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 Jan 2011

Editorial

With West Kowloon's consultation come to a halt, everyone had been occupied with the EPD's consultation on the Hong Kong's own climate change strategy and action agenda that has been extended until December 31, 2010. Although there are still lots of controversial issues in all these proposed strategies, we definitely encourage members to actively participate in our everyday routine to save our own planet. It is not difficult to see more and more local awareness on the topic with the large local participation in the recent well attended C40s Cities Climate Leadership Group meeting held on 3 – 6 November 2010.

Similarly, the general public and the media had shown growing interests on environmental issues and consequently this general topic starts to become an instrument at various levels of the political forum. It is always good to see that lots of emphasizes on environmental issues had raised our professional profiles. In the same token, as an environmental professional, I strongly believe practitioner would not love to see their professionalism being affected by the political issues. In order to surf over this tide we would need to enrich our knowledge in all areas since environmental management is a wide topic covering social sciences and sciences field. Continuous CPD activities for members, young and experienced alike are important to maintain our professionalism.

David YEUNG

Chairman's Remarks

Happy New Year and I wish all members a healthy and prosperous 2011 ahead.

A moment for reflection-- much has been achieved in 2010--thanks to the good efforts of the immediate past and the current executive committee members. Locally, we maintained a strong presence and have continued to contribute positively on important government initiatives to include environmentally dominant agenda items like: the "Hong Kong Air Quality Objectives Review" and the "Hong Kong Water Quality Objectives Review". In 2011, we plan to contribute an active role on "Hong Kong's responses to Climate Change [COP15 in Copenhagen]".

During the last quarter, we also participated actively in the public engagement exercises of the West Kowloon Cultural District Development--Conceptual Plan Options and the Kai Tak River Workshop. In December, we wrote to the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau requesting its further consideration for proper representation under the existing functional constituency.

On the local, national and international front, there have been increasing levels of activities in the form of a wide range of technical visits, professional symposia and seminars on specialist topics delivered by local/foreign experts. These were achieved through collaboration with many other professional organizations, to maximize mutual benefits on networking, knowledge exchange in addition to cost sharing to obtain an as-low-as-possible attendance fare per capita. I would like to thank the many event organizers from the various organizations--CIWEM, HKIOA, HKWMA, HKIE (Env) amongst others for their generous offers to HKIEIA members; and we shall endeavor to do our best to reciprocate.

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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

Looking ahead, we should strive hard to put up a much stronger presence within the International Association of Impact Assessment, if it is our wish to avoid being outshined by other Asian/Pacific Rim representatives like Japan, South Korea, Australia, and New Zealand. This is of particular significance if we treasure opportunities to host major events in connection with "impact assessment" in major cities within China.

Last but not least, much effort is imminently needed to optimize existing professional development capabilities offered by our local academic institutions and professional learning institutes, with a view to identify existing gaps for further development. Capacity building opportunities are sorely needed to nurture our young members and students who would be next in line as our pillars in the society to fight for the environment on the one hand, and to be respected and properly recognized for the quality professional "impact assessment" work they are expected to deliver.

With concerted effort from all, I am confident that 2011 will be another fruitful year. Let's aim high and work hard to achieve our targets!

Shirley LEE

Report from the Secretary

Welcome to 2011!

Time flies. Last year, it is encouraging that we have received overwhelming responses from members on technical seminars and activities, such as our first Night Safari in Mai Po last summer and Green Day Out to EcoPark, CLP power plant and Pillar Point Landfill Site in November 2010. Besides technical visits and events, the Executive Committee members have also been exploring other different opportunities to help members to enhance their environmental knowledge and arouse their interest in different areas.

This year, similar to our previous practice as a professional organization, we will keep an eye on the developments affecting our environment no matter they are locally or globally. We also noticed the increasing concern on environmental issues in other industries, such as the Sustainability Index in stock markets. We will continue our active participation in expressing our professional views on upcoming major development projects, green moves and plans. In facilitating the professional development, more interesting activities and seminars will be coming up in these few months. We welcome your suggestions and ideas in seminars and activities. You may send us an email to **hkieia.hk@gmail.com**.
Wish you a greener year of Rabbit!

