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 May 2010

Editorial

Moving On

The cooperation and guidance from EPD is the foundation of the EIAO and all of us rely on the professional consistency and direction from our colleagues in the department. While many of us get involved in the minutiae of our assessments, at the end of the day the process of developing the synergy that is an EIA (and sensible EP conditions) is left to the senior management at EPD. After more than 30 years, Shirley Lee will be stepping in new shoes. Shirley's expert guidance and management have meant a great deal to many of us, and we look forward to her leadership and commitment to develop further the HKIEIA into one of the world premier institutions.

Glenn FROMMER

Chairman's Remarks

Welcome to another edition of HKIEIA Newsletter. The end of May marks the end of my two years tenure as Chairman. I wish to take this opportunity to express my most sincere gratitude to the committee members who have demonstrated great commitments in serving our members and provided a platform for environmental professionals to share and exchange the latest information. It had been a great pleasure working with all of them, and I wish all the best for the upcoming committee.

It has been a very fruitful year with a wide range of technical and social activities provided to members. Many of these events were well-attended and I appeal for your continual support on our events in the coming years. Committee members welcome further suggestions on events so that we can cater our members' needs and enrich the professional development of our environmental profession.

Our AGM this year will be held on 20 May. Following every year's high participation, I look forward to seeing you all in the AGM again, particularly those new members who have recently joined us.

Thank you again for your continuous support to our Institute.

David YEUNG

From the Secretary

I was thinking of a subject to write about in this issue of the Newsletter when the *Deepwater Horizon* offshore rig exploded and sank in the Gulf of Mexico, resulting in a large quantity of crude oil released. An extensive oil spill response has been put into action but the weather and sea conditions are hampering the efforts being put in. The oil spill is already posing a severe threat to the environment and ecological habitats and wildlife may be affected. This has led me to think about environmental risk assessment again.

For many EIA studies in Hong Kong, assessment of the risks to human life is required. Other types of environmental risks are rarely addressed with the same amount of efforts. For instance, there may be ecological impact assessments but they are not necessarily conducted from the perspective of ecological risks that may arise from development. The latest oil spill incident serves as a vivid example of how things may go wrong during the operation of a project and gives us food for thoughts again for the potential value of extending

considerations on environmental risks in EIA studies beyond risks to human life.

Marcus IP

HKIEIA Activities

- ***Upcoming Events / Activities***

Annual General Meeting 2010, 20 May 2010

It is that time of the year again and the Committee is busily preparing for the Annual General Meeting 2010. The AGM this year has been scheduled on 20 May 2010 (Thursday) at Kowloon Club in Hung Hom. The AGM Notification Pack has been issued via e-mail and the hard copy should have also been delivered to you by now. We look forward to seeing you at the AGM and the dinner gathering afterwards. If you are not available to join us, please remember to provide proxy entitlements. The proxy form has been enclosed in the AGM Notification Pack.

Marcus Ip

Night Safari, 22 May 2010

We have not forgotten our annual event to Mai Po, but this year, we will be organizing it in a slightly different way. As some of you may aware that WWF HK is setting up their Night Safari at Mai Po starting in May, HKIEIA is pleased to announce that we will organize the event with CIWEM and take our members to the Night Safari on 22 May. Participants should able to experience the darkness in Mai Po, where they will be guided by nature interpreter from WWF HK. With luck, they may be able to discover some of Mai Po's nocturnal animals.

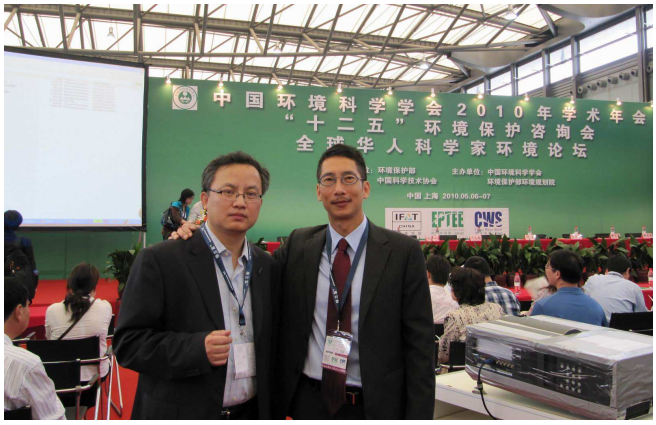
The event flyer has been issued. Please enrol to the event as soon as possible and don't miss the chance to see Mai Po in a different way.

