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 December 2007

Editorial

The New RBRGs – A Welcomed Approach

In the past, the Dutch B levels in ProPECC PN3/94 for Contaminated Land Assessment and Remediation have been used in EIAs. These generic standards were developed many years ago for use in the Netherlands with no consideration of risk.

In the backdrop of the world adopting to risk-based standards as the current trend, the Risk-Based Remediation Goals (RBRGs) are a welcomed development in Hong Kong. The RBRGs are new standards for contaminated land assessment and remediation that have been designed specific to Hong Kong conditions and land-uses. They lay down the extent of remediation required based on the risk to human receptors. One would agree that this should result in a more cost effective and efficient approach to contaminated land assessment and remediation. Read more on *Contaminated Land Remediation Goals* inside this newsletter.

The RBRGs were promulgated for use by EPD on 15 August 2007 with a transitional period of 3 months. The new Guidance Note (which replaces the ProPECC Note) and Guidance Manual should now be used. Copies of these can be found in the link:

http://www.epd.gov.hk/epd/english/envir_standards/non_statutory/esg_non_stat.html

Lisa POON

Chairman's Remarks

It is my pleasure to report that our number of active members has now grown to over 200. This is a true reflection of the status of the Institute, supported by you and all the good work of my colleagues in the executive.

In early November, I represented the Institute at The Second International Conference on EIA – Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) in China, together with Professor K.C. Lam and Elvis Au from Hong Kong. This high level conference was chaired by Mr Pan Yue, Vice Minister of the State Environmental Protection Administration (SEPA), with support from the National Development & Reform Commission (NDRC). The conference shared international and local experience, and was to pave the way for SEA development in China. The Institute has supported a monograph on *International Experience on SEA* and the papers are to be uploaded to our web site in the near future.

In mid-December we will sponsor the International Conference on Siting of Locally Unwanted Facilities: Challenges and Issues. Members are encouraged to participate and benefit from a 50% discount on registration. Details are available at http://ceprm.grm.cuhk.edu.hk/LULU/Index.html On behalf of the HKIEIA, I will be presenting a paper entitled *Contested Siting of a Transport Facility in Hong Kong - Challenges Met and Experience Gained*.

I look forward to seeing you in our upcoming activities. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Josh Lam

Report from the Secretary

Can Hong Kong really become Asia's World City by 2030 or earlier? There is definitely no answer to that in 2007, but as keen environmental professionals we definitely can contribute to this emerging discussion with positive response to various social, economical and environmental needs of our home city and beyond for this planet earth.

With the Institute's dedication in promoting discussion and sharing on the latest focus like climate change together with various professional bodies through workshops and seminars, environmental professionals

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shall be well equipped with the knowledge and skills to face the future challenges. On a personal level we can also practice a "greener living" to play a part in this endeavour.

David YEUNG

New Posting of Assistant Director (Environmental Assessment), EPD

Effective 3 December 2007, Mr. Elvis Au left the post of Assistant Director of the Environmental Assessment Division of EPD and joined the Environment Bureau (Energy Division). We heartily thank Elvis for all his contributions and support over the years and wish him the best in his future endeavors at his new post.

The Second International Conference on EIA – Strategic Environmental Assessment in China

On behalf of the HKIEIA, I attended this significant SEA conference on 3 and 4 November 2007 in Beijing, which was a follow-up to the 2004 conference in Hainan. The conference was organized by the SEPA together with the NDRC, and was highly publicised by the mass media, leading the way forward for SEA development in China. The response to the conference was overwhelming and in the end only 150 local practitioners were able to attend.

The opening speech by Mr. Pan Yue, Vice Minister of SEPA and closing speech by Mr. Zhu Xinxiang, the Director General of EIA Department of SEPA (in Chinese only) will be available in the HKIEIA web shortly. The Vice Mayors of four cities were each invited to make a speech on the collaboration with the SEPA in adopting SEA in the planning and development of their areas.

A panel of international experts led by Elvis Au, as well as local experts from various parts of China, presented their state of the art and diverse SEA experiences. Thanks to the great efforts of Professor K.C. Lam, Elvis Au, Professor Maria Partidario, and Dr Xu He, a monograph on *International Experience on SEA* was successfully published for the conference, under an extremely tight schedule. For those interested, the papers are to be uploaded to our web site in the near future.

Conference participants

Group photo of international SEA experts and Mr. Pang Yue, Vice Minister, SEPA (fifth from the right) and Mr. Zhu Xinxiang, Director of General, SEPA (first on the right)

Mr. Josh Lam and main organizer Mr. Li Tian Wei, SEPA

Josh LAM

HKIEIA Activities

Ngong Ping Fun Walk and Ecological Seminar

HKIEIA and CIWEM HK had jointly organized a visit in August, to the Ngong Ping Fun Walk and Seminar on Ecology, jointly provided by the Skyrail-ITM (Hong Kong) Ltd and AFCD. The Fun Walk was a circular route of about 1.5 km and covered six attractions, namely, Misty Lantau Peak, Fan Mun Traditional Walk, Tree Walk, Sunrise at Lantau Peak, Ngong Ping Lake View and Tea Path. About 30 participants were provided with an opportunity to explore the scenic natural beauty of Ngong Ping in Lantau and acquired more knowledge about nature conservation in Hong Kong. Representatives from AFCD have introduced to the participants, a great deal of landscape rising from the woodlands and hilly areas covered by open grassland and a variety of scenic vistas matched in Ngong Ping.

