

# The Outstanding BRE Alumni Award 2020

## Awardee Brief Biography



### Sr AU Choi Kai, SBS

*Higher Diploma in Surveying (Building Surveying)  
(Year of Award : 1974)  
The Hong Kong Polytechnic*

Sr Au Choi Kai graduated from the then Hong Kong Polytechnic with a Higher Diploma in Surveying (Building Surveying) and joined the then Buildings Ordinance Office (BOO) in 1974. After passing its written examinations, he was elected a Member of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors in 1977. He was a Founding Member of the Hong Kong Institute of Surveyors in 1984, became a Fellow in 1990 and was awarded Distinguished Building Surveyor in 2014.

Sr Au had held a number of positions in BOO and the Buildings Department (BD). He was the Director of Buildings and Building Authority from 2008 until 2014. During his 40 years of working life, he developed his interest and expertise in building control and formulation of statutory building standards, and has the following memorable achievements:

1. He was the chief drafter of the Codes of Practice for 'Building Works for Lifts and Escalators 1993', 'Overall Thermal Transfer Value in Buildings 1995', 'Means of Access for Fire Fighting and Rescue 1995', 'Means of Escape 1996' and 'Fire Resisting Construction 1996'.
2. He actively participated in the investigation of the tragic fires in a bank premises in Shek Kip Mei and Garley Building as well as the formulation of fire safety improvements required for these types of premises, leading to the enactment of the Fire Safety (Commercial Premises) Ordinance, Cap 502.
3. He pioneered in the formulation of the Minor Works Control System (MWCS) and the Mandatory Building and Window Inspection Schemes (MBIS/MWIS), which were the first of its kind in the building control history of Hong Kong. Upon enactment of the necessary legislation, he led the implementation of MWCS in 2010 and MBIS/MWIS in 2012.

On contribution to the alma mater, Sr Au served on the BRE Departmental Advisory Committee (DAC) from 2011 to 2015. He delivered a BRE Advanced Lecture in June 2009 and acted as Mentor of BRE students since 2014.

Sr Au retired from BD and received an Honour Award of Silver Bauhinia Star in 2014. He continues his community service in over 20 institutions/associations including DAC of the Department of Architecture and Civil Engineering, City University of Hong Kong, Campus Development Committee of the Council, Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, Supervisory Board and Special Committee on Planning, Design and Construction, Hong Kong Housing Society and Land and Development Advisory Committee of Development Bureau.

Despite his busy schedule, Sr Au developed his interest and actively participated in choral singing. He joined the Allegro Singers in 1976, a chorus established in 1964 committed to promoting classic music, Western and Chinese art songs and folk songs, and has become its Chairman since 1990. He participated in choral singing performance in more than 120 concerts locally and overseas including Vienna, the World's Music Capital.

