



Editorial

As a symbol of the environmental professional's unflinching resolve in the face of adversity this year's AGM will be held as planned on the 27th May. There will be three positions vacated on the Executive Committee and you are encouraged to nominate and be nominated for these positions. There are few excuses for not attending this year, as every other event in Hong Kong has been cancelled, however if you are unable to attend please nominate a proxy so that your voice will still be heard in choosing the new representatives to the committee.



Professor John Hodgkiss

Following his retirement from Hong Kong University this summer, Professor John Hodgkiss will be leaving the HKIEIA Committee after 7 years of continuous service since the founding of the Institute in 1996. He will be sorely missed by the Institute, the Committee and by me particularly.

Your Committee has participants from EPD, Consultants, and Private Business. John has been the supportive voice from the academic sector and in particular a supporter of Hong Kong's natural environment

In directing an Institute's growth it is necessary to blend youthful exuberance with experience. John's perspectives and good humor have been instrumental in moving the Institute from strength to strength. His leadership in developing the AMP accreditation, now 30 strong, and the Code of Conduct

for members will be his legacy. We all owe him a debt of thanks.

John, we wish you well, and that you will enjoy your 'retirement'. We look forward to your postcards from the edge.

*On behalf of the Committee,
Glenn Frommer*

Notification of Annual General Meeting 2003

Notice is hereby given that an Annual General Meeting of the Hong Kong Institute of Environmental Impact Assessment shall be held at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday 27 May 2003 at the Kowloon Club, 15/F New World Centre East Wing, Salisbury Road, Tsimshatsui, Kowloon. A coffee reception will begin at 5:30 p.m.

The agenda for the AGM will be:

1. Minutes of AGM held on 28 May 2002
2. Chairman's report
3. Treasurer's report
4. Election of Committee Members
5. Any Other Business

A talk by Professor Lam Kin Che will follow the AGM and a dinner reception will be held afterwards. All members are welcome. Cost is \$50 per person with drinks included.

AGM – Our Keynote Speaker Professor Lam Kin Che

Professor Lam Kin Che is presently Chairman of Geography and Resource Management at The Chinese University of Hong Kong. Born and raised in Hong Kong, he received his tertiary education at The University of Hong Kong, obtained his Ph.D. from the University of New England (Australia). His main teaching and research fields include environmental

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policy, assessment and planning with particular reference to high-density cities.

Before assuming Chairmanship of the Advisory Council on the Environment in 2003, Prof. Lam had been Chairman of the Council's EIA Subcommittee for nine years. He has also been an active member of a number of other government advisory committees, including the Council for Sustainable Development, Advisory Committee on the Quality of Water Supplies and Noise Control Appeal Board.

Professor Lam is also a member of the HKIEIA, having sat on its Executive Committee from 1998 – 2001. The title of his talk will be Effective EIA: The Biggest Hurdle and The Weakest Link

Accredited Monitoring Professional (AMP)

As at 1 March 2003, the Institute had 16 AMPs. However, following the Chairman's announcement in the last Newsletter of our efforts to recruit further members to the AMP ranks, by identifying some members who the Committee (based on personal knowledge) believed to be qualified, and my sending out 42 invitations to these "prequalified" members to complete the simple application procedure, a total of 14 members were duly accredited at our April Committee Meeting.

We now have 30 AMPs therefore, but our aim is 50!

Please remember that if you received the prequalification letter, all that you have to do is complete the one page application showing at least 15 hours of CPD over the past 12 months, add a cheque for \$200 made out to "Hong Kong Institute of Environmental Impact Assessment" and send both to me at the following address:

Professor I.J.Hodgkiss
Department of Ecology & Biodiversity
The University of Hong Kong
Pokfulam Road
Hong Kong.

If you did not receive the letter but wish to be considered for AMP anyway, please contact me and I will send you the application form plus associated instructions for application.

John Hodgkiss

A complete list of AMPs is provided below.

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Chapman, T.S.	Cheung, F.C.M
Laister, S.M.	Hong, W.K.W
Frommer, G.H.	Hui, S
Chu, C.S.	Anderson, J.D.
Yeung, B.K.	Chen, V.R.J.
Kwok, A.Y.T.	Dahmer, T.D.
Lau, A.H.P.	Ho, B.M.B.
Ng, D.W.K.	Ho, H.K.C.
Lai, P.W.	Kwong, T.S.
Green, D.W.J.	Leung, C.S.
Lam, C.S.W.	U, C.K.W.
Ng, C.C.F.	Wong, E.W.Y.
Lam, J.K.W.	Yuen, W.C.
Leung, H.H.Y.	Cheng, C.M.

HKIEIA Delegation to State Environmental Protection Administration (SEPA), Beijing 14 March 2003

The new EIA legislation for the Mainland was enacted in October 2002 and will become effective in September 2003. The Committee discussed possible implications on and opportunities for members of the Institute and decided at its meeting on 18th February to send an exploratory delegation to SEPA to build up a linkage, gather relevant information as well as identifying opportunities for the general membership.

