



# Professional Institution Aid

Membership with a professional body can benefit the members in many ways. Here are just a few:

- **Financial Aid**

Many professional bodies provide financial assistance to its members in the form of grants, bursaries and loans. Fellowships, scholarships, special prizes and awards are also bestowed on selected recipients, including new students, on the basis of academic merits and other criteria set by the donors.

For example, the Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants Postgraduate Scholarship, a scholarship of \$6,000, is available to a first-year postgraduate student in accountancy with good character at the Hong Kong Baptist University. Similarly, the Hong Kong Institute of Chartered Secretaries Subject Prizes offers one course prize of \$3,000 to the best student in Company Law.

- **Networking**

One of the main objectives of a professional body is to promote communication among its members. This leads to the exchange of information, ideas and even contacts among professionals which helps the profession to expand.

- **Training & Certification**

Many professional bodies are involved in the development and monitoring of professional educational programs, the updating of skills, as well as providing professional certification to indicate that a person possesses qualifications in the subject area. Certification by a professional body is recognised by the industry, and some are recognised by the international community. Some of the programmes and courses offered by professional bodies are organised in collaboration with an established education institution.

- **Research**

Professional bodies are also tasked with providing the latest updates and new trends within the industry. For example, engineers who need constant updates on new materials that are available for construction can refer to the Hong Kong Institution of Engineers.

- **Guidance & Validation**

Professional bodies can provide professional advice or guidance on certain projects when the need arises. This ensures that the output meets the minimum industry requirement. Some are also responsible for setting a fee structure for the services of its members.