



## Editorial

### *Troublesome Teens? Hong Kong's EIA Ordinance at Sixteen*

Will cheers ring out as Hong Kong's EIA Ordinance marks its sixteenth birthday in 2014 or will eyebrows be raised? In the elapsed time the EIA has demonstrably served Hong Kong well, with nearly 170 EIAs approved to date, but the EIAO has been criticised for poorly serving Hong Kong's environment and natural resources by some quarters. In addition, the EIAO has more recently become dogged in protracted Judicial Reviews for both the Hong Kong Macau Zhuhai Bridge and the Integrated Waste Management Facility in which it seems only lawyers are the real winners.

A review of the EIAO in 2014 in a certain light will show this teenager to be a robust environmental parameter assessment tool, but in the sixteen intervening years there have been calls for inclusion of social impact assessment, a greenhouse gas appraisal mechanism and a means for economic costs and benefits to be factored into an enhanced assessment and approval process. Some parties have also called for inclusion of a formal Strategic Environmental Assessment bolt-on planning stage to better archive strategic oversight and consideration of cumulative impacts.

Further, in the sixteen years since the EIAO's birth, the world, and Hong Kong, have moved on in terms of both environmental awareness and the communities' wishes to be more involved in public participation of development, planning and infrastructure developments.

So what should be done? Should we throw out our EIAO with the New Year's bathwater and simply start again? Surely not. Or should we, simply shrug and do nothing? Surely not.

A more rational thought would be to critically and objectively review how the Ordinance has performed and served us and our environment; warts and all?

Any such rational review should involve third-party check on international best practice in EIA and sustainability. The review should embrace engagement of all key stakeholders for their views on this teenager's performance. Namely, Environment Bureau, EPD, EIA practitioners, HKSARG development bureaus and departments, politicians, green and community interest groups, academics scientists, and the community, young and old, plus the business sector too. And any such 360 degree review must clearly include the views of Hong Kong Institute of EIA fellows and members, the industry practitioners, from both consultant and government regulatory sides to recommend how an EIAO might serve Hong Kong's environment, natural resources and community even better in the next sixteen years.

So let us not mourn the start of the end of our EIA Ordinance but rather raise a glass half full to toast to the EIA Ordinance and a brighter greener future for it and Hong Kong.

*Timothy J. PEIRSON-SMITH*

## Chairman's Remarks

Dear Members,

2013 has been a very challenging year for many of us, where there were a number of divergent views within the society on various controversial conservation issues, ranging from the judicial review of the integrated waste management facility, Lung Mei beach, enclave and the new AQO. As practitioners, we sometimes might question ourselves on how effective we are in practicing EIA in Hong Kong.

**“Reaching Out”** - I believe our focus / expectations should not be only on the local level, but to take a holistic view and see how to position ourselves to align with the international level on the impact assessment practice. From what we have learned from the many International EIA conferences, we should have realised the importance of reaching out, sharing and promoting our good practices. Hong Kong can rightly be proud of our achievements thusfar in promoting the EIA process and the well-established stakeholder engagement process during the different stages of the EIAO cycle. In particular on the EIA follow-up programme, effective environmental monitoring programmes and consultation liaison groups have made Hong Kong practitioners the best practice pioneers in the region in executing EIA for over 15 years.

**“Not to Forget”** – However, we must not forget about the lessons shared among each other at the local and international level and how to equip ourselves to enhance today's EIAO system to become more robust and comprehensive in order to meeting the increasing demand from the public on quality EIA practice.

**“Act Now”** – From the many overseas and local training opportunities being provided by the HKIEIA, the Institute aims to strengthen the skillsets of our members and to provide them with a better view on the international best practices. ACT NOW and come to meet with the world renowned experts at our Regional EIA Symposium held in January 2014 in Hong Kong. Other training opportunities on the customised stakeholders engagement skills for EIA / EM&A practitioners are also being planned for the next 12 months.

**“Connect”** - Our ability to uplift the Institute's status and connect with the international EIA practitioners can only be made possible with your active participation.

Lastly, I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of the Executive Committee, to wish you and your family a joyous and prosperous 2014.

*Henry LEUNG*

## From the Secretary

I am pleased to inform you that the new Executive Committee for 2013-14 was formed.

