HONG KONG INSTITUTE
OF ENVIRONMENTAL
IMPACT ASSESSMENT
香港環境影響評估學會

Newsletter

Updating Hong Kong on Environmental Impact Assessment

Issue August 2010

Editorial

The three conceptual plan options for the West Kowloon Cultural District (WKCD) unveiled on 20th August 2010 with the Stage 2 Public Engagement Exercise commenced on the same day.

(Left) Project for a New Dimension designed by the Office for Metropolitan Architecture

(Right) Cultural Connect –Key to Sustained Vitality designed by Rocco Design Architects Ltd

(Left) City Park designed by Foster + Partners

As informed by the Government that each concept has been developed based on the creativity of urban master planning together with the future culture functions that would benefit our next generation.

Who should we vote and how to choose the best design concept for implantation by the WKCD Authority? That would be a million dollar question. Apart from the culture functions and technical specification for the engineering elements for these design conceptions, another important consideration shall be a sustainable theme for the future West Kowloon as this is one of the few largest remaining undeveloped lands at the centre of Hong Kong.

A sustainable theme can be interpreted in terms of both the technical design and its flexibility that will enable West Kowloon to meet the challenges in providing the best facilities as a cultural centre in the future. Engineering design elements involved renewable energy features, zero carbon emissions and green landscape. Cultural activities are versatile and ever changing. If the Government wishes to position the West Kowloon District as a cultural hub, providing a state of the art layout and facilities in the present tense may not be sufficed. It should take into consideration of planning for the future development, providing flexibility in the use of space that can provide more room for artists' creativity in the form of their art.

Let the Government understand our demands and make sure you are fully informed on the design elements of the 3 concepts by visiting the purposely designed website and the public exhibition organized by the WKCD Authority. All details of the 3 master concepts and the public engagement exercise are available from the WKCD website (http://www.wkcda.hk/pe2/en/background/)

David YEUNG

Chairman's Remarks

It is my honour and privilege to serve you all for the coming term of office from 2010 to 2012. One of the chief missions that I have publicly

committed to focus on is to enhance professional development and capacity building for all members, not only to improve on skills, but at the same time to obtain the recognition we should deserve in the job market.

The Institute has been set up with one of its primary objectives to groom and maintain a critical mass of qualified professional members with high standards to support the effective administering of the Environmental Impact Assessment Ordinance. Enacted in 1997, the Ordinance has celebrated its tenth birthday more than two years ago. It is opportune now that we give this important subject an in depth review and scrutiny: to take note of what we have achieved so far, and to map out what we shall collectively wish to reach for in future. This would enable a blue print be drawn up, progressed and monitored to achieve the intended ultimate goal.

I never undermine the challenge this call will present but am much encouraged by the enthusiastic interest and support I have met so far, not only from the current Executive Committee members, but also from past Chairmen and Executive Committee members, department chairs and professors from the academia, and even office bearers from other professional bodies and institutions. We are planning to produce relevant information packages for dissemination and to initiate meetings and discussions as appropriate to encourage as many of you to participate in the development of this blue print as possible. We shall keep you all posted on progress and we are eagerly looking forward to your continuous contribution, support and feedback to make this undertaking a success. I remain yours faithfully,

Shirley LEE

Report from the Secretary

With the Annual General Meeting (AGM) 2010 held in May, a new Committee, under the leadership of our current Chairman, Mrs. Shirley Lee, has been formed. The Committee for 2010-11 is organised as follows:

- Chairman: Mrs. Shirley LEE
- Honorary Treasurer: Mr. Freeman CHEUNG
- Honorary Secretary: Ms. Claudine LEE
- Membership Secretary: Ms. Clara U
- Professional Development: Mr. Henry LEUNG, Prof. Tong ZHANG
- Event Organizer and Website Management: Ms. Eva HO, Ms. Anna YU
- External Secretary: Mr. David YEUNG
- External Affairs: Mr. Josh LAM
- Co-opted Ex-co Members: Dr. Glenn FROMMER (assisted by Ms. Jennifer TSANG), Mr. Mohamed Hasan ISA

