



Editorial

We are all anxiously awaiting the announcement of the incoming Principal Officials of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region for the next 5 years. Can anyone guess who will be the Secretary for the Environment? A number of thorny issues are going to rest on his shoulders! Just to name a few challenging tasks ahead - to implement the proposed Air Quality Objectives, to build the integrated waste management facilities, to expand the strategic landfill sites, to approve the EIA for the Airport 3rd runway, to which appear to be a rather daunting list on his portfolio for the imminent future indeed! On top of that, these initiatives have to be scrutinized and approved by members of the Legislative Council—the pressure from whom the government has traditionally seemed so helpless in facing!!!!

David YEUNG

Chairman's Remarks

My two-year tenure as Chairman ends this June. The experience has been both challenging and rewarding to me. I am grateful to members for their support, especially at critical junctures of legal controversies and how the Institute should handle public interests as balanced against our professional interests which could be conflicting at times. I am particularly indebted to my Committee Members—a great team devoting time and commitment to serve the Institute—not merely on executing official duties but also providing an efficient platform to facilitate sharing over a wide spectrum of professional expertise.

The past few months have been exceptionally fruitful in terms of professional enrichment on many local and global issues. April and May were packed with a large variety of exciting local and international technical and

social activities. We have been running our own activities such as inviting EPD to share with our members lessons learnt over the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge EIA Judicial Review case. In addition, many events were organized by other associations with active participation by our members, such as HKIOA (*Acoustics 2012 Conference and Exhibition*), HKIE (Environment Division) (*EIA for Sustainable and Quality Living*), CIWEM and different academic institutes such as the University of Hong Kong (*International Conference on Deriving Environmental Quality Standards for the Protection of Aquatic Ecosystems [EQSPA – 2011 Conference]*), various technical seminars organized by the Chinese University of Hong Kong, the City University and the Hong Kong Baptist University. Through collaboration and partnership, our members were provided with increasing opportunities to meet, share and exchange with our professional counterparts on different facets of impact assessment work. We welcome feedback from you to help us set directions for more proactive collaborations with our local partners when organizing future activities.

The Annual IAIA 2012 Conference--focusing on the theme "*Energy Future: the Role of Impact Assessment*"—has taken place in Porto, Portugal from 29 May to 1 June. It was attended by over 900 delegates from 90 countries. Out of the 41 representing the China delegation, 9 were our members. A seminar will be arranged soon to share the knowledge and experience gained.

Our AGM this year will be held on 21 June. One of our Fellow Members—the legendary Professor Lam Kin Che will honor us with a speech. We shall celebrate his imminent retirement from the Geography and Resources Management Department of the CUHK. Do not miss this golden opportunity to listen to one of the best award-winning professors of the CUHK!

During the coming term of office, I shall devote my attention to work with the expanded "PD Team" to produce our draft Road Map for Professional

Development. In so doing, we aim to groom our young members to become seasoned impact assessment professionals, laying down a solid foundation to “accreditation recognition” in the longer term. Members will be consulted in due course.

Looking ahead, I appeal to all of you to render your strong support to the Institute and to contribute constructively to initiatives proposed by the Committee in the years to come.

Shirley LEE

From the Secretary

Time flies! It is time for the Annual General Meeting which will be held on 21 June 2012 at the World Trade Centre Club in Causeway Bay. As usual, we will have dinner after the AGM. Members and friends can catch up with each other during dinner time.

It is our pleasure that Professor Lam Kin Che, SBS, JP will be our guest of honour this year and will provide us a speech to share his thoughts on teaching, research and public service in the environmental field. Besides being our Fellow Member, he is the current Director of the Institute of Environment, Energy and Sustainability and a Professor in the Department of Geography and Resources Management at the Chinese University of HK. In the last two decades, Prof. Lam has devoted huge efforts towards improving the local environmental quality of living and participated in different capacities and through a wide range of services, such as the Former Chairman of the Advisory Council on the Environment (ACE), Member of the Sustainable Development Council, and Senior Environmental Scientists (project basis) of the World Bank. Many of you may have already heard that Professor K C Lam will retire this summer. We would also like to take this opportunity in the AGM event to thank Professor Lam for his remarkable contributions on environmental education and urban development studies.

