28 April 2015

CIRCULAR

RE: Institutionalization of Quantity Surveyors in Singapore

For the last two decades, SISV has proposed to the Ministry of National Development (MND) to legislate the Quantity Surveying (QS) profession in line with neighbouring countries and other professions in the built environment sector. We explained our role as custodian of private/public funds and the duty of care expected of us to ensure that the funds are spent wisely and effectively, with value-add. MND is however of the view that QS services are contractual obligations to clients and these services do not have direct material liability to the public. They advised that there is no need to enact a legislation to safeguard public interest. In recent follow up discussions, they have recommended that SISV should self-regulate instead of seeking legislation of the QS profession.

In line with the Building Construction Authority’s (BCA) push for greater professionalism and professional workforce productivity, and the concerns in the procurement and accounting lapses highlighted in recent AGO reports, increasing SOP Adjudication cases and the like, SISV recognises the need for QS to play a greater role in built environment sector and be recognised as a true professional. Following consultation with our members and member firms, we decided to embrace MND’s recommendation to collectively raise the profile and stature of our profession and our individual and corporate standards through effective and comprehensive self-regulation that clearly demonstrates our value add to the public and our clients.

We wish to demonstrate that ours is a Recognised Profession, that we are Qualified Professionals and that we provide Professional Services. We wish to give assurance to the public and all stakeholders in the built environment sector that SISV QS members are bound to the high professional standards of a Code of Professional Conduct and are Responsible and Accountable for the services that they provide.

The term “Professional Quantity Surveyor” is contained in the SISV Bye-Law Article 8 and is designated for Honorary Fellows, Fellows and Members of SISV QS Division only. We noted that there had been instances where the public is unclear of SISV membership structure particularly in the QS Division. Please refer to Appendix A on the different categories of our membership structure.

Honorary Fellows, Fellows and Members are now required to use their “Professional Quantity Surveyor Seal” which is an official rubber stamp bearing the institution’s name, member’s name and their unique membership number (see Sample shown below) in the key documents signed by them.
By using the seal we are collectively declaring to our clients and members of the public that a SISV QS member is:

1. A recognised professional that has satisfied stringent entry requirements in terms of having a recognised university degree; has sufficient, relevant and approved local post-graduation experience; and has successfully passed an Assessment of Professional Competence;
2. Bound by the SISV’s Constitution and Bye-Laws;
3. Bound by the Code of Professional Conduct of SISV QS Division which centres on:
   a. Providing services of a high standard with care, efficiency, competence, confidentiality, fidelity and diligence;
   b. Integrity, Fairness and Impartiality;
4. Subject to disciplinary action should he or she contravene the above; and
5. Required to fulfil on-going CPD requirements for membership.

This initiative cannot succeed without your help and support. It is of paramount importance that the Built Environment sector (both private and public) understands and recognises the value and benefit of this “Professional” differentiation. We are therefore writing to all relevant statutory bodies, government procurement entities, private major developers, other professional institutions in the Built Environment sector including your esteemed organisation of our initiative. We hope you will support this initiative and request your QS to affix their QS Seal onto key documents that they are responsible such as:

- Feasibility Study Report
- Construction Cost Estimate Report
- Tender Assessment Report
- Interim Valuation
- Final Account
- Fire Insurance Valuation Report

My QS Council will be most happy to hold personal briefing and consultation sessions with your organisation to discuss any issues you may have. If you have any questions or would like further clarification, I would appreciate that you contact our secretariat, Ms Dina Abdullah at 64240286 or email her at dina@sisv.org.sg to arrange for a convenient time for us to come discuss any issue with you personally.

Kindly disseminate this circular to your members/staff/subsidiaries.

Yours sincerely

Goh Ngan Hong
President
SISV, 27th QS Council

Silas Loh
Immediate Past President
SISV, 27th QS Council

Colin Kin
QS Act Committee Chairman
Hon Secretary, 27th QS Council
Appendix A

SISV membership structure, QS Division

1. The SISV’s membership structure is divided into “Professional Member” (PQS) and “Non Professional Member”.

2. The “Professional Member” (PQS) consists of three (3) classes, namely, Member, Fellow and Honorary Fellow. The definition of each class is:
   
   i. **Honorary Fellows (HFSISV):** are those who have been elected by the Central Management Committee for reason of his position, experience or eminence in the QS profession.
   
   ii. **Fellows (FSISV):** are those who are of eminence in the profession of Quantity Surveying or who have satisfactorily served on QS Council or its committee for at least 2 terms, in addition to being more than thirty-five (35) years of age; have had not less than five (5) years’ professional experience as a principal or in a senior executive position and have been a Member for a minimum period of two (2) years.
   
   iii. **Members (MSISV):** are those who have acquired the approved practical knowledge in QS and have passed the examinations required for the election to member class.

3. The “Non Professional Member” comprises Technical Member, Probationer and Student which are classified as attached to but not being members of SISV. They are defined as:
   
   i. **Probationers** are persons with a degree that is accredited by SISV and who are receiving practical training of minimum two (2) years, and being supervised by a MSISV or FSISV practitioner.
   
   ii. **Students** are those undergoing suitable practical training or instruction at an approved higher learning institution as full time or part time students.
   
   iii. **Technical Members (TechSISV):** are those who have obtained a diploma acceptable to SISV from either a local polytechnic or a foreign polytechnic, or those whose degree is not accredited by SISV, QS Division for admission to professional membership.
9 Sep 2015

Mr Goh Ngan Hong  Mr Silas Loh  Mr Colin Kin
President    Immediate Past President   Honorary Secretary
Singapore Institute of Surveyors and Valuers
110 Middle Road
#09-00 Chiat Hong Building
Singapore 188968

Dear Mr Goh, Mr Loh and Mr Kin,

1. I refer to your letter of 24 April 2015 on the Singapore Institute of Surveyors and Valuers’ (SISV) initiative on the “Professional Quantity Surveyor (QS) Seal”.

2. We support SISV’s commitment to professionalism and its initiative to require SISV-registered QSe to affix their Professional QS seals on official documents, which they endorsed. This would raise the profile of the Professional Members in SISV QS Division.

Yours sincerely,

Yap Him Hoo (Dr)
Senior Director (Infrastructure)
Ministry of National Development