The Executive Committee

In continuing our efforts to assist members with their professional development, a series of events and activities will be held by the Institute in the coming year. An Event Organising Sub-committee with the following membership has also been set up to take charge of organising the events:

- David YEUNG
- Clara U
- Henry LEUNG
- Claudine LEE
- Eva HO
- Anna YU
- Mohamed Hasan ISA

Claudine LEE

HKIEIA Activities

Annual General Meeting 2010, 20 May 2010

Thirty-one Fellows and Members gathered at the Kowloon Club on 20 May 2010 for our AGM. David YEUNG (Chairman) and Freeman CHEUNG (Honorary Treasurer) reported respectively on the Institute's accomplishments and finances for 2009-2010, which was a very fruitful year. Mrs. Shirley LEE was elected as Chairman for a term of 2 years. Mr. Freeman CHEUNG, Prof. Tong ZHANG, Ms. Eva HO and Ms. Anna YU were elected members of the Committee for a term of 3 years. Members also agreed on the re-appointment of Louis Lai & Luk Certified Public Accountants as the Institute's Honorary Auditor for Year 2010-11. After the formal AGM, Our Guest of Honour, Professor Paul Lam, Chairman of the Advisory Council on the Environment, shared with us some of his thoughts on environmental management in Hong Kong.

Talk by Prof Lam at the AGM

A souvenir presented to Prof Lam by Mrs Shirley Lee

Claudine LEE

Visit to Night Safari in Hong Kong, 22 May 2010

A visit to Night Safari at Mai Po Nature Reserve was jointly organized by HKIEIA and CIWEM in the evening of 22 May 2010 (Saturday) with the assistance of the WWF-Hong Kong. The response was overwhelmed with over 20 people participated in the event.

Group Photos at Peter Scott Field Centre

The participants had a truly unforgettable experience of walking in night safari at Mai Po, where they went on to explore the mangrove and fresh water gei wai in the dark. The group also watched the stunning sunset and moon rise in the unique open country of Hong Kong. Before moving on to the second of the visit, the participants had their packed dinner and listened to the brief talk given by the professional interpreters from WWF HK on bat's behaviour and ways to locate them. Not to the group's surprise, each of them had a chance to see the bats from a close distance. As a bonus, the participants spent a short while with the fire flies which were difficult to find in the city.

Last but not least, the Institute would like to express their gratitude once again to WWF-Hong Kong for organizing the event.

A souvenir presented to Andy Leung of WWF HK (right) by Henry Leung of HKIEIA (left)

Henry LEUNG

Wuhan Visit: A High-speed Rail Experience, 16-20 June 2010

This event was spearheaded by CIWEM HK, with support from the Hong Kong Institute of Vocational Education (HKIVE), the International Association of Hydraulic Engineering and Research HK Chapter (IAHR-HK) and HKIEIA. Of the 49 delegates, HKIVE students led by their VTC course director formed the majority. HKIEIA was represented by Dr. Mark Shea, Ms. Amy Wong, Ms. Emily Shek and me.

The July 2010 CIWEM HK newsletter provided a succinct synopsis on the 5-day itinerary (http://reasonablespread.com/SpreaderFiles/4010/files/upload/2010_2011_Issue_No_1_final_.pdf) and would not be repeated here. The attempt below would rather focus on topical interests from my personal perspective as a delegate.

Professionally, the esteemed Institute of Hydrobiology of Chinese Academy of Sciences has obviously achieved a lot, particularly with regard to the active management of lake water quality to achieve the sustainable development of related aqua-culture. Donghu (East Lake) is important as a natural resource in Wuhan and remains the focus of attention for most research projects, especially on studies related to eutrophication and algal blooms. Research scientists in the institute are devoting much effort on controlling blue green algae and experimenting with nutrient removal and recycling through plant growth to clean up enriched parts of the lake.