We would strongly encourage you to confirm with us as soon as possible if you wish to join us for dinner after the AGM. The reply slip will be included in the AGM 2012 Notification to be distributed to you. If you have any queries in the meanwhile, please feel free to contact me (hon.sec.hkieia@gmail.com). We look forward to seeing you all in the AGM 2012.

Claudine LEE

HKIEIA Events/Activities

- Events / Activities Review

Technical Visit to Wo Shang Wai (24 March)

On 24 March 2012, the HKIEIA organized for members a half-day technical visit to Mai Po/Wo Shang Wai. The event was arranged with the kind assistance of the Henderson Land Development Ltd. (HLD) and MTRC Ltd. (MTRCL) as the respective proponent of the Wo Shang Wai and Express Rail Link projects.

It started with a guided tour at the Wo Shang Wai Compensatory Wetland Area by Mr. Captain Wong, the Ecologist of HLD. Mr. Wong shared with members his experience over the design, construction and management of the compensatory wetland as well as the various ecological monitoring works conducted for the area.



Group Photo of the Participants

The event was followed by a briefing delivered by our Mr. Henry Leung, who is also the Senior Environmental Engineer of MTRCL, on the construction works of the Express Rail Link and the environmental mitigation measures undertaken at the Mai Po Ventilation Building site.



Souvenir presented to Mr. Captain Wong (HLD) and Mr. Henry Leung (MTRCL)

Fai Fai YEUNG

Technical Visit to a “Zero Discharge and Environmental Friendly Coal Fired Power Plant in He Yuen, Guangdong” (6 April)

The South China Environmental and Safety Management Association (SCESMA) invited HKIEIA members to join their visit to Shenzhen Energy Group’s power plant in Heyuan.



Group photo of the participants

This power plant adopts zero waste water discharge principle and operates in an

environmental friendly manner using the most advanced ultra-supercritical pressure boilers achieving more than 40% efficiency from 2 x 600MW generating units. This advanced technology not just reduces air pollution but also generates much less carbon emission. The whole power station recycles 100% waste water including the treatment of the effluents from the Flue Gas Desulphurization (FGD) plant to reduce discharge to Heyuan which is the head of Dongjiang River supplying water to Hong Kong.



Heyuan Power Plant

I am really impressed by its clean and environmentally friendly operation in a rural and unspoiled country side setting in Guangdong.

Freeman CHEUNG

Seminar on Judicial Review case of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge (12 April)

The Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge judicial review was a recurring topic in the news during the last two years. It is difficult for the general public in Hong Kong to forget the case, regardless of background and interests, let alone the environmental profession. While it has been an intimate subject for us as EIA practitioners and many of us have spent a good number of hours trying to comprehend the court rulings, there is always something new to learn from the case, especially from someone who was closely involved in the process.

We had the good fortune of having Mr. Tse Chin Wan, Assistant Director, Environmental Assessment Division of EPD at this seminar to give us his personal account of the judicial review and the subsequent appeal as an “insider” for this case.



Mr. Tse Chin Wan, Assistant Director of EPD, sharing his thoughts on the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge Judicial Review

To save us from his own “painful” experience of trying to bridge the knowledge gap between the legal and environmental professions and acting as a “translator” of the rather different technical languages used by lawyers and environmental specialists, Mr. Tse laid out clearly for us the key events and outcomes of the judicial review and the appeal. He also highlighted and explained the common misquotes from the court rulings. Looking forward, Mr. Tse saw the need for “smart professionalism”, whereby environmental professionals should be able to effectively communicate complex technical issues to even the layperson and engage him for meaningful discussions on controversial matters.



