

IRE Programme reaching new heights in its 10th anniversary

The MSc in International Real Estate (IRE) programme, the only academic programme offered by FCLU's Department of Building and Real Estate at the PolyU outpost at Zhejiang University in China, will reach its 10th Anniversary in 2011/12. This programme first started in Hangzhou in 2002. To date, it has recruited nine cohorts of part-time students and produced over 200 graduates who have gone on to become senior business executives, government leaders and high-calibre professional practitioners in the mainland real estate industry. The programme continues to attract high-calibre mainland students who aspire to be Chartered Surveyors after graduation.



IRE students in the U.K.

The IRE programme provides mainland students with a unique opportunity to learn and experience overseas real estate practices without having to spend the entire study period outside of China. Over the years, the programme has built up its reputation and increased its recognition by seasoned real estate professionals. In November 2010, Mr. K.L. WONG, Chief Executive of the Hong Kong Housing Society, flew to Hangzhou and gave a presentation about elderly housing development strategy to IRE students. Other high-profile practitioners who have previously spoken as part of the IRE programme included: Mr. William CHAN, Director of Kerry Properties (Shanghai); Mr. Edmund HO, Managing Director of DTZ (North China); Mr. Henry LI, RICS China Board Chairman; Mr. Alex TSE, Vice President of Pramerica Real Estate Investors, amongst others. All these talks have received overwhelming student responses.

The IRE programme combines traditional classroom teaching with two international study visits to outside universities. In the past, IRE students have visited the United Kingdom in a trip that was organized by the Cambridge International Land Institute of the University of Cambridge. This year, a visit organized by the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign will expose students to real estate development practices in Chicago of the United States.