

Highlights from the President's Hong Kong visit

RICS President Nick Maclean OBE RD FRICS spent two packed days in Hong Kong, meeting RICS members, senior government representatives, industry leaders and academics through a series of engagements focused on the future of the profession and the priorities shaping Hong Kong's built and natural environments.

From conversations with members over traditional yum cha to meetings with senior government and industry leaders, the visit provided an important opportunity to strengthen relationships, exchange perspectives and explore how RICS' professional expertise, international standards and global network can continue to support Hong Kong.

Starting with our members

The visit began on Sunday afternoon with a traditional yum cha lunch with members of the RICS Hong Kong Member Engagement Group (MEG). Nick met with former RICS President Clement Lau FRICS and MEG members Jonas Wong MRICS, Paco Cheung, Perry Ng FRICS, Anthony Wong MRICS, Winnie Che MRICS, Trevor Sham and Hiuming Chan MRICS for a candid and forward-looking discussion on the future of the surveying profession in Hong Kong.

The conversation provided an opportunity for members to share their perspectives directly with the President, including the evolving needs and expectations of professionals and professional development, and how RICS can continue to strengthen its engagement with and support for members in Hong Kong.

Connecting the built environment and financial markets at HKEX

The next day, Nick visited Hong Kong Exchanges and Clearing Limited (HKEX), together with former RICS President Clement Lau FRICS, RICS Hong Kong Regional Advisory Board Chair Ada Fung FRICS and Patrick Wong FRICS, for discussions with senior HKEX representatives.

The HKEX delegation included Paul Chow, Group General Counsel and Group Chief Sustainability Officer; Kelvin Teo, Head of Asia Issuer Services; Paul Malam, Head of Policy and Secretariat Services; Kelly Lee, Senior Vice President, Policy and Secretariat Services; Ken Chiu, Head of Carbon & ESG Products; and Alfred Fan, Vice President, Global Issuer Services.

The visit also included a tour of HKEX Connect Hall, where the RICS delegation had the opportunity to see the iconic ceremonial gong, traditionally used to mark significant milestones in Hong Kong's capital markets.

The discussion explored Hong Kong's continued development as an international financial centre, sustainability and ESG, and the relationship between the built environment and capital markets. The exchange also considered the importance of trusted valuation and professional standards in supporting transparency, market confidence and the transition towards more sustainable markets.

Supporting the next generation at CUHK

The President's programme continued at The Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK), where Nick presented the RICS accreditation certificate for the University's Master of Science in Sustainable Urban Planning programme. The presentation recognised the programme's connection with RICS professional standards and reflected RICS' wider commitment to education and developing the next generation of built environment professionals.

The visit also provided an opportunity to exchange views with the University on the skills and knowledge future professionals will need as cities respond to sustainability, urban development and other emerging challenges.

Building dialogue with policymakers

Later that evening, Nick also met Hon. Julia Lau Man-kwan, JP, Member of the Legislative Council.

The meeting provided an opportunity to exchange perspectives on Hong Kong's built environment and future development, while discussing how the expertise of chartered surveyors can contribute to policy discussions.

The engagement further strengthened RICS' relationship with policymakers and established a foundation for continued dialogue on issues where the profession can provide practical industry knowledge and international perspectives.

Celebrating Hong Kong's newest RICS professionals

More than 100 guests then gathered at the British Consulate-General Hong Kong for the RICS New Member Reception, celebrating professionals who had recently achieved AssocRICS, MRICS and FRICS status.

Nick welcomed the newest members of the profession and recognised their achievements, while meeting members from across Hong Kong's built and natural environments community.

The reception also highlighted the importance of the professional community that surrounds the RICS qualification and the connections between Hong Kong members and RICS' wider global network.

Discussing Hong Kong's housing priorities

The following morning, Nick continued his programme of government engagement with a meeting with Ms. Winnie Ho, JP, Secretary for Housing, to discuss Hong Kong's housing priorities and the contribution of the surveying profession to the city's evolving housing needs.

Joining Nick were RICS Hong Kong Regional Advisory Board Chair Ada Fung FRICS and China Board Chair KK Chiu FRICS, together with RICS Board members. Ms Ho was joined by Housing Bureau colleagues Wallace Lai, Senior Quantity Surveyor; Andrew Lam MRICS, Assistant Director (Project) 2; and Joe C.K. Wong, Senior Quantity Surveyor.

Together, the two sides exchanged views on the evolving needs of Hong Kong's housing sector, talent development and the role that surveyors and other built environment professionals can play in supporting the city's housing agenda.

The meeting also explored opportunities for RICS to contribute through its international experience, professional standards and global network, including how greater knowledge exchange can connect international good practice with Hong Kong's local expertise and experience.

Concluding with Hong Kong's industry leaders

The President's Hong Kong programme concluded with an executive networking lunch, bringing together senior leaders from across the built and natural environment sectors. Following two days of engagement with members, government, academia and the financial sector, the lunch provided an opportunity to reflect on the discussions throughout the visit and exchange perspectives on the opportunities and challenges ahead for Hong Kong and the profession.

Across a packed two days, the visit strengthened RICS' connections with members and key stakeholders across Hong Kong, while providing valuable insights into the priorities shaping the city's built environment.

RICS Hong Kong looks forward to building on these conversations and continuing to bring together professional expertise, local perspectives and RICS' global network to support the profession and Hong Kong's future development.