- **Chairman:** Mr. Henry Leung
- **Vice-Chairman:** Ms. Clara U
- **Honorary Treasurer:** Mr. Freeman Cheung
- **Honorary Secretary:** Ms. Claudine Lee
- **Membership Secretary:** Ms. Clara U and Ms. Sophia Lau
- **Professional Development:** Mr. Mohamed Hasan Isa
- **Newsletter Editor:** Mr. Timothy J. Peirson-Smith, Ms. Felice Wong
- **Event Organiser:** Ms. Sophia Lau, Mr. Mohamed Hasan Isa
- **Website Management:** Mr. Raymond Wong
- **External Affairs:** Mr. Josh Lam, Mr. Timothy J. Peirson-Smith and Prof. Kin-che Lam, David Yeung
- **Co-opted ExCo Member:** Mr. Raymond Wong, Dr. Jackie Yip and Ms. Lighting Chan

This year, we have new team members from more diversified background: education, environmental modelling support, ecology and on the contractor side. We hope to gather more ideas from various EIA professionals.

We also want your voices too. If you have any ideas, please feel free to contact anyone of us or send email to [hkieia.hk@gmail.com](mailto:hkieia.hk@gmail.com) or [hon.sec.hkieia@gmail.com](mailto:hon.sec.hkieia@gmail.com).

Have a green 2014!

*Claudine LEE*

**HKIEIA Events/Activities**

**Events / Activities Review**

***HKIEIA Annual General Meeting 2013 (20 June 2013)***

Members gathered at the World Trade Centre Club on 20 June 2013 to join the HKIEIA Annual General Meeting (AGM). This once-a-year event not only provides an excellent opportunity to members to see old and new faces but also review what has been achieved throughout the year by the Institute.

The AGM was started with remarks by Henry Leung, the Chairman, followed by a financial report by Freeman Cheung, the Hon. Treasurer. This year, an election for new Executive Committee members was conducted, and we are very glad to have Professor K C Lam, Freeman Cheung and David Yeung be newly / re-elected members of the Executive Committee. Together with the existing committee members, they will be injecting further energy to help achieve the best for the institute.

We also have great pleasure to have Dr. Chan Yuen Tak-fai, Dorothy, B.B.S., Chairperson of EIA Sub-Committee of The Advisory Council on the Environment, to be our guest of honour of the AGM this year. Dr. Chan has shared her views with our members on EIAO mechanism for Hong Kong. The presentation was informative, and has prompted the audience to think about the EIAO system that has been in place for more than 15 years.



*Souvenir presenting to Dr. Dorothy Chan*



*Members together with Dorothy Chan at the AGM Dinner*



*Representatives from HKIEIA, HKIOA, CIWEM, together with Dorothy Chan*

***Felice WONG***

***The Joint HKIOA-PolyU Symposium "Research, Assessment and Development of Applying Innovative Building Design for Noise Mitigation - The Latest Trends" (24 May 2013)***



The HKIEIA had sponsored some of our members to attend an inspiring symposium jointly organised by HKIOA and Hong Kong Polytechnic University on innovative building design for noise mitigation. Among various attendees, two of our members would like to share their views with us on this symposium, as below.

“A very interesting symposium on noise mitigation in building designs to minimise nuisance resulting from traffic. The Symposium started with the welcome

message from Dr. Kin Cheng, the Chairman of Hong Kong Institute of Acoustics followed by the opening speech from Mr. KF Tang the Assistant Director of Environmental Protection Department (Environmental Assessment) and the closing speech from Ms. Ada Fung the Deputy Director of Housing (Development & Construction) Housing Department.

In between the two speeches various experts shared their research, assessment and development carried out on window design (except for Mr. Daniel A. Naish who concentrated on balcony design innovations) such that noise nuisance from outside the house will be suppressed and minimised before finding its way into the house and causing discomfort to the noise sensitive receivers living inside.

The experts being Prof. Jian Kang from the School of Architecture at the University of Sheffield, United Kingdom; Prof. Yiu Wai Lam from the University of Salford, United Kingdom; Mr. Daniel A. Naish, Principal Engineer (Road Engineering Standards) from the Department of Transport and Main Roads Brisbane, Queensland Australia; Prof. Shui-Keung Tang from the Department of Building Services Engineering, the Hong Kong Polytechnic University; Dr. Siu-Kit Lau from the University of Nebraska, Lincoln, USA and Prof. Xiaojun Qiu from the Institute of Acoustic, Nanjing University, PR China.

After the presentations from the six speakers, the panel discussion was led by Mr. Maurice Yeung, Principal Environmental Protection Officer (Assessment & Noise), EPD, HKSAR Government; Maurice was also the Symposium Chairman.”