The meeting took place in the morning of 14 March 2003 at the Department of Supervision & Management, SEPA, 6/F, 115 Xizhimennei Nanxiaojie, Beijing.

The members of the delegation, Simon Hui FHKIEIA (Delegation Leader), Freeman Cheung FHKIEIA, Dr. Glenn Frommer MHKIEIA and Alan Kwok FHKIEIA, were received by SEPA officials :

Mr. Zhu Xingxiang, Director of Department of Supervision and Management,

Mr. Li Xinmin, Director of EIA Management General Affairs Division,

Ms. Ying Li, EIA Management General Affairs Division, and Mr. Kung Lingfei, EIA Centre of SEPA.

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The agenda of the meeting was set out in a letter dated 28 February 2003. The items were: collaboration between SEPA and the Institute on training activities; how Hong Kong individuals or consultancy firms could become accredited specialists and professional service providers in the Mainland under the new legislation.

The outcomes were as follows:

1. Collaboration on training activities
SEPA considered this possible provided the cost is not prohibitively expensive.
2. Individuals becoming accredited
Currently SEPA is organizing training courses on the new legislation in the last week of every month primarily focusing on the legal aspects. Participants will have appropriate degrees with at least two years of relevant experience. At the end of the course there will be a 2-hour examination. Participants who pass the examination will be accredited and will be issued a certificate that is good for five years. For renewals accredited professionals are expected to do appropriate CPD. As there are only 2 classes of 80 at the end of each month between now and the end of year, they are very much over-subscribed. Normally they would be full within a short time after they are advertised in the website. To assist our members to attend the course SEPA has indicated that, if there is sufficient interest from Hong Kong professionals, they would consider the possibility of organizing courses in Shenzhen and reserve a number of seats for HKIEIA. Due to the time required for the logistics it would be important that HKIEIA responds promptly to this offer.

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3. Consultancy firms becoming accredited
There are two grades of accredited firms that can provide EIA service, A and B. In terms of human resources Grade A consultancies must have at least 10 accredited professionals while Grade B must have at least 6. For hardware requirements the firms must have an appropriate office as well as the necessary equipment such as computers. Consultancy firms are accredited by nature of projects for which they are qualified to carry out EIAs, e.g., petro-chemical, hydro or transport infrastructure projects etc. Firms will have to start with Grade B and, based on actual EIAs carried out and any comments received by SEPA, may be upgraded to Grade A subject to complying with the above objective criteria.

4. Upcoming events related to the new legislation
At the meeting Mr Zhu also briefed the delegation on the latest progress in preparing for the implementation of the new legislation. In relation to EIA of plans, there is going to be a meeting in Hangzhou 14th to 16th April to finalise the acceptance criteria and it would be possible for members of HKIEIA to attend.

A number of items have been recommended for the Committee or members of the delegation to follow up and further information will be provided to members as it becomes available.

Simon Hui

The Committee is now soliciting from members expressions of interest in attending a certification course (to be held in Shenzhen) on the new EIA legislation leading to accreditation subject to passing a test at the end of the course. A degree qualification and two years professional experience are prerequisites for participation. Please contact Simon Hui directly at

HKIEIA Activities

Communication Skills for Conflict Resolution and Community Dialogue 17 February 2003

Drs Robert and Alice Evans, Nobel Prize nominees and Directors of Plowshares Institute conducted an interesting 1-day workshop on sustainable conflict resolution and community dialogue skills on 18 February 2003. The workshop was organised by the American Chamber of

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Commerce, jointly sponsored by the Hong Kong International Arbitration Centre and the HKIEIA.

The speakers first explained the approaches of crisis analysis by distinguishing positions and needs of all the stakeholders to build common ground. They then took the participants through the skills of creating effective dialogues and mediation; and procedures for developing culturally appropriate approaches to facilitation. The ultimate goal of these efforts was to enable the participants to facilitate dialogue and resolve issues in confrontation and conflict situations.

A case study entitled *Down in the Valley* was discussed in the workshop. It was about a District Planning Officer dealing with a rezoning application for a 100-ha site, located in an upland valley within the North West New Territories. The proposed development was located in an environmentally sensitive area. This caused conflicts between green groups and the developer, while the local villagers who owned the land were threatening to fill in the wetlands.

The skills of community conflict transformation have become increasingly important to EIA practitioners, particularly for large-scaled EIA studies that require extensive public and NGO consultations. To conclude the workshop, the participants were given a chance to practice their crisis facilitation skills through role-play of the case study.

