

Constructing a Taxonomy of Professional Communicative Competencies derived from the Four Key Industries in Hong Kong

➤ **Background:**

Professional organizations in Four Key Industries in Hong Kong

The professional organizations to be surveyed represent professions in the Four Key Industries in the Hong Kong economy, namely **financial services, trading and logistics, tourism, and professional and other producers' services**. These Four Key Industries have been the driving force of Hong Kong's economic growth, providing impetus to the development of other sectors, and creating employment across Hong Kong ([Census and Statistics Department, HKSAR, 2006](#)). See [Appendix](#) for a list of potential professional organizations in Hong Kong.

➤ ➤ **Objectives of proposed project**

1. To investigate professional organizations based in Hong Kong in terms of their overt and covert statements about the importance of English language and professional communication skills.
2. To investigate these professional organizations in Hong Kong in terms of what constitutes Communicative Competencies in their Professions, as well as how the professional organizations define each of the Communicative Competencies.
3. Consequent to the investigation, to determine attributes that are shared across professional organizations and those that are unique to specific organizations.
4. To construct a descriptive Taxonomy of Professional Communicative Competencies that has application value to any professional organization.
5. To explore the practical implications of the findings and the proposed Taxonomy of Professional Communicative Competencies for improving professional communication education and practices.
6. To better serve the communication needs of professional communities and deepen our understanding of professional communication, which is the mission of the Research Centre for Professional Communication in English.

➤ **Methodology**

1. Review of the literature and published information by the surveyed professional organizations in the Four Key Industries in Hong Kong.
2. Interviews with representatives from professional organizations in Hong Kong to elicit information.
3. Analysis of the discourse processes and products of professionals in the Four Key Industries in Hong Kong.

➤ **Outcomes**

1. An understanding and description of what constitute Professional Communicative Competencies in Hong Kong would strengthen the international reputation of the newly established Research Centre for Professional Communication in English (RCPCE). Such significant knowledge would enable members of the RCPCE to explore professional communication in a more principled, rigorous and detailed manner, and increase substantially the current levels of knowledge in the applied linguistic and professional communication fields through the dissemination of findings.
2. The findings would be made available not only to our own undergraduate and postgraduate students to further enhance their employment prospects in their chosen professions, but also, and more importantly, to the professional communities.
3. Seminars, in collaboration with Professional Organizations in the Four Key Industries in Hong Kong, would be organized to disseminate the findings that are specifically related to how they define Professional Communicative Competencies in their respective professions.

Appendix

Examples of potential Professional Organizations to be surveyed

Hong Kong Institute of Arbitrators Limited
Hong Kong Institute of Bankers
Hong Kong Institute of Chartered Secretaries

HK Institute of Marketing
Hong Kong Society of Accountants Society of Chinese Accountants & Auditors
Securities & Futures Commission
Taxation Institute of Hong Kong
Chartered Institute of Management Accountants
Law Society of Hong Kong
Hong Kong Bar Association
The Hong Kong Institute of Arbitrators
Hong Kong Institution of Engineers
Institution of Civil Engineers
The Chartered Institute of Building (Hong Kong)
Association for Project Management
Association for Project Management Hong Kong
Society of Construction Law
Hong Kong Institute of Surveyors
The Institution of Civil Engineering Surveyors
Hong Kong Institute of Human Resource Management
Chartered Institute of Marketing (Hong Kong Branch)
Hong Kong Computer Society
Hong Kong Confederation of Insurance Brokers
Hong Kong Credit and Collection Management Association
Hong Kong Investment Funds Association
Hong Kong Logistics Association
Institute of Financial Planners of Hong Kong
Association of Chartered Certified Accountants
Association for Investment Management and Research (AIMR) Hong Kong Office
Hong Kong Securities Institute