### *M H I S A*

“It was exciting to attend this one-day symposium featuring research presentations from a panel of noise experts from all over the world. The topics are more than academic research but very practical and important to all noise professions who would like to shape our better future by applying innovative building designs for noise mitigation. The theory and modelling of ventilation windows formed the basis and the improvements in modelling to save calculation time and computer power without compromising the results. The application of micro-perforated absorbers (MPA) and active noise control further enhance the transmission loss of glazing in lower frequency ranges. The statistic model of affected population and its

associated health related cost against the cost of implementing noise mitigation in balcony design allows us to optimise its cost-effectiveness, and is a very helpful tool in decision making. Application of the ventilation windows in HKPU, and the case studies in Housing Authority sites equipped us to be pioneers of the future. The symposium was a great success, and we look forward to the next one.”

*Enid YUNG*

### *Technical Visit to the Hong Kong International Airport (11 May 2013)*

There is always more to learn about Hong Kong International Airport's (HKIA) operations and environmental initiatives. Peter Lee, General Manager, Environment and Ricky Leung, General Manager, Technical Services of the Airport Authority Hong Kong (AAHK) warmly welcomed the participants for the visit. Participants listened to informative insights on HKIA's operations, environmental initiatives and the latest developments including the planned expansion into a three-runway system.

Highlights of the day included an airside tour of Integrated Airport Centre, the fixed ground power, pre-conditioned air systems and airside waste station, allowing the participants to get a glimpse of the behind-the-scenes operations at the airport. Participants also had an opportunity to take a closer look at other facilities such as electric vehicle charging station and wastewater treatment plant to learn more about the airport's green initiatives.



*Behind-the-scene operations at the Hong Kong International Airport*



Definitely a very well- received technical visit.

*Sophia LAU*

**Seminar on “A Clean Air Plan for Hong Kong”  
(28 September 2013)**

The Environmental Management Association of Hong Kong invited HKIEIA to participate in the Seminar on “ A Clean Air Plan for Hong Kong” held on 28 September, 2013 at the Wang Gangwu Theatre, the University of Hong Kong. Mr. Andrew Lai, Deputy Director of Environmental Protection Department gave a short synopsis of what the Government is planning to do to achieve a clean air Hong Kong. Immediately following his speech, Mr Lai joined representatives from the power companies, Dr Jeanne Ng of CLP and Mr TC Yee of Hongkong Electric plus Mr Mike Kilburn of Airport Authority, Mr Alok Jain from Kowloon Motor Bus and Mr Simon Ng, of Civic Exchange in a panel discussion. The wide coverage of the key air pollution stakeholders and specialists sparked off a lot of interesting and practical discussion on how to achieve a clean air Hong Kong. The participants were fully engaged in the discussion that overran the coffee break. Then there were three more presentations by prominent experts in the field including Prof Alexis Lau on “The new Air Quality Health Index”, Dr Wing-Tat Hung on “Transportation contribution to Clean Air Plan for Hong Kong” and Prof Yuan Xu on “The cost-effectiveness of the Clean Air Plan”. This was a rare opportunity for the stakeholders and renowned academics in the field to share their views on the government’s Clean Air Plan. The event was well attended with more than 150 who filled the lecture theatre on a Saturday morning.



A group photo taken at the seminar

*Freeman CHEUNG*

**Hong Kong Waste Management Association  
AGM (23 September 2013)**

The Chairman had attended the HKWMA AGM and had sent his warm congratulations on behalf of HKIEIA to Chairman Ir. Barry Lee and his committee.



Left: Henry Leung, Chairman of HKIEIA; Barry Lee, Chairman of HKWMA; Kenny Wong, Vice Chairman of HKWMA

*Claudine LEE*

**Debriefing on IAIA 2013 – The Next Generation  
(24 September 2013)**

The 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Conference of the International Association for Impact Assessment 2013 (IAIA13), with the theme “The Next Generation”, was held from 13-16 May 2013 in Calgary, Canada. A number of

Institute members attended and presented their papers at this conference. A debriefing session was held on 24 September 2013.

Three speakers namely Mr. Henry Leung, Mrs. Shirley Lee and Ms. Clara U provided a debriefing of their presentations delivered in the IAIA conference. Their presentations spanned a wide spectrum of subjects relating to impact assessment, including:

- Comparing quality practice in EIA in Hong Kong and United Kingdom (Henry Leung);
- Alternative analysis: Key to effective and efficient IAs? (Mrs. Shirley Lee)
- Shift toward a public expectation-oriented EIA (Clara U)
- Managing trade-offs in impact assessment decision-making (Mrs. Shirley Lee);

The IAIA conference has always been regarded as a high quality professional annual event. The upcoming one will be held in Viña del Mar in Chile. Members are encouraged to attend in order not to miss the opportunity of enhancing their professional knowledge from an international perspective.