Souvenirs were presented to Institute of Hydrobiology of Chinese Academy of Sciences

The delegation was warmly received by the Wuhan Committee of Chinese People's Politic Consultative Conference. Experience were shared and exchanged, including a brief discussion on possibility for local developers to commit to carry out on-site self-monitoring with a view to reduce construction noise and dust emissions from the many and extensive on-going construction activities in the city.

Chinese People's Politic Consultative Conference

Ecologically, the walk to the Mulan Mountain National Geopark allowed exposures to new encounters of interesting insect species including moth and millipedes. During the visit to the

Yangluo Power Station, a small brownish-yellow frog or toad was spotted close to where gypsum was stored. At a city park in Wuhan, large black beetles were found draining the sap of an unidentified tree.

The trip also enabled delegates to appreciate the modernized faces of Wuhan against the traditional side of local culture: the pedestrian walkways alongside the Yangtze River provide convenience public access to scenic views on both banks; the fashionable shopping centre with flashing neon lights contrast strongly with historical buildings of high cultural heritage values as close neighbours; the many grand restaurants capable of hosting banquets for thousands co-existing with the many little street-side food-stalls that daily offer a wide variety of traditional "food specialties" that the locals enjoyed for a hearty breakfast before starting work.

Group Photo at Wuhan University Campus

The visits to the famous tourist attraction--Yellow Crane Tower (黃鶴樓), the Hubei Provincial Museum with its exhibition of historical items and a stage performance by local artists on the "oldest form of Chinese percussion and string musical instruments" were most memorable from the cultural perspective. The short tour around the Wuhan University campus was equally impressive, with its array of historical buildings and dense cover of cherry trees.

Stage performance by local artists

The majority of the delegates were very impressed with the performance of the high-speed train, including the overall management of the Guangzhou train station. To be able to link up with the system and thereby to the different main cities of China should definitely be a strategic move for Hong Kong.

This trip has been most enjoyable and enlightening, and as a delegate, I would like to express my deep appreciation to Frederick Leong and Paper Lam of CIWEM; and Wong Chor-tung of VTC for their good liaison and organizing efforts.

Shirley LEE

Experience Sharing Seminar for A Study Mission to Taiwan Focusing on Waste Management, 29 June 2010, City University of Hong Kong

After participating a study mission on Waste Management to Taiwan in May 2010, our Fellow Member Dr Richard Cheung shared with the audiences his observations and experiences on:

(a) How the Taiwan citizens sorted their municipal solid wastes at sources;
(b) The ways contractors collected municipal solid wastes;

(c) Recovery of valuable resources from waste electrical and electronic equipment by two private Taiwan companies,
(d) Composting of food wastes;
(e) How municipal solid wastes were incinerated in two "waste to energy" incinerators.

A souvenir presented to Dr. Richard Cheung of HKIEIA (second right)

It was interesting to learn from Dr Cheung's talk that the charging scheme for municipal solid disposal has been put in place in Taiwan for quite some time and incinerator operators have tried enhancing their public images through various activities including opening a revolving restaurant near a chimney top. His presentation indeed brought up some interesting while innovative waste management ideas to the audiences.

Over 200 participants attended the seminar

The seminar was jointly organised by Hong Kong Institution of Environmental Impact Assessment, The Chartered Institution of Water and Environmental Management Hong Kong, The Hong Kong Institution of Engineers Environmental Division and Hong Kong Waste Management Association. Over 200 participants attended this interesting seminar.

Clara U

HKIEIA Membership

The Institute has currently a total of 261 members, including 22 Fellows, 188 Corporate Members, 41 Associate Members, 6 Student Members and 3 Honorary Members.

Members are reminded to make your annual membership renewal together with the completed CPD record immediately to Ms. Clara U.

Clara U

HKIEIA Finances

Thanks to our members who have paid their subscriptions in a timely manner to maintain a healthy balance of HK$873,579 in our Bank Accounts at the end of Aug 2010. For those who have not paid their dues, please send the cheques to the Hon Treasurer.

Freeman CHEUNG