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## Special General Meeting on 2 July 2008

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Minutes of Special General Meeting held on Wednesday 2 July 2008 at 7:30 pm at HKIA Premises, for the proposed changes to Election Rules as detailed in SGM papers dated 2 June 2008.

<i>Present:</i> LU Ronald, President HUI Man Bock Bernard, Hon Secretary CHOI Wun Hing Donald HO Man Yiu Ivan HUI Cheuk Kuen Desmond KAM Heung Wah Briena KWAN Wing Hong LAM Kwong Ki Dominic LAM Ping Hong Robert LAU Kwing Lam Glenn LUSH Alexander NG Wing Shun Vincent NG Yook Man SUN Polly WAI Rosman WONG Kam Sing WONG Po Lung John YIM Sen Kee Rocco	<i>Apologies:</i> CHENG CHAN Ching Ying Elizabeth CHAN Siu Lun CHI Wuh Cherng Daniel HAROON Hamidah IP Tai Wing Vincent KWONG Sum Yee Anna LAU Kam Lin Elaine LIM Wan Fung Bernard LIM Gary Radford LOK Man Fai Felix LU Leslie MO Julie TAM Tin Fong Martin TANG Wai Man Tony WONG Ching Long Jerome YEUNG Lai Fong Alice
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### 1. Welcoming Remarks

President Dr. Ronald Lu welcomed Members to the Special General Meeting for the proposed changes to Election Rules. President explained that this is a re-convened meeting as a quorum of 20 Members was not obtained within half an hour of the last SGM on 17 June 2008. According to Rule 60 of the Institute, if on this second meeting a quorum is still not obtained, this meeting shall nevertheless be one capable of transacting business.

The proposed changes of the Rules required an affirmative vote of two-third of the Members present at the meeting having a right to vote. Dr Lu announced that the voting box shall be open for receiving ballots and the voting was scheduled to close at 8:00pm.

President introduced the Scrutineers, Mr. Ng Yook Man and Mr. John Wong.

### 2. Presentation of the background of and the proposed changes to the Election Rules

President explained that the proposed changes included an introduction of a new

position – President Elect (PE) within Council and a reduction of the term of office for Immediate Past President (IPP) from 2 years to 1 year. The rationale behind the proposed change of Election Rules was to provide the President-Elect a longer lead time to prepare for and familiarize with the works of the President. The revision also allowed the PE greater room to understand the daily operation of the Secretariat. The proposed changes on Election Rules were meant for implementation starting 2009.

### **3. Questions and Answers Session**

President invited questions from the floor. Owing to inclement weather, a quorum was not reached within half an hour after the opening of the last SGM.

Members brought up the comments made at a previous Board of Practices meeting expressing concern to the proposed change of election rules. Whilst Council was aware of such comments which did not necessarily represent views from general membership, a General Meeting should still be conducted to go through the consultation process. Glenn Lau expressed support to the proposed change of Election Rules and shared the merits of the proposed revision. Vincent Ng expressed reservation to proceed taking a vote with only a handful of 18 Members present, making a decision affecting over 2,500 voting members. Whilst Council Member Alex Lush was in support of the proposed revision, he reminded the Meeting to be cautious about the corrosive effect on Council in heading towards a major decision with less than 1% of Members present. The lukewarm response and repeated low attendance to SGMs was given different interpretation by members present at the meeting i.e. silence meant consent or indifference to the proposed revision. This would remain a controversy to be pondered about.

President welcomed free flow of expressions and stated that reference had been made to allied professional bodies, local and overseas. Acting on the recommendations of the Management Consultant recently commissioned by the Institute for organizational review/ reform, two forums and Special Council Meeting had been conducted to gauge members' views on the proposed revision. Hon Secretary Bernard Hui stated that it was Council's own decision to come up with the proposed revision, but not that of the Management Consultant, after consultation through Members' Forum and Special Council Meeting. Donald Choi, nevertheless, added that even the turn-out rate of Members at the 2 consultations Forums was extremely minimal.

After considerable deliberation, President Dr Lu concluded that as voting has clearly been stated in the SGM agenda, he did not see sufficient ground for withdrawing the proposed revision of Rules from voting. Members present were therefore each given a ballot paper for voting.

### **4. Counting of votes and announcement of the result**

Mr. Ng Yook Man and Mr. John Wong carried out the counting of the votes.

Mr. Ng Yook Man announced at 8:00pm that the proposed resolution: "That the proposed changes to Election Rules with effect from the year 2009 as detailed in SGM papers dated 2 June 2008 be adopted" could not be adopted. Out of a total of 18 votes, the meeting received 11 affirmative votes, 6 'against' and 1 'blank return'.

- 5 The Special General Meeting was adjourned at 8:05pm.

Dr. Ronald Lu  
President

Mr. Bernard Hui  
Hon Secretary

25 August 2008

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