



Editorial

Are we forgetting our collective memory?

Annex 10 of the EIAO TM states that sites of cultural heritage provide an essential, finite and irreplaceable link between the past and the future. In the past, many of us that have undertaken EIAs with this component focus know full well that interest has generally been confined to AMO. However, as evidenced by the recent protests regarding the Star Ferry Clock Tower and Queen's Pier, this is no longer the case.

As EIA professionals, we need to help project proponents to understand more fully the impacts of their work while protecting our heritage. Do we have the adequate resources and policies in place? Chapter 10 of the HKPSG gives details of how we can identify, grade and conserve these structures. It was last revised in December 2005. With the evolution in collective awareness of our cultural heritage it is obvious that this is no longer sufficient. We need better guidelines that balance our sustainable development while preserving our past. We look to AMO and EPD to develop more relevant guidelines and we as professionals need to train ourselves to preserve Hong Kong.

Why? As Joni Mitchell sings 'Don't it always seem to go, you don't know what you've got 'till it's gone.'



Dr. Glenn FROMMER

Chairman's Remarks

Hong Kong is a world leader in 3D EIA. The Institute, in collaboration with the Environmental Protection Department, was proud to be invited by the State Environmental Protection Administration (SEPA) to organize the first ever 3D EIA Training Workshop in

China, successfully conducted in March in Beijing. There may be collaboration with the SEPA in another international forum on EIA later this year, as a follow-up to the first forum held in Hainan.

Locally a series of railway noise seminars have been organized jointly with the Hong Kong Institute of Acoustics, all of which were well attended. The seminars recalled for me the emergence over the years of a significant group of sophisticated and dedicated professionals, along with railway development in Hong Kong. The visits to the Cable Car and Mai Po were informative and enjoyable. It was interesting to learn about WWF's experience as a Project Proponent in their Boardwalk Extension Project, going through the EIA Ordinance.

The AGM will be held on 15 May and we are honoured to have the Permanent Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works (Environment) Ms Anissa Wong to be our guest speaker.

I look forward to seeing you all in the AGM.

Josh LAM

Report from the Secretary

As we exit the year of the dog, we look back to what was a year full of challenges. EPD has initiated a review of the Air Quality Objectives (AQO), launched a consultative exercise on the Risk-Based Remediation Goals (RBRGs) for land contamination, and received the judgement of the Court of Final Appeals in favour of Shiu Wing Steel Ltd. concerning the Quantitative Risk Assessment (QRA) for the Permanent Aviation Fuel Facility project.

As we enter into the year of the pig, we look forward to opportunities for meaningful discussions and active participation with professionals and members of the public on these very challenging issues. Communication would also benefit stakeholders of a

project as these changes would likely impact future EIAs.

HKIEIA supports the Authority’s initiatives to review existing standards in order to protect the health of the public. With the leadership of the government, we look forward to finding a scientifically justified and sustainable solution that is suitable for Hong Kong.

Lisa POON

National Forum on EIA – Planning, Technology and Management 2006

On behalf of the HKIEIA, Ms Gigi LAM and I attended the *National Forum on EIA – Planning, Technology and Management 2006* (2006年全国规划环境影响评价技术与管理交流会) conference held in Beijing on 8-10 December 2006. It was a great success, with over 150 participants from all over China. The conference was the first of its kind on Planning EIA in China, jointly organised by the Chinese Society for Environmental Sciences, Nankai University, and the State Environmental Protection Administration. “Over 200 papers were submitted and 90 of good quality [including the two HKIEIA papers] were selected and published in the conference proceedings” (Proceedings’ Foreword).

I was honoured to be the first to deliver my technical paper, straight after the opening and keynote speeches in the morning session. The audience was very responsive, and a number of questions were asked. The last session of the conference was devoted to a roundtable interactive workshop to share experiences on planning EIA in different districts across China. Despite the bitterly cold weather outdoors, the conference hall was filled with the sound of heated discussion on issues such as existing problems and solution proposals.



Josh LAM

HKIEIA Activities

Railway Noise Control Seminars

Continuing with our theme on the application of EIA protocol, HKIEIA and HKIOA had jointly organized a series of railway noise control seminars, aiming to raise the technical knowledge among our members and professionals. We had brought professionals, including planners, designers and practitioners together to share their valuable experience on railway noise planning and control. We had the honor to invite Dr. Glenn Frommer presented the first seminar of the series on 10 January 2007 and delivered us the subject on “**Implementation of Acoustic Measures in EMUs and Stations**”.

As the Sustainability Development Manager of MTRC, Dr. Frommer involved in many railway projects in Hong Kong and overseas. Glenn had focused the techniques on the implementation of acoustic measures in EMUs and stations using EIAs as the connecting theme.





He had explained the railway noise evaluation process, the relationship between wheel rail interaction and their impacts to the overall railway noise impact, which would be very useful in future railway projects planning, in particular in the dense populated area in Hong Kong. The seminar was well attended with more than 40 HKIEIA and HKIOA members on that Wednesday evening.