Claudine LEE

HKIEIA Activities

Gei Wai Harvesting at Mai Po Nature Reserve, 1 Aug 2010

With the assistance of WWF-Hong Kong, a Gei Wai harvesting event was organized by HKIEIA in the evening of 1 Aug 2010 (Sunday). The response was overwhelmed with over 25 people participated in the event.

Group Photos at Peter Scott Field Centre

Over 25 participants attended the event

The event was started by an interesting presentation by WWF. All of us learned much about Gei Wai shrimp cultivation which is an important part of Hong Kong's coastal heritage from the presentation.

Inside the Gei Wai Museum

We visited the Gei Wai Museum, which was a fisherman's house. The most interesting thing was that we learned how to distinguish between male and female shrimp. The last but not least we have the chance to taste the freshness of Gei Wai shrimp.

Learning about how to distinguish between male and female shrimp (Left); A male shrimp (Right)

The Institute would take this opportunity to express their gratitude once again to WWF-Hong Kong for organizing the event.

The harvest

Eva HO

Debriefing Session on the 30th Annual Conference on IAIA10 in Geneva, Switzerland, 8 Oct 2010

Over 30 participants attended the debriefing session

The 30th Annual Conference on International Association for Impact Assessment 2010 (IAIA10) in Geneva, Switzerland was held on 6th to 11th April 2010. The theme of IAIA10 was "The role of impact assessment in Transitioning to the Green Economy". More than 600 experts from 75 countries gathered in Geneva to share and contribute to the topics on social and environmental impacts of transitioning to a green economy.

Presentation by Prof. Lam Kin Che

A debriefing session of IAIA10 was held by the Institute at the Hong Kong Productivity Council on 8 Oct 2010. We were honoured to have four Hong Kong delegates: Prof. Lam Kin Che, Prof. Ng Cho Nam, Mrs. Shirley Lee and Mr. Josh Lam, who had attended IAIA10 conference in April, to share with members some of the highlights of the conference and feedback on new development of green economy and impact assessment. Prof. Lam also delivered a separate talk on SEA activities and Practices in China which he had presented at the IAIA10.

A souvenir presented to Prof. Lam Kin Che by Mrs. Shirley Lee

The debriefing session was ended with a fruitful panel discussion chaired by Mrs. Shirley Lee. Over 30 participants attended this interesting debriefing session.

A souvenir presented to Prof. Ng Cho Nam by Mrs. Shirley Lee

Eva HO

Railway Noise Control by Vibration Absorbers, 14 Oct 2010

HKIEIA supported HKIOA and CHKPWS on this technical seminar which was well attended by members of the organizers and supporting organizations. The Auditorium at MTR Headquarters Building was packed with enthusiastic attendees with more than 70 people joining the seminar.

Over 70 participants attended the seminar

David England from MTR gave a summary of the vibration issues from railway operation and typical vibration control measures to reduce rail vibration and noise radiation. Wilson Ho introduced the mechanism of Tuned Mass Damping (TMD) technique using oscillating masses to match the rail vibration modes to reduce both vertical and lateral rail vibration. Banting Wong then shared the results from noise and vibration tests and the improvements applied to the damper design. We all learnt a lot from these experts on railway noise control.

Freeman CHEUNG

Climate Dialogue, 3 – 6 Nov 2010

With the leadership of Civic Exchange, Hong Kong hosted 4 days of Climate Dialogue from 3 – 6 November 2010, culminating with the two day meeting of mayors for the C40s Cities Climate Leadership Group. This meeting provided a platform for international policy makers and experts to share their knowledge and experience for city's low carbon prosperity. Most notable attendees were Tony Miller and Michael Bloomberg, the Mayors of Toronto and New York City respectively and Professor Johan Rockström and Dr James Hansen.

The meetings, Eco Expo Asia exhibition and the Youth Conference on 7 November attracted 1600 delegates and more than 2200 people attended these and related events. Copies of all presentation materials can be found on the Climate Dialogue website http://climate.dialogue.org.hk/index.php/en/resources/session/slides/sa/. The undersigned was involved in a workshop on electric vehicles.

The growing awareness and knowledge of climate change is indeed a very encouraging trend and has already become a mainstream factor in sustainable development thinking.