Henry Leung

- ***Events / Activities Review***

CSES 2010 Conference (中国环境科学学会2010年学术年会)

In the heat of the World Expo 2010 in Shanghai, the China Society of Environmental Science (CSES) 2010 Conference was successfully held on 6-7 May in the Shanghai New International Exhibition Centre. The number of participants this year reached a record high of over 1,300, with representatives from all over Mainland China as well as specialists from the USA, Taiwan and Hong Kong. The conference theme was on the "Twelfth five-year" Environmental Protection Planning and World Chinese Scientist Environmental Forum ("十二五"环境保护规划咨询会暨全球华人科学家环境论). A wide range of issues were covered such as green economy, environmental management and planning, air quality pollution control, and remediation. Dr James Xiong and Josh Lam from the HKIEIA attended the conference. James was part of an expert panel and Josh presented a paper.



Dr James Xiong and Josh Lam

Josh Lam and other speakers from the USA, Taiwan and China

Josh Lam

IAIA10 Annual Conference, April 2010

Before the onset of the Icelandic volcano eruption, 7 delegates from Hong Kong attended the 30th Annual Conference of the International Association for Impact Assessment (IAIA) held in Geneva, Switzerland, April 2010. The delegation comprised fellows and members of the HKIEIA Prof. KC Lam, Dr CN Ng, Shirley Lee, Gigi Lam and Josh Lam, as well as Prof. David Chen and Xiaoxin Shi from The Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK).

This year, the conference theme was *"The Role of Impact Assessment in Transitioning to the Green Economy"* (*http://www.iaia.org/iaia10/).* There were over 600 participants from all over the world, including over 70 from China, the biggest ever party from China, led by Mr. Zhu Xingxiang, the Director-General in charge of EA/SEA in the Ministry of Environmental Protection, PRC. A special China Day was organized by the Ministry, CUHK and The Tsinghua University, in conjunction with The World Bank, focusing on the development and application of EA/SEA in China.

Over 120 delegates attended the China Day which comprised two sessions. In the morning session, Mr. Zhu and other leading government officials and academics outlined the background and recent progress of the development of EIA/SEA in China. In the afternoon session, the findings of the SEA study of five mega-regions, representing over 35% of the country's GDP, were presented. A total of 11 international experts, including Shirley to add some Asian perspective to the discussion, joined the panel discussion at the end of each session.

A debriefing with HKIEIA members on IAIA10 will be arranged later this year. The next IAIA conference will be on *"Impact Assessment and Responsible Development for Infrastructure, Business and Industry"*, in Puebla, Mexico in end May/early June 2011.

Hong Kong delegates with Mr Zhu, Ministry of Environmental Protection on China Day

Pre-China Day dinner reception with international delegates

Prof KC Lam & Josh Lam

HKIEIA/CIWEM/HKIOA Social Event - Bowling Competition, 19 March 2010

For those who had joined the bowling party on 19 March would agree that it was truly a fun event. The party was held in the evening at the Royal Hong Kong Yacht Club with more than 30 participants. Besides the bowling games, participants had also enjoyed the food, beverages and the happy atmosphere at the venue. Congratulations to the following winners of the bowling competition:-

Individual Champion: Mr Desmond Chan (HKIOA/HKIEIA)

Individual First Runner-up: Mr Felix Leung (Guest of HKIEIA)

Individual Second Runner-up: Mr Michael Chan (HKIEIA)

Team Champion: HKIOA (Grace Kwok, Antony Wong, Desmond Chan, Alex Tsui)

Clara U

Technical Meeting on Landscape Guidelines and Performance Benchmark, 17 March 2010

This technical seminar is jointly held by HKIEIA, CIWEM and Hong Kong Institute of Landscape Architects (HKILA). Our guest speaker, Mr Patrick Lau, Chairman of Earthasia Design Group, shared with us his insights on what is a desirable landscape environment from people's perspective and what are the basic principles of livable cities. Mr. Lau also shared with us his research on landscape performance benchmarks in view of the current green rating system in Hong Kong. This event was well attended by over 50 participants.

Clara U

Technical Visit to Lung Tsun Stone Bridge in Kai Tak Area, 27 Feb 2010

The remnants of Lung Tsun Stone Bridge (龍津橋) were first identified in April 2008 in an archaeological investigation conducted under the EIA study of Kai Tak Development (KTD) commissioned by the Civil Engineering and Development (CEDD). Further archaeological investigation was recommended in the EIA report so as to demarcate the extent of the Bridge remnants. The EIA report also recommended preserving the Bridge's remnants in-situ as part of the KTD. The further archaeological investigation, completed in August 2009, revealed the extent of the Bridge and confirmed no trace of its wooden extension. However, some major archaeological features were identified by the two archaeological investigations include foundation walls of the Pavilion for Greeting Officials (接官亭); structural part of landward end, supporting pillars, pier end structure of the Bridge, some concrete landing steps of the Former Kowloon City Pier; and segments of the seawalls constructed respectively in 1924 and 1930s.

