

Date: 26 February 2019

To: IEEE Region 10 Annual Meeting, Melbourne, Australia (2 – 3 March 2019)

From: IEEE Hong Kong Section Interim Office

**Subject: IEEE Hong Kong Section 2018 Report**

On 4 May 2018, the former IEEE Hong Kong Section Chair, Dr. S W Cheung and the Treasurer and Secretary were suspended in accordance to Section 9.4.F.10 of the IEEE Member and Geographic Activities (MGA) Operations Manual, signed by 3 Region 10 Directors. This suspension was endorsed by the 2018 IEEE Board of Directors. An Interim Office was formed on request of IEEE MGA consisting of the following:

Chair: Dr. Nim Cheung - Past CEO of ASTRI; Past President of Communication Society and Division III Director, Chair of Fellows Committee

Vice-Chair: Professor Paul Y S Cheung – Hon. Professor in EEE and Past Dean of Engineering and Associate VP (Research), HKU; Past Region 10 Director, IEEE Secretary, IEEE Foundation Director and Chair of Awards Board

Secretary: Professor K M Luk – Chair Professor of Electronic Engineering, City University of Hong Kong

Treasurer: Professor P C Ching – Choh-Ming Li Professor of Electronics Engineering, Past Vice-President of Chinese University of Hong Kong; Past Chair of IEEE Hong Kong Section

Member: Professor W C Siu – Emeritus Professor and Past Dean of Engineering, Polytechnic University of Hong Kong; Past Vice-President of IEEE Signal Processing Society

Member: Professor Vincent Lau - Chair Professor in Electronic and Computer Engineering, Hong Kong University of Science and Technology

This is a report of the IEEE Hong Kong Section Interim Office to the IEEE Region 10 meeting on the status of the Section's operations and the progress of ongoing actions that the Interim Management Team is taking to restore the IEEE Hong Kong (HK) Section.

**STATUS**

The IEEE HK Section is not a legal entity in Hong Kong, but a Registered Society under the Society Office of the Hong Kong Police under the same name. As a result, IEEE HK Section has two identities: (1) IEEE HK Section as an entity of IEEE under MGA, and (2) as a Registered Society under the Society Office registration to enable it to carry out meeting in according to Hong Kong Law. Unfortunately, the local society has not yet been transitioned from the suspended officers to the interim management team volunteers. The three suspended officers, Dr. S W Cheung, Section Chair, and the Secretary and Treasurer have refused to sign the necessary documents in order to transfer the local society to the interim team. The Hong Kong Police have told IEEE that they will act once IEEE has resolved this matter that they consider to be internal to IEEE. As a result, all IEEE Hong Kong Section assets cannot be accessed by the Interim Office, although a letter has been sent to the suspended officer warning them that they are not allowed to access or use the IEEE Membership database, nor can they use the assets of the Section as they are already suspended by IEEE.

## **OPERATION**

Despite the challenges, the IEEE HK Section had held 5 Section Executive Committee meetings with Chairs or representatives of all the Society Chapters under the Section on: 6 June, 25 August, 27 October, 15 December 2018 and 2 February 2019. All Society officers were fully briefed and informed of the situation and progress in the Section, and all immediate or urgent issues faced by the Chapters were duly resolved or addressed. However, due to the lack of access to IEEE bank accounts in Hong Kong and assets of the Section and its Chapters, activities have been restricted to those otherwise supported by the various academic or research institutions. There are also some outstanding expenditures by volunteers that cannot be reimbursed. The Interim Office has, therefore, requested a bridging loan of HK\$500,000 from IEEE Corporate to meet urgent financial needs, which will be repaid immediately once the Hong Kong Section has access to its bank accounts and assets.

## **ACTION TAKEN**

In order to resolve the current deadlock, and also avoiding similar situation from happening again in future, IEEE HQ, with the assistance of the Interim Officers, has set up a formal legal entity to represent IEEE in Hong Kong in the future under IEEE World Wide Limited (IEEE WW). This has been the model used in a number of other Sections of IEEE around the world. The IEEE WW (Hong Kong Branch) has formally been incorporated on 14 February 2019 and IEEE HK Section will operate under the IEEE WW in future. We are now in progress in setting up bank accounts and all other legal documents to enable IEEE Hong Kong Section to operate as normal again. This is expected to take another few weeks.

In the mean time, IEEE HQ is also dissolving the IEEE Hong Kong Section Society Registration in according to Section IX of the Bylaws of this Registration. This is an important step as the suspended former Section Chair continuously claiming in the public that he represents IEEE Hong Kong Section as Chair, and he had made many statements (both technical as well as non-technical) as if he fully represents the Section and its members.

## **NEXT STEP**

As we are in the final stage of settling the IEEE HK Section complex challenges faced by the Section, the Interim Office is planning to hold an AGM and an election for the Hong Kong Section, hopefully within the first half of 2019. The Interim Office will hand over the Section management to the new Section Officers, which will operate under IEEE WW Hong Kong Branch as a legal entity under the Company Registry of Hong Kong.

IEEE Hong Kong Section Interim Office  
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