Glenn FROMMER

A Green Day Out to Tuen Mun South, 13 Nov 2010

Following various green and eco-tours organized by the Institute earlier this year, we decided that members should explore the green side of Hong Kong at a different angle this time. "A Green Day Out to Tuen Mun South" was arranged on 13 November aiming to set the scene and allow members to explore various green activities including green business, green installation and green measures that are happening in this so-called "industrialized" part of Hong Kong.

Group Photos at Eco Park Visitor Centre

It was a whole day event and the day started with the visit to the Eco-Park. Mr. Alexi Bhanja presented the background on the construction and operation of the Eco-Park and the key environmental issues and recommendation in the EIA study. It was then followed by a tour to the waste plastics recycling facility and a bio-diesel plant within the Eco-Park.

A souvenir presented to Mr. Alexi Bhanja by Mr. David Yeung

Group Photo at CLP

Tour at CLP's gas Turbine Plant

The second stop of the day was the "ElectriCity" at the Castle Peak Power station where members were guided to look at the green operations at the facility including the retrofitting works for reducing air pollutant emissions and the newly installed flue-gas desulphurization equipment.

Group Photo at Pillar Point Landfill

The Green Day ended with a relaxing walk at the restored landfill at the Pillar Point Valley where the Contract Manager of SITA, Mr Robin Ho, shared with us some of their green measures and initiatives as part of the landfill restoration works including the replanting of Pitcher plants and various ecological and landscaping enhancement works.

A souvenir presented to Mr. Robin Ho of SITA by Mr. David Yeung

I shall take this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude to the efforts spent by Alexi, Robin and colleagues from CLP which make our Green Day Out a successful and meaningful one.

Clara U

Hong Kong-Zuhai-Macao Symposium on Wise Application of Wetland, 14 Dec 2010

Wetland is one of the important ecological systems of the earth. The symposium "Hong Kong-Zuhai-Macao Symposium on Wise Application of Wetland" which took place on 14th Dec 2010 gave us some idea on how an artificial wetland can be viewed in the eye of a landscape architect from the design stage to completion. Furthermore, not only the wetland in Hong Kong was discussed but also artificial wetland in Zhuhai and Macao with success in the birds migration to these wetlands.

M.H. ISA

Upcoming HKIEIA Events / Activities

The Institute will organize various interesting activities in the coming months for members aiming to facilitate the exchange of ideas, knowledge and information on topical environmental issues as well as to encourage networking amongst members and peers by means of social activities:-

- Visit to Ngong Ping Nature Centre and Fun Walk in January
- Technical Visit to the Hong Kong Observatory in February
- Social Event - BBQ and Golf at Whitehead Club in March
- Workshop on Corporate Social Responsibility in April

Again, we welcome any suggestions and ideas on activities and seminars you would like to see in the future. Please send us an e-mail at hkieia.hk@gmail.com.

Eva HO

IAIA'11 - Impact Assessment and Responsible Development for Infrastructure, Business and Industry, 29 May – 4 June 2011

REMINDER – The 31st Annual Conference of the International Association for Impact Assessment (IAIA) is fast approaching. A preliminary programme can be found in the web site: http://iaia.org/conferences/iaia11/documents/preliminpro-iaia11-web.pdf

Members are encouraged to submit papers and represent the Institute to take part in this major international event for impact assessment practitioners. Your participation will form a significant Hong Kong/China representation in the conference. We continue to support the event through sponsoring our members:

1. Members with their paper abstracts accepted may apply to the Institute and if considered appropriate support on registration fees through HKIEIA's credit account with IAIA would be given.

2. In addition, there is a HK$5,000 subsidy reserved for each of TWO selected young members attending IAIA11, subject to acceptance of their abstracts by IAIA.

Interested members please apply to our Membership Secretary as soon as possible. The abstract submission deadline is 31 January 2011.

Josh LAM

HKIEIA Membership

The Institute has currently a total of 269 members, including 22 Fellows, 192 Corporate Members, 47 Associate Members, 5 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$900,299 in our Bank Accounts as of 10 Jan 2011. For those who have not paid their dues, please send the cheques to the Hon Treasurer.

Freeman CHEUNG