*Presenting souvenirs to speakers of the debriefing session*

**Felice WONG**

***Talk on Rail Damper Latest Development - Reduction of Noise Radiation and Corrugation Growth (30 September 2013)***

HKIEIA provided support to the technical seminar on latest developments on rail dampers. The speaker, Wilson Ho discussed the popularity of the railway noise control by rail damper in Europe and Australia over the last decade and introduced a novel, new type of rail damper (Shearing Tuned Mass Rail Damper) that are being tested in Hong Kong.

This damper was able to reduce both vertical and lateral rail vibrations by single oscillation mass. Such characteristic makes the damper provide exceptional high damping to rail vibration, and suppresses corrugation growth and noise radiation as highlighted. There were many good discussions throughout the seminar about railway noise controls and the technical details of the rail damper development the seminar was well attended with over 140 persons.



*The venue was almost fully filled for this interesting seminar*

**Tevy KWOK**

***HKIEIA Social Event – Photo Shooting Tour Hong Kong Wetland Park and Pak Nai Sunset (5 October 2013)***

A photo shooting tour to the Hong Kong Wetland Park and Pak Nai was arranged for HKIEIA members and friends to enjoy the beautiful scenery while capturing memorable photographs of our wetland habitats and spectacular photographs of sunset at Pak Nai. The event was jointly organised by HKIEIA and Hong Kong Creart Photographic Association. We also invited experienced photographers from the Hong Kong Creart Photographic Association to share with us the skills and techniques on nature photo-shooting during the tour.

This social event started in the afternoon and ran through into sunset and the evening. Members started off at the Hong Kong Wetland Park and captured some good photos on birds, mangroves and wetland conservation. After the Wetland Park photo-taking session, they headed off to Pak Nai. Pak Nai is famous for its amazing scenery of mudflats and sunset over Deep Bay.



*Stunning photos of Pak Nai and Wetland Park*

*Felice WONG  
Clara U*



***The 3rd China-Japan-Korea Tripartite EIA & SEA Conference (8-9 November 2013)***

The 3rd China-Japan-Korea Tripartite EIA & SEA Conference was held in Chiba near Tokyo on 8-9 November, 2013. Over 80 delegates attended the conference discussing hot issues related to, and recent developments in, EIA/SEA. There were seven delegates from Hong Kong including Freeman Cheung, Andy Chung, KC Lam, Henry Leung, Marcus Ip and two PhD students of The Chinese University of Hong Kong. We were joined by other Chinese delegates from the Appraisal Centre for Environment and Engineering, Beijing Normal University, Nankai University, Tianjin Centre for Environmental Assessment and South China Institute of Environmental Sciences.

Following the official opening of the Conference by the President of Chiba University of Commerce, Prof. Sacchi Harashina, the local host and former President of IAIA, gave the keynote speech highlighting the role of environment assessment to guide sustainable development in the modern society. Prof. KC Lam had the honour of giving the first presentation in the paper sessions and to make, on behalf of the Chinese delegation, a few concluding remarks in the closing ceremony. The presentations by the Hong Kong delegates touched on areas related to SEA development in China, sustainable rail development, EIA and climate change and stakeholder engagement aroused a lot of interest.



*Presentation by Prof K C Lam on “Challenges of SEA in China”*

After the conference, HKIEIA hosted a dinner in a Japanese restaurant for key Japanese, Korean and Chinese delegates. The food was splendid, the atmosphere warm and the interactions interesting. We were thrilled to learn that the 4th Tripartite Conference would probably be held in Guangzhou in late 2014 and

encouraged the delegates to take a short visit to Hong Kong.

There were also many constructive discussions with our Chinese counterparts on how sharing of good impact assessment practices could be further strengthened, while the HKIEIA will work closely with ACEE on the best practical approaches in cultivating such future sharing.

For many of us, this trip to Japan was memorable – academically interesting and professionally enriching. Some of us also experienced an earthquake with a strength of 5.5, which was hair-raising. But we nonetheless all returned to Hong Kong safely.



