



**EAA senior staff hold seminars for practitioners  
to encourage continuous learning**

(7 February 2006) All three directors of the Estate Agents Authority (EAA) will speak on estate agency law and practice issues in a series of professional development seminars for estate agency practitioners scheduled for March 2006. The three Directors, who are all experienced legal professionals, joined EAA last year to assist the Authority's work in regulation of the estate agency trade and to enhance the trade's professionalism.

The series of seminars is one of the major activities organised under EAA's Continuing Professional Development (CPD) Scheme. Mr Pius Cheng, Director of Regulatory Affairs and General Counsel, will speak on "Conveyancing Law" and "Tenancy Law". Ms Shirley Chua, Director of Operations, will give a talk on "Agency Law". Ms Ruby Hon, Director of Services, will discuss "Interpretation of Land Search".

Ms Sandy Chan, Chief Executive Officer of EAA, said: "There are many legal issues pertaining to a property transaction. To protect consumers' interests, estate agents should have practice-related knowledge and a good understanding of the law relating to estate agency work. I hope practitioners will better equip themselves through continuous learning. This will assist them in their quest for career development and will enhance public confidence in the trade as a whole."

Mr Pius Cheng, Director of Regulatory Affairs and General Counsel, studied law in the United Kingdom under a government scholarship and took his Master of Laws at the University of Cambridge. Mr Cheng has over 20 years of post-qualification experience, specialising in property transactions. He has worked as General Counsel at the Urban Renewal Authority and as an International Partner of Messrs Baker & McKenzie.

Ms Shirley Chua, Director of Operations, holds a Master of Laws degree from London University. Ms Chua's focus has been corporate finance, banking, commercial and property law. She has spent more than two decades in overseas and local private legal practice and in-house regional counsel work for a major US bank.



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Ms Ruby Hon, Director of Services, studied law at London University. With more than 20 years of post-qualification experience, Ms Hon specialises in property-related matters and trust and estate planning matter for high net worth clients. Before joining the Authority, Ms Hon was one of the founding partners of a local law firm with close Mainland links. She has acted for many local and overseas investors in complex project developments involving hotels, schools, golf courses, exchange and assembly of land and project financing.

Ms Chan added: “To enable licensees working in different districts to participate in CPD activities more conveniently, the four seminars will be held in Kowloon. Estate agents and salespersons may take part in one or more of this series.”

Ms Chan said that a number of experienced professionals had joined EAA over the past year. She hoped the estate agency trade would work together with the Authority towards the common goal of model practice and high professional standards.

EAA launched the voluntary phase of the CPD Scheme in May 2005 to enhance the competence of practitioners through continuous learning. Practitioners are encouraged to participate in the Scheme and earn not less than 10 CPD points per year (about 10 study hours).

To allow more practitioners to participate in the Directors’ series of talks, the seminars will be held in the Auditorium of the Hong Kong International Trade and Exhibition Centre (No. 1 Trademart Drive, Kowloon Bay, Kowloon), which has an approximate capacity of 700. They will take place on 7 and 30 March 2006. Details are as follows:

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Speaker</b>
07.03.2006 (Tuesday)	10:00 – 13:00	Conveyancing Law	Mr Pius Cheng
	14:30 – 17:30	Interpretation of Land Search	Ms Ruby Hon
30.03.2006 (Thursday)	10:00 – 13:00	Agency Law	Ms Shirley Chua
	14:30 – 17:30	Tenancy Law	Mr Pius Cheng

Sessions will be conducted in Cantonese. All licensed estate agents and salespersons are welcome and can enrol in more than one seminar.



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Admission is free, and participants of each seminar will be awarded three CPD points (core subjects). Seats are available on a first-come-first-served basis.

Those interested in the above seminars can register online or download the registration form from the EAA website: <http://www.eaa.org.hk>. Practitioners may also obtain a registration form by calling EAA's Professional Development Hotline on 2150 2468.

Details of other recent CPD activities are available on the EAA website or via the Professional Development Hotline.

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