To continue with our railway noise control seminar series, we had invited Mr. Barry Murray to present the “**Noise and Vibration Prediction Procedures for Railway projects**” in the second seminar on 13 February 2007. Mr. Murray, Director of Wilkinson Murray, had many years of experience in dealing with the noise and vibration issues of railway systems and had accumulated a lot of measurement data and knowledge about the subject.



Barry had begun with the introduction of noise and vibration measurements methodologies. He then highlighted those possible variations and uncertainties, addressed ways to predict these variations and how they could be incorporated in the setting of noise and vibration limits, and the associated mitigation measures. The topic was well acknowledged by the audiences and interesting views were exchanged with the audiences during the Q&A session. Barry, thank you.



Technical Visit to Mai Po Marshes Nature Reserve

The Institute had their first technical visit this year, to Mai Po Reserve on 13 January 2007, arranged with the assistance of the World Wide Fund For Nature Hong Kong (WWFHK). Dr. Lew Young, Mai Po Reserve Manager had explained to the members, the problems of increasing sedimentation in Deep Bay and poor visibility due to deterioration in air quality. To overcome these problems, a Boardwalk Extension and a new birdwatching hide project are being implemented. Lew had shared his difficulties and achievements of EIAO during the implementation of this project and his valuable experiences gained during the public and stakeholders involvement. The Institute would like to thanks Lew and his staffs once again, to continue support the events.



Briefing on the Boardwalk Extension Project by Lew



Small Group Discussion on the Project



Birdwatching in action



Group Photo Outside Peter Scott Field Studies Centre

Managing Contaminated Lands in Hong Kong – A Perspective on Current Practice and New Development

On 9 February 2007, a seminar on Managing Contaminated Lands in Hong Kong jointly organized by CIWEM HK and Productivity Training Institute was held at the HKPC Building in Kowloon Tong. The

Updating Hong Kong on Environmental Impact Assessment

number of participants was very large indicating how this subject interests professionals and practitioners alike in the industry. As one of the supporting organisations, HKIEIA have a number of its own members attending to show our support in this very meaningful event.

The seminar topics ranged from remediation technologies for different types of contamination to testing protocols for environmental monitoring. State of the art remediation techniques were presented including oil deep skimming, permeable reactive barrier and mechano-chemical remediation technologies. Case studies for remediation in the United Kingdom and Hong Kong, including the Cheoy Lee Shipyard, were compared. Discussions on the EPD proposed risk-based approach for cost-effective remediation were also discussed.

Experienced speakers from different representations of the industry truly gave us an informative and broad perspective on current practices and new developments on managing contaminated lands.

Lisa POON

Forthcoming Events and Activities

Seminars

Of course the railway noise control seminar series will continue with presentations from more leading experts working in/for the railway industrial. Apart from the railway, the Institute is in process of organizing more seminars, as tools to build up the knowledge, professional competence and management skills of our member. The recent draft guidance notes on the “*Risk-Based Remediation Goals (RBRGs) for Contaminated Land Management in Hong Kong*”, will be an interesting one and we will contact EPD to explore the opportunity to provide members a seminar on this topic. More experience sharing sessions will be organized to share with members in a more comprehensive view on the current EIAO practices using real case studies.

Annual General Meeting 2007

The Annual General Meeting 2007 together with a dinner reception will be held on 15 May 2007 at the Kowloon Club, 15/F New World Centre East Wing, TST starting 6:30pm. This year, as a couple of Executive Committee members complete their terms, we will have these committee member positions to fill. Nominations will be invited for these positions in due course. The successful candidate will have the chance

to make meaningful contributions to the environmental industry.

HKIEIA members will be invited to join and learn about the Institute's accomplishments as well as what is planned ahead. We have invited our distinguished guest, Ms. Anissa Wong (Permanent Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works (Environment)/Director of Environmental Protection) who will no doubt give an interesting talk and share her views.

The meeting would provide a good opportunity for friends and colleagues of the environmental profession to mix and mingle. Come and take part in this enjoyable evening.

Please pencil it in your diary!

Lisa POON & Henry LEUNG

HKIEIA Membership

The Institute has currently a total of 186 members, including 21 Fellows, 147 Corporate Members, 16 Associate/Student Members and 2 Honorary Members.

As agreed at the last AGM, a record of at least 15 CPD hours is required for renewal of HKIEIA corporate membership. On the other hand, CPD record is required for AMP renewal. Members are urged to take immediate notice of the guidelines on CPD and renew the corporate/AMP membership accordingly. The guidelines are available at our website.

Membership Application Procedures

Complete the membership application and attestation form and send for the attention of the membership secretary, Ms Clara U at the HKIEIA P.O. Box. The application forms can be downloaded from the HKIEIA Website.

HKIEIA Finances

The Treasurer is pleased to report that as of March 2007 the cash at bank is HK\$742,581.

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