



Mr. CHAN Mo Po, Paul, GBM, GBS, MH, JP

Financial Secretary

25/F, Central Government Offices, 2 Tim Mei Avenue, Tamar, Hong Kong

05 March 2019

Dear Mr. Chan,

Response to the Proposed “Urban Forestry Support Fund” in the 2019-20 Budget and Establishment of Accreditation Scheme on Academic Programmes under HKILA’s Accredited Arborists Scheme

On behalf of the Hong Kong Institute of Landscape Architects’ (HKILA) Panel on Accredited Arborists (the Panel), we welcome the proposed “Urban Forestry Support Fund” in the 2019-20 Budget to strengthen education and enhance the professionalism of the arboricultural trade. We also welcome the recognition of the need of a licensing system for arborists.

The vast benefits of urban greenery towards sustainable and liveable city is well recognized by the society. There is on the other hand increasing public concern on urban trees arising from their improper management and the potential risks they bring upon failure, especially in the increased occurrence of extreme weather in recent years. In view of the inexistence of a licensing system or an effective self-regulated mechanism for practicing arborists, and the standard of arboricultural services varied substantially with some being far from satisfactory, HKILA established the Accredited Arborists Scheme (the Scheme) in 2012 to accredit practicing arborists who met the minimum academic and work experience requirements, and attained the prescribed standard on the 5 areas including tree identification, tree risk assessment, tree works safety, professional ethics and conducts, and arboricultural practice. Those who are successfully accredited are entitled to describe themselves as “HKILA Accredited Arborist” and to use the abbreviated designation “AA (HKILA)”. Accredited Arborists are bound by the *Code of Ethics and Conduct for Arboricultural Practitioners* under the Scheme.

The AA Panel comprises of a strong and diverse team of professionals, academics, experts, and practitioners, and have been offering valuable support and advice to the Scheme (please see Annex A for the composition of the Panel). We are pleased to inform that after several months of deliberation, the Panel determined in January this year to put in place also an accreditation scheme for local academic programmes. As the AA Scheme is targeting practicing arborists who are at supervisory or managerial level this accreditation scheme will focus on degree and diploma programmes at QF Level 3 or above. Graduates from an accredited programme are immediately entitled to join the AA Scheme as Graduate Arborist, and eligible to go through the assessment to become an AA after obtaining the prescribed years of work experience. The Panel targets to have the first batch of accredited programmes announced in the middle of this year. Aligned with the upcoming



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Specification of Competency Standards for the horticulture and arboriculture industry and potential licensing for arborists, the accreditation schemes for academic programmes and practicing arborists are important components to a complete mechanism for the arboricultural trade and providing a clear career pathway for the new blood. We aspire the new Urban Forestry Support Fund to support the accreditation works by HKILA and a more holistic development for the industry. We look forward to your favorable reply and further dialogue with Development Bureau.

Further details of the scheme can be found on the website <http://www.hkila.com/aa.php>. Should there be further enquiry please contact our secretariat at aap@hkila.com.

Yours Sincerely,

Paul Y K CHAN

Chairman, HKILA's Panel on Accredited Arborists

c.c.

Mr. WONG Wai Lun, Michael, JP, Secretary for Development (By email)

Hon. Tony TSE, member of Legislative Council (ASPL functional constituency) (By email)



HKILA's Panel on Accredited Arborists

Title	Name	Academic & Professional Qualifications
Chairman	Mr. CHAN Yuen King, Paul	BAAS, MSc(CPM), LLB, MLA RLA, HKILA, HKIUD, HKICM, TechArborA, Tree Risk Assessor (LANTRA)
Hon. Secretary	Mr. CHOW Siu Hang, Paul	BSc, MLA RLA, HKILA, BEAM Pro, CA (ISA), TRAQ (ISA), AA (HKILA), Tree Risk Assessor (LANTRA)
Panel Members	Ms. CHIR, Yasmin	BSci (Agr), MScEPHM, MLA, MBA HKILA (Associate), AA (HKILA), ISA-CA, HKIOE
	Mr. LAU Hing Tat, Patrick	BLA, MUD RLA, MLI, FHKILA
	Mr. LO Shun Cheong	BSc, MLA RLA, FHKILA CA (ISA), Tree Risk Assessor (LANTRA)
	Mr. SO Shui Shan, Isaac	MA, MLA RLA, HKILA, CA (ISA), TRAQ (ISA)
External Advisors	Mr. CHEUNG Yiu Kong, Lawrence	BA, BLD, MA MArborA, MCIHort, AA (HKILA)
	Prof. CHIU Siu Wai	BSc, Postgraduate Diploma, MPhil, PhD
	Mr. HO Kin Chuen, John	BEng AA (HKILA)
	Prof. C Y Jim	BA(HK), PhD(Reading), CertHydrology(US Geol Survey), MISoilSci, FArborA, CSci, BH, JP
	Mr. SO Kwok Yin, Ken	BSc(Arbor), BSc(A.Bio), MPhil



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