It was our honour to have CEDD to arrange his consultant team to guide us around site and show us remnants of the stone bridge. Special thanks to Mr. Peter Lee and Mr. Steven Ng for sharing with us this interesting piece of archaeological discovery.

If you want to know more about the further investigation and historical background of Lung Tsun Stone Bridge, please click on to http://www.amo.gov.hk/en/antiquities_meetings_paper.php for more information.

Mr. Ng's sharing

Group photo "1, 2, 3…CHEESE"

Clara U

Technical Meeting on Review of West Tai Lake Environmental Management and Treatment Plan, 24 Feb

The technical meeting is jointly organised by CIWEM, IAHR-HK (International Association for Hydro-Environment Engineering and Research Hong Kong Chapter), HKIEIA and HKIE with the support of IWA (International Water Association, The Regional Committee of Hong Kong, China). Dr. Guiyi Li has shared with us about his experience and findings on the Review of West Tai Lake Environmental Management and Treatment Plan.

The purpose of the review was to identify opportunities to incorporate the best international practice into the environmental management and treatment of West Tai Lake. The study identified the need for a whole-basin approach to the integrated management of nutrient inputs to the Lake and control of algal blooms. The review concluded that hydraulic and water quality modelling was essential for formulating the most appropriate implementation strategy and investment priorities and that the cost effective and environmentally sustainable management of the lake sediment required the adoption of innovative approaches.

Claudine LEE

Technical Meeting on Review of WQO for Hong Kong - Major Challenges and Opportunities, 4 Feb

Following EPD's public engagement seminar held on 31 Oct 2009, a dedicated session on WQO review has been arranged for the environmental professionals. The technical meeting is jointly organized by CIWEM, HKIEIA, IAHR-HK and HKIE. Ir. Elvis Au, the Assistant Director of EPD has briefed the background of the review of WQOs, the international overview of water quality policy development and trends, multi-stakeholders' perspectives and feedback from the first stage of public engagement, and major issues, challenges and opportunities. He has also invited the views from professionals on the review of WQOs.

HKIEIA has submitted a position paper on the review of WQOs. If you are interested, please visit the following website:
http://www.hkieia.org.hk/publish/pospaper.htm

Claudine LEE

Technical Visit to Tai Tam Waterworks Heritage Trail, 9 January 2010

In 2009, following a recommendation by the Antiquities Advisory Board, the Antiquities Authority declared 41 historic waterworks facilities within the Tai Tam Group of Reservoirs and other 5 pre-war historic reservoirs as monuments under the Antiquities and Monuments Ordinance (Cap. 53) to ensure that the important waterworks heritage would be protected and preserved. The Tai Tam Waterworks Heritage Trail covers 21 historic waterworks structures which have been declared monuments. Guided by a team of WSD colleagues on a cool Saturday morning, we have completed this fun while educational waterworks trail in approximately 3 hours. The trail is 5 km long and it covers a number of waterworks facilities set up

since the colonial era, such as the 1883-1888 Tai Tam Upper Reservoir Dam, Masonry Aqueduct, Recorder House and Tunnel Inlet; 1912-1917 Tai Tam Tuk Reservoir Dam; and 1907 Tai Tam Tuk Raw Water Pumping Station Chimney Shaft and so on. We started off at Wong Nai Chung Gap near Hong Kong Parkview, heading downhill towards Tai Tam Reservoir Road, with stops introducing some of the heritage sites.

This event is jointly organized by the CIWEM HK, HKIEIA and IAHR-HK. It was truly an enjoyable walk and I think all of our 60 participants would agree to. Below are some photos which were taken by me during the trail. Hope you can see how beautiful and strong these waterworks structures are as of today even though they were built more than a hundred year ago.

Tai Tam Upper Reservoir Masonry Aqueduct (1883-1888)

Tai Tam Upper Reservoir Recorder House 1917

Tai Tam Tuk Reservoir Masonry Bridge 1907

Tai Tam Tuk Reservoir Dam 1912-1917

Clara U

HKIEIA Membership

The Institute has currently a total of 241 members, including 22 Fellows, 176 Corporate Members, 37 Associate Members, 3 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$852,455 in our Bank Accounts at the end of March 2010. For those who have not paid their dues, please send the cheques to the Hon Treasurer.

Freeman CHEUNG