

Reports of Technical Visits / Seminars

Report on Technical Visit to KCRC Sheung Shui to Lok Ma Chau Spur Line

Date :	6 December 2003
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Most Members would probably still remember the controversy over the KCRC Sheung Shui to Lok Ma Chau Spur Line project, the rejection of the first EIA report for the viaduct scheme project and the EIA appeal that followed. Over the past few years, much work has been done on revising the alignment and reassessing the associated environmental impacts, especially those related to ecological habitats at Long Valley and the Lok Ma Chau fishponds. The project was finally granted an Environmental Permit in April 2002 and its construction is now well underway.

With the kind assistance of and arrangement by Mr Simeon Cheng, Senior Environmental Special of KCRC in charge of the Spur Line project, the Institute had the rare opportunity of having some first-hand experience in the construction of the project on 6 December 2003. We started off with a comprehensive briefing by Simeon on the background of the Spur Line project and highlights of the tunnel-cum-viaduct scheme currently being constructed. A visit was then paid to the launching shaft where the tunnel boring machine "Mulan" was launched for the construction of the tunnel underneath Long Valley. The group continued then on to various locations within Long Valley, where we were shown how the combination of inflatable dams, irrigation channels and sluices operate together to maintain the water levels within the area and keep wet agriculture, hence the ecological habitats, thriving.

A visit to the Spur Line of course could not be complete without a tour of the Lok Ma Chau fishponds, where the unprecedented concept of habitat enhancement had been introduced as mitigation for the habitat loss caused by the construction of the Lok Ma Chau Terminus. The group was given the privilege of going on the tower hide at Lok Ma Chau to have an unobstructed view of the entire area and see what has been done to enhance the use of the habitats by birds.

The Institute would like to take the opportunity to thank all relevant staff members of KCRC, in particular Simeon Cheng, and KCRC's contractor for the tunnel section for making this a successful visit.





Useful link and reference:

[The project website for the Lok Ma Chau Spurline](#)