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本期《專業天地》專訪了監管局專業發展委員會主席余惠偉太平紳士，了解一下委員會的工作及他對地產代理業界專業地位的看法。

問：你自2014年11月起出任專業發展委員會主席，可否和《專業天地》的讀者分享一下委員會的工作及你對其印象如何？

答：我自2013年初開始出任監管局成員，很榮幸去年接任專業發展委員會主席。委員會主要負責監督「持續專業進修計劃」的執行，檢討其重點及監察計劃的成效。相對於其他監管局職能例如紀律工作，其性質較為知識主導，但需要堅定的信念和遠見，才能制定出正確的政策和方向。專業發展是一條永無止境的道路，也沒有任何捷徑。我們就如一個可持續發展的平台，一步一步地帶領業界，好讓他們提升專業水平。我很高興能夠和委員會的傑出團隊一同工作，當中包括業界代表，感謝他們把行業的長遠發展視之為最重要。

AN INTERVIEW WITH MR YU WAI-WAI, JP, CHAIRMAN OF THE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

In this issue of *Horizons*, we interviewed Mr YU Wai-wai, JP, Chairman of the EAA Professional Development Committee, about the work of the Committee and his views on the professional status of the estate agency trade.

Q: You have been the Chairman of the Professional Development Committee since November 2014. Could you share with the readers of *Horizons* the work of the Committee and your impressions about it?

A: I have served on the EAA Board since early 2013 and I was honoured to take up the Chairmanship of the Professional Development Committee last year. The Committee is mainly responsible for overseeing the implementation of the Continuing Professional Development (“CPD”) Scheme, reviewing its focus and monitoring its effectiveness. Its nature is more intellectually driven than the other EAA functions such as disciplinary work, but it requires highly determined faith and vision to establish the right policies and directions. Professional development is a never-ending road and there is no short-cut. We serve as a sustainable platform guiding licensees, step-by-step, to obtain higher professional standards. I have the privilege to work with a great team in the Committee. Amongst them are trade representatives whom I appreciate for putting their hearts on the profession’s long-term development.

問：監管局早前推出了新的持續專業進修計劃措施，當中包括一些有鼓勵性質的措施。你對計劃未來的發展有何期望？

答：參與持續專業進修計劃是持牌人之終生投資。為此，我們推出優越嘉許獎章，進一步鼓勵和表彰持牌人努力不懈參與持續專業進修計劃活動。其他的新鼓勵措施，如透過網上學習活動可獲取額外學分等，則旨在吸引更多尤其是年輕一代之從業員參加。這些措施所起的作用或許不同，但目標都是一致的。

對於計劃的未來發展，監管局董事局是支持把計劃最終轉成強制性的。計劃自開始至今一直屬自願性質，今天亦沒有迫切性作出改變。在採取任何具體行動之前，我們會作出全面考慮、廣泛討論和全方位的規劃。在這之前，我們會繼續推行一些措施，以鼓勵更多業界參與計劃。

問：持續專業進修計劃推出至今經已十年。你滿意業界的表現和參與程度嗎？你對業界現時的專業水平及地位有何看法？

答：保持着最新及廣泛的專業知識，是在競爭激烈的商界中佔據有利位置的關鍵。過去十年，持續專業進修計劃一直為業界提供了這些方面的優勢，提升他們的專業能力及水平。計劃實施至今，已錄得超過28萬人次參與，這無疑是一個令人鼓舞的數字。計劃的基本目標是「持續進修、敬業樂業」，雖然業界現時仍有進度空間以達至表現卓越，但他們多年來在專業執業上的進步，是值得加以讚賞的。我希望有朝一日，業界的地位能夠再加提升，發展成一個被社會更加尊重的行業。

Q: The EAA launched a number of new initiatives for the CPD Scheme earlier including some incentive measures. What are your expectations on the future development of the Scheme?

A: Participating in CPD programmes is a lifetime investment for licensees. To this end, we introduced premium CPD Attainment Symbols in a bid to further encourage and recognise licensees' continuous effort in participating in CPD activities. Other new incentive measures, such as awarding bonus CPD points through the e-Learning platform, aim to attract more practitioners, in particular the younger generation. These initiatives might serve different purposes but their goals are the same.

With regard to future development of the Scheme, the EAA Board is supportive of ultimately turning it into a mandatory Scheme. However, with participation being voluntary since the Scheme was first launched, we believe there is no rush to introduce changes at this moment in time. Thorough consideration, extensive consultations and all-rounded planning are needed before any substantial actions could be taken place. For now, we continue to implement measures that encourage more participation from the trade.

Q: Ten years have gone by since the CPD Scheme was launched. Are you satisfied with the trade's performance and participation? What do you think of the trade's professional standard and status nowadays?

A: In order to occupy an advantageous position in today's competitive business world, maintaining a wide variety of up-to-date professional knowledge is the key to success.

In the past ten years, our CPD Scheme has provided this "advantage" to the trade by upgrading their professional competence and standard.

Over 280,000 enrolments were recorded since the Scheme started, which is a very encouraging number.

With "Professional Excellence through Learning" being the fundamental objective of our Scheme, we believe there is room for further improvements.

One notable achievement to date, is our tradesmen's professional improvements over the years. I hope that one day the trade's social standing can be further enhanced and develop into a profession worthy of the respect of the community.