Dave Ng

HKIEIA/HKIOA Joint Seminar on Railway Noise 22 February 2003

A seminar on railway noise was jointly organised by HKIEIA and HKIOA on 22 February 2003. The speaker, Mr Alan Crockett of Wilson, Ihrig & Associates Hong Kong Ltd, has been involved in railway noise assessment and control for a long time and is no stranger to railway design engineers in Hong Kong. He has been actively involved over recent years in the development of noise control measures for new railway projects of the Mass Transit Railway Corporation (MTRC) and the Kowloon-Canton Railway Corporation (KCRC).



To kick off the seminar, Mr Crockett first gave an overview of

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the findings from the noise assessment for KCRC's West Rail project, which confirmed that it would be extremely difficult if not impossible to meet the stringent noise criteria for the areas along the railway alignment. He also gave an account of the different constraints that made the task of designing an effective mitigation package for the elevated section of the railway an even more onerous one.

It was found at a very early stage of the project that traditional trackside barriers and enclosures alone could no longer satisfy the large amount of noise attenuation required for the elevated railway. The mitigation package eventually adopted was the first one ever to employ multiple railway noise control measures in a single package. The package, termed the "multi-plenum system", was designed to control both air-borne noise from wheel-rail interaction and noise re-radiated from the viaduct structure. Specifically, the system included:

- use of resilient rail base-plates for mounting tracks on viaduct to reduce vibration transmission to the viaduct structure, thereby reduce re-radiated noise from the structure;
- mounting of track on a floating slab system to further reduce vibration transmission to the viaduct structure;
- use of train skirts and floor with absorptive lining to create a noise-absorbing plenum beneath the train car; and
- use of trackside walkways to create noise-absorbing plena on both sides of the train car.

In the second part of the seminar, Mr Crockett showed a small portion of his vast collection of photographs on the West Rail viaduct and individual train components (including the lined train skirt, the traction motor of the electrical multiple units (EMU's), the gearbox, and the air-conditioning unit and explained how these components had been designed or modified to achieve noise compliance.



The Institute would like to take this opportunity to thank Mr Crockett in sharing his experience with the participants and Richard Cheung of City University for providing the venue for to make this a successful event.

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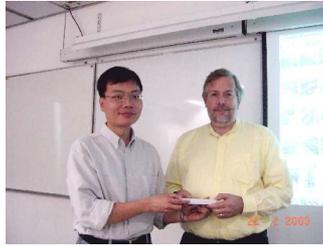
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Seminar on the Basic Principles of the EIA Process – Screening and Scoping
18 March 2003



The seminar series on the “Basic Principles of the EIA Process” rolls into action again after a rather quiet period. Mr Lawrence Ngo of EPD was invited to speak on the topic of screening and scoping on 18 March 2003.

Mr Ngo first reminded the audience of the importance of screening and scoping for potential environmental effects at an early stage of a project. He explained that the primary purpose of screening was to establish whether there would be a need for an EIA. Methods adopted in different countries or places including the United States, the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia and Hong Kong were then introduced and compared.

With the need of EIA established by the screening process, scoping can be conducted to identify the key environmental issues of a project and the site boundaries to be covered by the EIA study. Mr Ngo briefed the audience on the various steps in the scoping process and the different methods or approaches (including checklist, matrices, networks and overlay maps) that could be taken. A comprehensive comparison of EIA scoping in different countries was also provided.

The seminar concluded with a very lively discussion session.
Marcus Ip

POLMET 2003 Call for Papers

Membership Application Procedures

Complete the membership application and attestation form and send for the attention of the membership secretary, Mr. Terence Tsang at the HKIEIA P.O. Box. The Institute Memorandum can be obtained from the Institute founding members, the HKIEIA Website or from Mr. Tsang direct.

POLMET is a triennial event, held to address the pollution issues and sustainability of metropolitan cities. The theme of POLMET 2003 is “Sustainable Urbanisation – The Challenge In A Changing Economy”. HKIEIA is represented on the Technical Committee by Simon Hui and the invitation to submit abstracts for review and selection is still open. The Committee encourages members to participate. Further information is available at www.hkie.org.hk/POLMET2003

News and Movements

During my first year as Editor I have found the members’ response to the newsletter disappointing. The Committee would like to encourage members to share their views and express their opinions or at the very least please send us any information which you believe would be of interest to other members. For example, where are you now? Here are just a few recent movements.

- Susana Bezy to Atkins China
- Tom Chapman to Swire Properties
- Simeon Cheng to KCRC
- David Green to David Green Limited
- Marcus Ip to ERM
- Dave Ng to KCRC
- Tim Peirson-Smith to Executive Counsel

HKIEIA Membership

As of the 23rd April 2003 HKIEIA has 24 Fellows, 110 Corporate Members and 31 Associate & Student Members making a total of 165 members. In April 6 new Corporate Members and one new Associate Member were recommended by the Membership Committee.

Newsletter Produced by Hong Kong Productivity Council

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