



Editorial

Think Big - Shantou Dialogues

The undersigned has been much honored to participate in the recently completed Li Ka Shing Shantou Dialogues. These Dialogues are held with government officials, policy makers, advisors, think-tanks, and academics from around the world together with our peers in China, providing a unique opportunity to come together in private and share ideas and develop projects together.

A part of the Dialogues focused on China's response to the Sichuan earthquake. As readers are aware China is embarking on re-housing more than 4.5 million people. Plans are in hand to develop new communities embracing the green economy. This will involve new kinds of jobs, agriculture, transportation, energy, resource use, waste recycling and more.

In Hong Kong we rarely consider developments of this scale. In comparison we focus on project minutiae. The redevelopment of Sichuan based on the circular economy provides a unique experiment and I commend all our readers to learn more on the Government's achievements and assist in whatever way they can.



I would also like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Glenn FROMMER

Chairman's Remarks

As usual, we continue with all the regular activities such as technical visit, seminar and conference. All of them have been well organized with the assistance from the activities committee. I must take this opportunity to extend my thanks to those organizing committee members who spent their own time to make those events happened. It would never be the same success without their contributions. A few more technical events and key conferences have been planned for next year and we are committed to provide events and activities that are of interest to our members.

I would also like to encourage our members to take a part in introducing our Institute to their colleagues and friends and support them to become a new member. As one of the many privileges to members, we sponsor member's participation in professional development activities as well as enable them to enjoy priority registration for popular events. The high enrolment in recent seminars and visits has proven that this arrangement is well received by members.

David YEUNG

Report from the Secretary

Many members of the Institute would probably agree with me that it has been difficult to escape from news on the global financial crisis during the last couple of months. In times of economic slowdown, priorities may need to be set for public expenditure and may pose a threat to the implementation of development projects. The environmental profession is closely linked to development and I can truly understand some people's concern on how our profession may be affected by the economic situation.

The Chief Executive's Policy Address has offered some assurance by reiterating the Government's commitment to the ten major infrastructure projects announced last year. In addition, the Government is making a major effort in

Published Quarterly by HKIEIA

HK Institute of EIA P. O. Box 28756, Gloucester Road Post Office, Hong Kong
E-mail – Webmaster@hkieia.org.hk Website - www.hkieia.org.hk

increasing the pace of putting out works projects for tender. Many of these projects will not only help the economy but also create opportunities for the environmental profession. The global financial tsunami will not recede overnight but I am confident that environmental professionals can still ride out the storm through hard work, innovation and perseverance.

Marcus IP

Debriefing Session on the 28th Annual Conference on International Association for Impact Assessment 2008 (IAIA08) in Perth Australia

The Art and Science of Impact Assessment represents the IAIA08 theme and the event took place in Perth, Australia from 4-10 May 2008. About 750 delegates from 85 countries were there to take stock of key trends, issues and approaches in the field of impact assessment.

On 5 September 2008, Mr Simon Hui, Prof Lam Kin Che, and Dr Ng Cho Nam who attended the Conference, shared some key notes to an audience of 36 in a relaxed atmosphere.

Key issues discussed were as follows:

- *Hong Kong Innovative Techniques in Public Engagement*

This ties in with the Continuous Public Involvement (CPI) policy EPD has always been promoting that the public should be truthfully informed and involved at all stages of project planning and implementation. Mr Hui informed us that Hong Kong is actually well ahead in public engagement in terms of helping the general public to understand both the project and the expected environmental impacts.

- *Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) in China*

Prof Lam spoke about the research and practices of SEA in China and how it could be made more effective to assure sustainability. An effective SEA system would eventually contribute to put China's development on a sustainable path. With this vision in mind, it is a big challenge for China to improve its current environmental assessment tool.

- *Major Lessons Learnt*

The EIA mechanism must be practical and cost effective in order to achieve its sustainable benefits. Dr NG Cho Nam spoke candidly about a local case study in which an ecological mitigation was undertaken on site disregarding the practicality and cost effectiveness.



