
From: HKILA Secretariat <secretariat@hkila.com>
Sent: Wednesday, 4 June 2025 9:30 am
To: mrkeithhuang@outlook.com
Subject: Update on Proposed Technician Membership Scheme – Feedback Summary & Council Response



Dear Members,

Further to the 25 April email and discussion during AGM, we have invited and received feedback on the proposed Technician Membership scheme by **16 May**, which are summarized as below:

Questions:

1. Whether or not Technician Members have voting right in HKILA?
2. Is there a pathway for Technician Members to become Professional Members of HKILA?
3. Are HKILA professional members automatically eligible to be Technician Members? Can they be exempted from the oral assessment?
4. Is the scheme going to be attractive enough to CHSLA and the international arena for mutual recognition?

Opinions/ Suggestions:

1. Suggest allowing Technician Members to join HKILA committees/ task forces, or council (as long as they are not the majority) for their participation in institutional affairs and to allow their views represented by HKILA.

2. Instead of a new category, can we explore widening the spectrum of the existing “associate membership” category to fulfil the purpose?
3. To make the scheme more attractive to CHSLA and internationally, suggest a different name, such as “landscape engineer”.
4. Instead of a new category of membership, suggest renaming as “Accredited Landscape Technician” similar to our existing “Accredited Arborist” scheme.

On behalf of the Council, we are pleased to share the following responses based on the current design of the proposed scheme:

1. Proposed technician members have no voting right on general meetings, but they may speak at general meeting similar to other classes of members. In other words, the current mechanism of Meeting and Voting under Constitution and By-Law remain unaffected.
2. There is no pathway for Technician Members to become Professional Members. This is different from the Technician Membership of UKLI that provides a pathway towards their charter membership, although we learned from UKLI during last year’s exchange that it is not a popular choice as most (if not all) of their technician members do not intend to become charter landscape architects. It is also not applicable to CHSLA as they have not yet established a mechanism for professional membership or licenced landscape architect.
3. HKILA professional member cannot be automatically eligible to be technician member because technician membership requires 3 years of post-academic qualification experience. However, the council considers it reasonable for professional members who meet the experience requirement to exempt from taking the oral assessment.
4. We cannot predict or speculate how much interest we will receive from CHSLA members and the international communities to this scheme, and believe that, like all other qualifications, takes time to gain its recognition. What we can share is that the proposal, despite in its preliminary form, has gained much support from the local landscape industry, the government (DEVB), and CHSLA.

5. Associate membership is meant for those holding an accredited degree (including fresh graduates) and eligible to take PPE once acquiring sufficient experience. It is not comparable with the proposed technician membership, and we consider it technically not feasible (and inappropriate) for this class of membership to suit the purpose.
6. We are open to the naming of this new class of membership, but to suit the objectives it needs to be comparable and easily understood by the local industry, CHSLA, and internationally, which usually is in the form of membership instead of a mere accreditation system.

Given CHSLA's "Engineering Membership" and the intention for it to gain international recognition through Hong Kong align with our national and government policy, HKILA should take an active role to facilitate and in doing so act to the best interest of the profession. Once established, the scheme can also go through further developments as we see the need.

We intend to host an **Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) on 20 June 2025** for the establishment of technician membership, which our Honorary Secretary shall make a separate announcement with the details.

Regards,

Paul CHAN | President

The Hong Kong Institute of Landscape Architects

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