinars. We thank you for their committee member, Gary Chu as one of our guest speakers.

HKAEE also supported the AEE for the Asia Pacific Rim Region Award 2020. Like our past collaborations, we had supported and promoted all their Certified Energy Manager (CEM), Carbon Audit Professional (CAP) and Certified Measurement and Verification Professional (CMVP) courses held in 2020 and 2021 with our best endeavor. Certainly, we continue to have more and close collaborations between the two Associations.

7. Concluding Remark

Looking ahead, the Association will continue to contribute our effort for advocating and promoting energy-related matters, including Government energy-related policies, Energy codes renewal, application of retro-commissioning technologies and other energy saving techniques.

In view of the local pandemic situation becoming steadier now, we are going to plan physical technical visits to some local job sites as a way of knowledge exchange and connections to our members and other professionals. We will further promote our membership, plan training and educational courses on energy saving and carbon neutral related topics in the future.

Last but not least, I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to our Board of Directors for their guidance, support and contributions in this term. I sincerely look forward to their continued support to work hands-in-hands in the coming term towards HKAEE's mission and the betterment of Hong Kong.



Eric KW Lau
President (2020 – 2022)
HKAEE

30 September 2021