Participants at the debriefing session

Gigi LAM

HKIEIA Activities

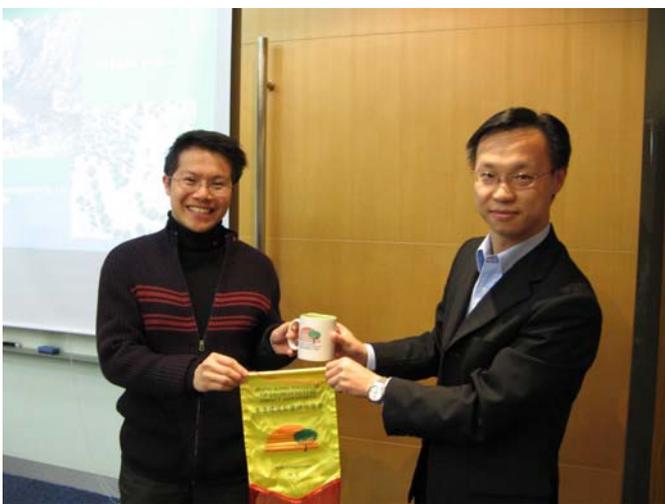
Talk on Public-Private Partnership (PPP) Scheme, Sha Lo Tung Valley, Tai Po

In response to the Government's Conservation Policy and the increasingly stringent government requirements in environmental issues, a "**Public-Private partnership**" scheme, between the Government, the developer and an NGO, is proposed to develop the ecologically non-sensitive areas in Sha Lo Tung Valley. The scheme, which controls one of the pilot PPP projects in Hong Kong, aims to strike a balance between development and conservation expectations while enabling the Valley to become a unique nature attraction and educational resource.

Mr. Terence Fong, a Principal Consultant of ERM, gave a talk to introduce the scheme and shared his experience in the environmental assessment of Sha Lo Tung project. Through utilizing a Conservation Trust Fund established for the development, the scheme members can oversee start-up works and monitor the environmental performance of the development by long-term active conservation management proposed by the assessment.



Mr Terence Fong, ERM



A souvenir presented to Mr Terence Fong by our Chairman, Mr David Yeung (right)

We thank Terence for sharing with us the PPP scheme and his experience in the environmental assessment.

Clara U

Eco-Dive in Hoi Ha Wan

HKIEIA successfully held its first ever Eco-Dive in Hoi Ha Wan off the coast of the north-eastern Sai Kung Country Park on 8 November 2008. It was an educational and fun-filled exploratory dive to introduce the marine environment to our members since its designation in 1996.

The event attracted some 30 participants from all walks of life in an all-day activity, which consisted of two dives with one in the morning followed by another in the afternoon in the choppy waters. Snorkeling along the northern shore had also been part of the event's activity taken up by 8 of the participants, and despite the gusty weather condition, the event was hailed a success owed to the undiminishable enthusiasm of the

Updating Hong Kong on Environmental Impact Assessment

participants.



Boarding



Diving in action



Group photo



Hoi Ha Wan Marine Park

Clara U

Greetings from Professor Hodgkiss

A casual dinner was held with Professor Hodgkiss on 5 November 2008 when he was in town. Some of our HKIEIA friends and Executive Committee Members attended and enjoyed casual talk over a delicious meal. It is always a pleasure to see old friends of HKIEIA, especially one of such stature. It was a very eventful gathering indeed.



Forthcoming Events and Activities

With the arrival of migratory birds, we plan to arrange various bird watching events to Mai Po and Lok Ma Chau in order to get closer to them. To make the events more interesting, we could also visit MTR’s wastewater treatment system (a STP plus Reedbeds) at LMC station while we are visiting Lok Ma Chau. Short introduction to the plant operation would be arranged on the day.

So look out for the event flyers and don't miss the opportunities for these visits.

Henry LEUNG

HKIEIA Membership

The Institute has currently a total of 208 members, including 21 Fellows, 161 Corporate Members, 31 Associate/Student Members and 2 Honorary Members.

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

HKIEIA Finances

We are going to be in 2009 but I have only received less than 50% of the membership subscriptions which are due in May 2008. Please send in your cheque to the Hon Treasurer though we are still in a healthy financial situation with HK\$799,700.66 in our banks on 2 December 2008.

Published Quarterly by **HKIEIA**

HK Institute of EIA P. O. Box 28756, Gloucester Road Post Office, Hong Kong
 E-mail – Webmaster@hkieia.org.hk Website - www.hkieia.org.hk