



EMAS Replacement Recommendation

During Cyril Bleasdale's time as Secretary General (pre 2009) a database was set up to enable branches to process membership applications to CILT Hong Kong. This database recorded the applicant, the country, the grade and the details of the applicant's CV relevant for the consideration by the HK membership committee. The database enabled an automatic exchange of information on the application, recorded an application number for record purposes, provided a report and enabled then the separate invoicing of the country for the applications made in a batch.

This system was hosted on a Railnews server and has been maintained since by the same individual, Adam, who worked for Cyril & Railnews back in 2009. The database system is fragile and has collapsed on occasions. Each time we have managed to get Adam to restore it on a voluntary basis.

Harriet Leung has summarised the issues with the current EMAS system as follows –

- (1) The current EMAS system is hosted at Railnews' office server and therefore the only access is limited to an unauthorised person who no longer works for them – Adam.
- (2) The built-in back-up function in the current system is not working and therefore there is no way for CILT HK to keep any backup file of the data.
- (3) We have not been able to find any third party willing to manage or provide maintenance service for the existing system.
- (4) The database has failed and could fail irretrievably at any moment and we do not have the staff in the HK office to run the process manually.

We have held back on replacing the system because of hopes that we may be able to replace it with a global membership database, but we have to now recognise that the reality of that is still a long way away.

CILT Hong Kong have received a quotation from a HK based IT business, Elogi, for \$40,000HK to replace on a like for like basis (£3640).

The recommendation is to seek to replace immediately and agree to proceed with Elogi.

If we do not replace and have to manage the membership applications manually this would require an additional administrative resource to process the applications in the Hing Kong office. International would have to pay the cost of this and there would be disruption whilst this was set up.

The total cost proposed to be put into the forecasts covers also a figure of 600 HK dollars a month for hosting the system in Hong Kong or seeking an alternative to host in the UK (£54.60). The feasibility and advantages of hosting in HK or the UK still needs to be tested and a cost finalised.

Keith Newton & Harriet Leung
20th May 2021