*Presentations by Henry Leung and Marcus Ip on sustainable rail development, and EIA and climate change*



Knowledge exchange among delegates from Hong Kong, Japan, Korea and China

**K C LAM**  
**Henry LEUNG**

**HKIOA 20th Anniversary Event - One-day Symposium (6 December 2013)**

The HKIEIA had supported and sent our warm congratulations to the 20 years establishment of the Hong Kong Institute of Acoustics in December 2013. We had sponsored our members to attend the one-day symposium on “Contributing to the Acoustic Profession of Hong Kong for Twenty Years and Beyond” followed by the gala dinner.



Top: HKIOA Chairman, Dr. Kin Cheng; HKIEIA Chairman, Mr. Henry Leung together with members of the HKIOA

Clara U

**Upcoming Events**

**Regional EIA Symposium 2014 (9-11 January 2014)**

Hong Kong Institute of Environmental Impact Assessment and the Institute of Environment, Energy and Sustainability of the Chinese University of Hong Kong are co-organising a Regional EIA Symposium from 9-11 January 2014 focusing on “Shaping EIA for The Future” which allows EIA practitioners to look back over the past 20 years or so EIA practice in your home countries and to pave our way for the future EIA processes in this fast developing region. We have obtained supports from more than 20 supporting organizers, including but not limiting to Ministry of Environmental Protection, China, Environment Bureau, HKSAR, China EIA Association and Appraisal Center for Environment & Engineering, MEP, China for their supports and the generous sponsorships that we received from our Sponsors to make this event possible. The symposium is expecting more than 150 EIA practitioners, legislators and academics/researchers to share their experience and insights to improve the effectiveness of EIA in Asia. There will also be 3 training courses on Health Impact Assessment (HIA), Organized Reasoning and EIA and Social Impact Assessment (SIA). This is really a very good opportunity for us to learn from these international experts to advance the EIA practice in Asia. I look forward to seeing our members actively participating in this event.



Freeman CHEUNG

## Consultation Corner

### *Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (BSAP)*

The Government has set up a steering committee and three working groups to develop the first BSAP for Hong Kong for implementation in 2015 – 2020. Background and details can be found in the official BSAP website:

[http://www.afcd.gov.hk/english/conservation/con\\_bsap/con\\_bsap.html](http://www.afcd.gov.hk/english/conservation/con_bsap/con_bsap.html)

As a member of the Terrestrial Biodiversity Working Group (TBWG), Jackie and I are working closely with the other members of this group as well as other working groups, in developing the plan for reporting to the Steering Committee. Since July 2013, two TBWG meetings had been held and details can be found on the above website.

As highlighted in my email in September, I would also chair a focus group under the TBWG - the Terrestrial Impact Assessment Focus Group - to examine the existing and potential impacts to the biodiversity of Hong Kong in a more focused manner for further consideration by the TBWG. To date, practitioners from the NGOs, consultant, project proponents and authority together with the tertiary institute had participated in the focus group and the first meeting was held in November and discussed the operation of this focus group. Details of the discussion would be uploaded onto the Institute's website. Other interested members are welcome to contact us directly ([bsap.hkieia@gmail.com](mailto:bsap.hkieia@gmail.com)) for comments and/or participation in the focus group discussions.

*Henry LEUNG  
Jackie YIP*

### *Feasibility Study on Relocation of Sha Tin Sewage Treatment Works to Caverns*

The Drainage Services Department (DSD) is conducting a feasibility study on the relocation of Sha Tin Sewage Treatment Works (STW) to caverns. The study commenced in May 2012, and is expected to take about 24 months to complete. Up to now, DSD has substantially completed all preliminary technical assessments and completed both Stages 1 and 2 public consultants on refining the relocation proposal.

Members who are interested in this study can visit DSD's study website [www.STSTWinCaverns.hk](http://www.STSTWinCaverns.hk) for further details.

*Felice WONG*

## HKIEIA Membership

The Institute currently had a total of 325 Members, including 4 Honorary Members, 23 Fellows, 221 Corporate Members and 70 Associate and 7 Student Members.

Members are reminded to submit to me their annual membership renewals together with the completed CPD records.

*Clara U*

## HKIEIA Finances

The accounts remain healthy with accumulated fund of HK\$1,007,586.04 on 4 December 2013. The accumulated fund has included the symposium sponsorship and registration fees.

You are reminded to remit your membership dues to the Honorary Treasurer in accordance with Clause 26 of the Institute's Memorandum, all members shall pay an annual subscription as decided by the Committee payable in advance on the first day of May each year. Please send your cheque, without delay, to the following address for my attention if you have not paid the membership subscription.

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*Freeman CHEUNG*