

Message from the Chairman of Hong Kong Quality Building Assessment Panel

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I am most pleased to present the VBAS e-Newsletter Issue No. 4 to you amidst this challenging time in Hong Kong. In a flash, it has been over seven years since the launch of the Voluntary Building Assessment Scheme (VBAS) from July 2012.

With “Quality” being one of Hong Kong Housing Society’s core values, we developed the VBAS in coordination with the Buildings Department (BD) and building related professional bodies to promote “quality building management” while at the same time to support Government’s Mandatory Building Inspection Scheme (MBIS) & Mandatory Window Inspection Scheme (MWIS). Through the VBAS, as recognized by the BD, buildings owners of domestic and composite buildings (domestic & commercial) have an alternative way to comply with the statutory requirements instead of going through the MBIS & MWIS (for the windows in common parts only) and at the same time get the prestige of “quality building management” by achieving a certain standard in the building management & maintenance aspects.

Over the years with the increasing awareness of VBAS in the community, a total of 299 buildings have already joined or committed to join VBAS as at March 2020. Among which, 70 buildings were successfully certified with additional Quality Labels in respective areas. These buildings after VBAS certification would not be selected for undergoing the MBIS & MWIS (windows in common parts only) in the respective inspection cycle by the BD. A pool of around 300 registered qualified building professionals are constantly maintained on the VBAS Assessors List and ready to provide professional services in building assessment.

For the past year, I would like to specially commend the outstanding achievements by **CLP Power Hong Kong Limited** (CLP) which were awarded with the “VBAS Premium Certificate” and



Panel Members for 5th Term of Hong Kong Quality Building Assessment Panel (2019-2021)

Left end: Chairman of the Technical Advisory Sub-Committee
Right end: Chairman of the Panel

all 3 kinds of Quality Labels for their first batch of 5 properties. The highlight is that the **first batch** of “Building Maintenance & Repair **Excellent** Quality Labels” was granted to these properties after their great efforts. The said Excellent Quality Label is designed to recognize buildings with extra distinguished performance in the areas of building maintenance and repair **plus** free of Unauthorized Building Works. It is delighted to note that more applications from CLP are coming in.

Lastly, I wish to thank all Hong Kong Quality Building Assessment Panel (Panel) and its Sub-Committees Members for their hard work and support to the Panel Secretariat which services are provided by our professional and dedicated management team throughout the years. Their endless efforts are highly appreciated in the examinations / endorsement / approvals on building certifications and registrations / renewals of VBAS Assessors on a frequent basis. Apart from that, their timely and valuable inputs onto the continuous improvement of the scheme details in response to the changing circumstances and practical needs are also recognized. The 7th revised version of the VBAS Assessment Manual (December 2019) has recently been issued for use.

Looking ahead, I expect more and more buildings will be successfully certified under the VBAS and all of us stay safe and healthy under the COVID-19 pandemic. Welcome to visit our website <http://vbas.hkhs.com> to get a better understanding of the VBAS.