SUMMARY

Singapore has in the last three decades made substantial progress. The procurement practice in the construction industry is one such area. A trade-off situation between the quality of assimilation and the desired standardisation accountability for the procurement practice therefore arises.

This dissertation is to establish the extent to which the existing tender procedures and appraisal methods, as practised in the Singapore building industry by the private sector quantity surveying firms, are performed in an efficient and satisfactory manner.

To provide an idea of the state of the practice, a hypothesis stated as follows was formulated and tested by conducting a questionnaire survey and validated by reviewing sample tender reports of operating quantity surveying firms in Singapore:

That the private sector Quantity Surveyors in Singapore, while adopting various forms of procurement for the purpose of construction projects, do practice at a satisfactory level of professional competence and do achieve satisfactory results.

To this end, an extensive literature review was conducted. Arising from this a theoretical framework in two parts was formulated for tendering procedures and appraisal reporting. This two-part framework, developed in four stages, identifies the theoretical sets of objectives, that is, procedural objectives for tendering procedure and appraisal objectives for appraisal reporting. The means of processes to attain those objectives are then defined.
The next stage involves the identification of procedural elements at each decision area. The last stage comprises the structuring of the questionnaire survey on the theoretical framework developed in the earlier stages, carrying out the survey, collating, analysing and reporting on the findings, recognising and measuring these findings vis a vis the theoretical objectives, and concluding on the validity of the hypothesis.

In the survey, 11 out of the 26 quantity surveying firms listed in the 1986/87 SISV's "List of Members and Members' Firms" publication still contactable at the time of this survey, responded. While the sample size is 42% of the population of registered quantity surveying firms, there is a possibility that, while principal partners of the quantity surveying practices who were requested by postal survey to respond to the questions raised in the questionnaire by indicating options of tendering practices generally adopted by their firms' Quantity Surveyors, the responses received from these 11 respondent firms may only represent the practices of the specific quantity surveyors responding to the survey. Arising from this possibility, the 11 responses will be statistically too small a sample size for a meaningful finding to be reached, as the 11 responses may not represent the tendering practices of those quantity surveyors in private practices out of more than 500 quantity surveyors registered with SISV.
Bearing in mind the limitations of this research, the findings may be considered representative of the current practice for tendering procedure and appraisal reporting by private sector Quantity Surveyors in Singapore.

Arising out of this research, the findings indicated that some of the Quantity Surveyors in the private quantity surveying firms in Singapore appear not to be adopting a standard and satisfactory approach to tender procedures for the selection of contractors for building projects. In respect of appraisal reporting, some of the Quantity Surveyors, while endeavouring to appraise the tenders in satisfaction of the objective of assuring value for the client's money, they apparently do not maintain the comparability of tenders appraised and to appraise tenders in an accountable manner.

It is therefore recommended that SISV consider the formulation and publication, for the guidance of their members, of a code of practice for tendering procedures and appraisal reporting.

In conclusion, the limited findings arising out of this research indicate the need for more studies to be conducted for a more definitive insight into the current practices of private sector quantity surveyors. Appropriate feedback may then be made available to SISV so that they can consider the need for change for the advancement of the quantity surveying profession.