Representative from AFCD introduced the landscape of Ngong Ping

Eco-seminar on rare and native species in Lantau & overall history of Lantau Island

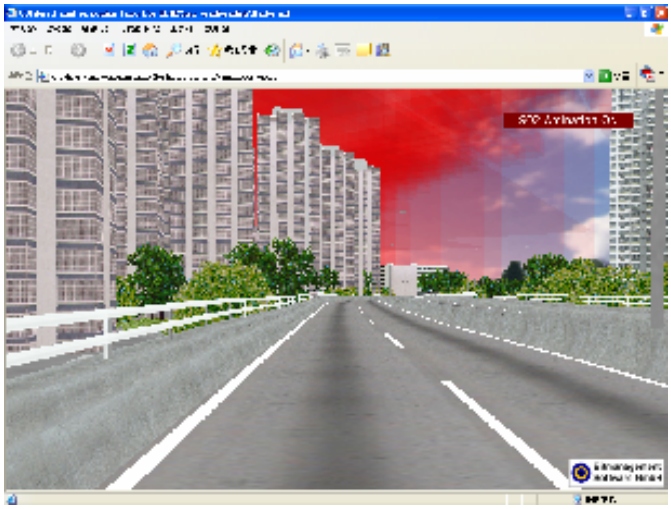
The Institute would like to thank Mr. Anderson Chow, Assistant Manager (Environmental and Safety) of Skyrail and representatives from AFCD for organizing such an interesting event for our members.

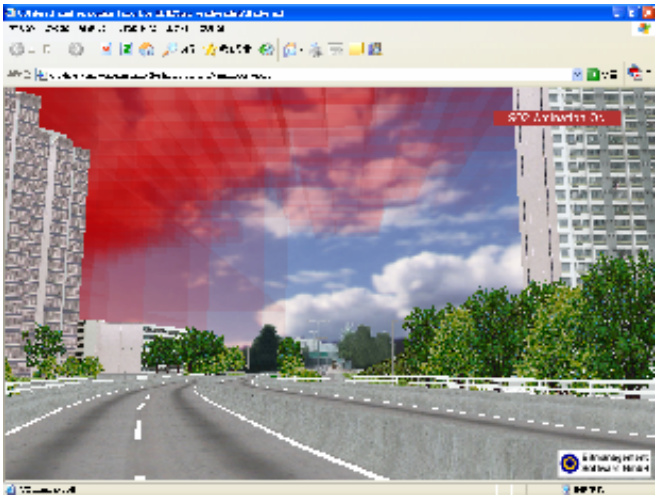
Henry LEUNG

Dissemination of Predicted Environmental Impact in a 3D Visualisation Environment through the Internet for 3D EIA and Planning Projects

In view of the requirement on visualization tool for some designated projects under the EIAO, the Institute has invited James Choi & Linda Lee of EDMS who demonstrated to our members the available technology for embedding time-varying pollution levels in 3D VRML, and illustrated how the virtual environment is established to assist the public to understand the major EIA report findings. Such functions included virtual walk through, fly through the 3D space to see the environment and the associated predicted environmental impacts.

There were many lively discussions on the 3-D EIA amongst EIA practitioners from the authorities, consultancy industry and project proponents during and after the demo. Given that the responses to this seminar was overwhelming, the Institute is considering to organize another similar one on this topic in the near future, allowing more members to learn about the benefit that was bought on by these visualization tools.





Embedded time-varying pollution levels in 3D VRML

Illustration on how the virtual environment is established

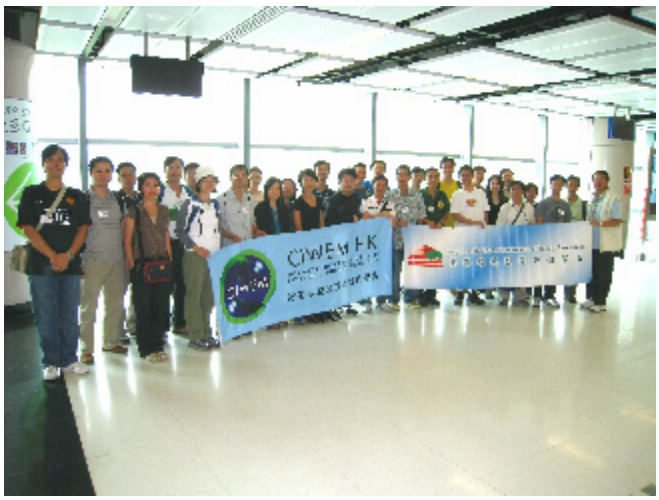
Thank you James and Linda for showing us the demo.