An attentive audience at Mr. Tse’s presentation



Mr. Tse and the audience in enthusiastic discussion

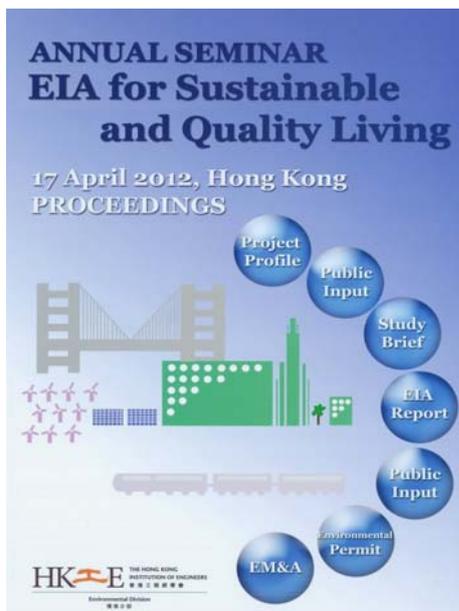
Marcus IP

The HKIE Environmental Division Annual Seminar 2012 – “Environmental Impact Assessment for Sustainable and Quality Living” (17 April 2012)

To provide more training and professional development opportunities to our members--and in particular to young members, the HKIEIA sponsored free admission to 3 associated members to attend the HKIE Environmental Division Annual Seminar 2012 – “Environmental Impact Assessment for Sustainable and Quality Living”. The 3 attendees would share with us, in the accounts that follow, on what they have gained from the event.



Group photo of Seminar Speakers



Official notification leaflet of the Seminar

This one-day seminar covered a wide range of EIA issues, including governmental policy on sustainable development, local and overseas EIA frameworks, environmental modeling tools, and case studies on some recent infrastructural projects. This event reinforced my understanding of the EIA system and extended my knowledge on various EIA tools (e.g. the air modeling tool PATH)—technical aspects and tools that as a benthic ecologist I would rarely need to handle when executing my normal assessment work.

Nelson Lam
HKIEIA Associate Member

It is my pleasure to be given the opportunity to attend this annual seminar event which attracted over 200 participants. It enabled me to gain a more in-depth understanding of the EIA process and the concept behind it; recent updates on air and noise modeling tools—to attain levels higher than what can be achieved through text book reviews. The many examples and practical tips/experience presented by the speakers as experienced practitioners in the field were particularly valuable. I would like to thank the Institute for the sponsorship that provided me this learning platform.

Nicole Ho
HKIEIA Associate member

The seminar covered the existing policy and framework of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) system in Hong Kong, provided updates on some recent developments on air and noise impact assessments tools, and illustrated by way of examples how the EIA process served as a planning tool to help Hong Kong achieve a more sustainable and quality living environment.

The EIA process in Hong Kong can undoubtedly help to systematically identify, assess and evaluate the environmental effects of major project proposals which would in turn contribute towards reducing impacts incurred by these projects. However, with increasing public expectations on attaining more sustainable mode of development in Hong Kong, I concurred with some of the speakers' view that project EIA alone as a statutory requirement could not satisfactorily address all public concerns. Core values such as sustainability, social justice and humanistic considerations may need to be properly addressed outside the EIA system. Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) as a mandated requirement has the potential to offer the solution towards a more sustainable future for Hong Kong.

Kenny Yiu
HKIEIA Associate Member

Aside from the active participation by our young members, several of our corporate members also delivered presentations at the seminar.



Mr. Freeman Cheung (AECOM) presented "The Application of Regional Air Quality Model in Hong Kong"



Mr. Josh Lam (AECOM) and Mr. Henry Leung (MTRCL) jointly presented "Development of a Green High Speed Rail in Hong Kong"

HKIEIA Membership

The Institute currently has a total of 297 members, including 22 Fellows, 206 Corporate Members, 59 Associate Members, 7 Student Members and 3 Honorary Members.

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

Clara U

HKIEIA Finances

Thanks to our members who have paid their subscriptions in a timely manner to maintain a healthy balance of HK\$949,495.13 in our Bank Accounts on 16 May 2012. For those who have not paid their dues, please send the cheques to the Hon Treasurer.

Freeman CHEUNG