

Our Ref. : LARB/AACSB/140721.tl


Landscape 

Architects 

Registration 

Board 

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21 July 2014

Director of Architectural Services
 (Chairman of Architectural and Associated Consultants Selection Board (AACSB))
 Queensway Government Offices,
 66 Queensway,
 Hong Kong.
 (Attn: Miss Rebecca Chau)

Dear Sir,

Proposed Change to the Definition of “qualified landscape architect” in the Architectural and Associated Consultants Selection Board (AACSB) Handbook

I refer to your letters dated 30 May 2014 and 10 July 2014 proposing a revised definition of “qualified landscape architect” in the AACSB Handbook, as follows:

“Professional Member or Fellow of The Hong Kong Institute of Landscape Architects who is also a registered landscape architect as accepted by the Landscape Architects Registration Board of Hong Kong under the Landscape Architects Registration Ordinance (Cap 516)”

Whilst the new definition is an improvement on the previous definition, the proposed definition would exclude Registered Landscape Architects (R.L.A.) under Landscape Architects Registration Ordinance (LARO), whom are not Professional Members or Fellows of HKILA. All R.L.A.s, under the LARO have the right to practice landscape architecture in Hong Kong, whether the RLA is a Professional Member / Fellow of HKILA or not.

The Landscape Architects Registration Board (LARB) has previously received a complaint from a R.L.A. that he has been advised by AACSB that he is not eligible to list his firm as a Landscape Architectural Consultancy under AACSB, as he is not a professional member of HKILA, although he is an R.L.A.

We would like to bring to your attention that Section 29 of the Landscape Architects Registration Ordinance, Cap. 516 (LARO) stipulates the use of title of “landscape architect” (園境師), “registered landscape architect” (註冊園境師) or “R.L.A.” in Hong Kong, as follows:-

“A person whose name does not appear on the register shall not be entitled to describe himself as “landscape architect” or “registered landscape architect” or to use the initials “R.L.A.” after his name.”

“A person whose name is not on the register may describe himself or herself as a landscape architect if he or she describes himself or herself by reference to a membership of any body or institute of landscape architects formed outside Hong Kong which description does not imply that he has the right to practise landscape architecture in Hong Kong under the description of landscape architect.”

Based on the above information, we observed that there are still discrepancies of the qualification of “Landscape Architect” between the AACSB Handbook and the LARO.

We would be grateful to have AACSB’s attention to the use of the title of “Landscape Architect” to practice landscape architecture in Hong Kong as stipulated in the LARO, and recommend updating the entry criteria for Landscape Architectural consultants under AACSB Handbook in accordance with LARO. LARB recommends the following criteria be adopted:

“Landscape architect means Registered Landscape Architect under the Landscape Architects Registration Ordinance (Cap.516).”

Moreover, use of the term “qualified landscape architect” may be misinterpreted as synonymous with “Registered Landscape Architect” or “landscape architect” under LARO, and is therefore recommended to be revised as “landscape architect”.

While more information could be found in LARB’s website (http://larb-hk.org/List_of_RLA.htm), we welcome any opportunity to exchange our views in writing or meeting as you may see fit.

Yours faithfully,



(Tracy LAM)
Registrar
on behalf of LARB

c.c. Hong Kong Institute of Landscape Architects (Attn: WONG Tak Yip, President)
Association of Landscape Consultants (Attn: Mr. Patrick LAU, Chairman)
Secretary for Development (Attn: Miss Kathy NG, PAS(GLTM))