Henry LEUNG

Technical Visit to Lok Ma Chau KCRC Ecological Enhancement Area

HKIEIA has jointly organized with CIWEM HK, a technical visit to the KCRC LMC ecological enhancement area in October, to provide members with an in depth understanding of the ecological enhancement area and the wastewater treatment system.

Ir. Clarence Tze, Senior Environmental Specialist of KCRC, has taken the opportunity to explain to the participants on how the wetland enhancement works together with active management that has been successful in providing suitable habitats for key target species. Mr. Alson Pang, Environmental Specialist of KCRC, has also explained the mechanism on how Zero Discharge Policy was being achieved through a series of different wastewater treatments. The powerful Wetlands Viewer in the LMC Terminus was also introduced and Alson has demonstrated how bird-watchers could be benefited from this powerful system.



Group Photo at KCRC LMC Terminus

Group photo at the ecological enhancement area with the background of Huanggang (just a few ponds away!)

Mr. Alson Pang (right) introduced the Weltands Viewer to participants

Ir. Clarence Tse (middle) explained the active management of ecological enhancement areas to participants

Past & present personnel involved in the LMC Spur Line project

Cross boundary social event in Futian with CIWEM representatives

Henry LEUNG

Contaminated Land Remediation Goals

The Institute has organised another seminar on Contaminated Land Remediation Goals with an aim to prepare practitioners on the implementation of the new Risk-Based Remediation Goals (RBRGs). With the recent launch of the RBRGs by EPD, Mr. James Potter, Principal Consultant with ERM who has extensive experience in land contamination, was invited in October to provide an introduction to this type of contaminated land management.

Mr. Potter advised that the risk-based approach is a global standard approach and explained the concepts including risks to human health that are applicable to Hong Kong. He shared some of the issues encountered in the implementation of the remediation goals drawing from experience in the United Kingdom. Techniques in land remediation and the development of the RBRGs were also discussed.

The Institute would like to thank Mr. Potter for the informative talk. His presentation and other technical seminars previously provided have kept our members and practitioners abreast of the developments of the RBRGs as well as arming them with valuable information and knowledge of the new standards that are now implemented.

Introduction of the remediation goals to participants by Mr. James Potter

Mr. Freeman Cheung (left) presented a souvenir to Mr. James Potter (right)

Lisa POON

Forthcoming Events and Activities

The Institute will continue to organize more seminars and technical visits in the upcoming months with a focus on the energy infrastructure provided by the two power companies. Representatives from HEC and CLP will speak to us on their views and contributions to protecting the environment of Hong Kong.

Of course, please don't forget about the important event on the International Conference 2007 on the Siting of Locally Unwanted Facilities (LULU), organized by Centre for Environmental Policy and Resource Management, The Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK). It will be held between 12 and 14 December 2007 in CUHK and it aims to examine the underlying causes for facility siting impasse in Asia and other countries and to suggest ways and strategies that help resolve siting conflicts.

Henry LEUNG

Route to Corporate Membership for HKIE Environmental Discipline (11 October 2007)

The Institute has invited one of our Fellows Daniel Chan (who is also Chairman of HKIE's Environmental Discipline Advisory Panel) in October, to provide our members with further details about the potential route for experienced HKIEIA Members to attain HKIE Corporate Membership. Daniel has focused to explain the 2 major relevant routes to become a Corporate Member of HKIE, which included **1) Product Template Route 2) Mature Candidate Route.**

Product Template is taken to mean that, regardless of how an engineer gains his experience, as long as he meets the criteria and requirements of the HKIE's definition of a Professional Engineer he/she will be eligible for Professional Assessment. Interview and essay writing are the two major parts in this Professional Assessment process to assess whether candidate meets the admission requirement.

Candidates over 35 years old may seek admission to the Class of Member via the Mature Route. There are two routes for Mature Candidates, depending whether they have a recognized academic qualification or not.

Members gained a better understanding about Route to Corporate Membership for HKIE Environmental Discipline

Mr. Marcus Ip (left) presented a souvenir to Ir. Daniel Chan (right), Chairman of HKIE's Environmental Discipline Advisory Panel

Those interested in finding out more about these routes are reminded that they can refer to the Information Booklet entitled *M3 – Routes to Membership* and the Information Sheet on *Criteria and Procedures in Considering Applicants with Non-Accredited Degrees for Professional Assessment of the Three "Emerging"Disciplines (Environmental, Information and Materials)* available for download at the HKIE's official website (www.hkie.org.hk -> Qualification and Membership -> Downloads).

Marcus IP & Henry LEUNG

HKIEIA Membership

The Institute has currently a total of 204 members, including 21 Fellows, 157 Corporate Members, 24 Associate/Student Members and 2 Honorary Members.

HKIEIA Finances

Thanks for those who has promptly paid their membership due and our bank accounts have accumulated a healthy balance of HK$ 760,907.86. Please forward your cheques to the Hon Treasurer if you have not paid the membership subscriptions.

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