

NEWSLETTER

Editorial: One Belt, One Road, and Hong Kong's Environmental Sector

China launched the One Belt, One Road (OBOR) development strategy in 2013. The OBOR refers to the New Silk Road Economic Belt, linking China with Europe through central and western Asia, and the 21st century Maritime Silk Road, connecting China with Southeast Asia, Africa and Europe. China also initiated and became the principal investor of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), an international financing institution being set up to fund the massive infrastructure development required to make OBOR a reality.

The Central Government has indicated Hong Kong will play a key role in the OBOR, and will encourage our contribution to the planning and implementation of the strategy. Our administration has been actively promoting Hong Kong's participation in both the OBOR and AIIB over the past few months. At the Boao Forum in March this year, the Chief Executive CY Leung outlined suggestions for Hong Kong's role as an OBOR hub for fundraising, offshore renminbi services, trade and investment, service professionals and logistics and transportation. Our Financial Secretary John Tsang has further promoted our service sectors potential in supporting OBOR/AIIB. There has also been talk of opening a Regional AIIB Office in Hong Kong to make use of our existing offshore renminbi business, as well as our excellent legal system (which could provide a platform for arbitration and other services).

Amongst this flurry of talk and activity, there has been little, if any discussion of how our environmental sector can contribute the OBOR: where would we fit in? The answer probably lies with the AIIB. This has been promoted as a modern institution with international social, ethical and environmental standards. President Xi Jinping has promised that the principles of AIIB will be equality, inclusiveness and efficiency; while Finance Minister Lou Jiwei has declared that the AIIB will learn from the best practice in the world and adopt international environmental standards. However, it is not clear from China's track record whether it has the experience or capacity to put these principles into practice, and if it can ensure that projects funded by the AIIB will meet the highest environmental standards.

Hong Kong's environmental professionals should join our other service sectors in supporting the OBOR and AIIB. Our comprehensive and evolving environmental legislation has provided a strong platform for us to develop the knowledge and experience needed to manage the complex environmental issues on large infrastructure projects. Coupled with our close links with the academic and commercial environmental sector across China, we can assist the AIIB to become the world class institute it aspires to be, promoting implementation of the OBOR while safeguarding the environment.

David GALLACHER, Editor

"In various service sectors, including accounting, legal, building, engineering, and management, Hong Kong possesses a huge pool of experienced talents. We believe Hong Kong can become a high-end platform of professional services for the 'One Belt, One Road.'"

*John Tsang, Hong Kong
Financial Secretary,
11th July 2015*



The One Belt, One Road Development Strategy

Chairman's Remarks

Time really flies. I have been serving the Institute as an Executive Member since 2001 and witnessing those remarkable achievements completed by our past Chairmen: Simon, Freeman, Glenn, Josh, David, Shirley and Henry. Since the missions on the Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (BSAP) working group and collaboration with the Institute of Environmental Management & Assessment of United Kingdom (IEMA UK) are mostly completed, our Chairman Henry Leung graciously retired from his position after serving his one year service term. As the service term of Chairman is two years according to our Memorandum, it is my great honour to be recommended by the Executive Committee and endorsed at the AGM to serve as an Acting Chairman to complete the remaining period of the Chairmanship.

This service term will be a challenging and yet a delightful one as our Institute will reach the 20th birthday soon. We grow into a family of more than 370 members since the establishment in 1996. It is always my desire to make our Institute fun to be in as well as professionally recognized. I am very pleased to see that we are going to have a group of vibrant ExCo members who will look after our events and activities in the coming year. With the newly launched HKIEIA Facebook Page, we will be posting HKIEIA updates, links to broader environmental news and information of interest to our members. It will definitely bring positive impact on our social networking.

On the professional development side, as a Chair of HKIEIA, I will be helping our local counterpart, the Hong Kong Institute of Qualified Environmental Professionals (IQEP), to develop an accreditation scheme for environmental professionals. I shall keep you up-to-date on the development of the scheme, as well as future arrangements to formalize environmental qualifications in Hong Kong.

We shall continue to maintain our strong regional and international network, including counterparts at the Ministry of Environmental Protection of the People's Republic of China, IEMA UK, and IAIA, through participation and sharing in their conferences, seminars or meetings and explore opportunities for EIA knowledge exchanges in the near future.

Lastly, I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to our immediate past Chairman Henry Leung for his dedication and enthusiasm to the Institute in the past years.

Clara U, Acting Chair

From the Secretary

The new Executive Committee was formed on the AGM of 28 May 2015. We are glad to have five new elected members this year. Here is an overview of the Executive Committee 2015-16:

Acting Chair	Clara U
Immediate Past Chairman	Henry Leung
Honorary Treasurer	David Yeung
Honorary Secretary	Jackie Yip
Membership Secretary	Clara U
Professional Development	Mohamed Hasan Isa, Henry Leung, David Gallacher
Newsletter Editor	David Gallacher, Simon Cheung (co-opted member)
External Affairs	Lam Kin Che, Josh Lam, Freeman Cheung, Henry Leung, Glenn Frommer (co-opted member)
Website Management	Raymond Wong
Event Organizer	David Stanton, Raymond Wong, Jackie Yip, Simon Cheung

This is my first message as the Honorary Secretary. I would like to take this opportunity to thank my predecessor Ms Claudine Lee, who has taken up this post for the past five years. As you can tell we now have a strong team in professional development and external affairs. The team will continue to explore different opportunities for the EIA professionals, including the collaboration with IEMA and recent development of the HKIQEP qualification. You will hear more about the exciting new developments from this newsletter, our website, and our new Facebook page. So, stay tuned.

Jackie YIP, Honorary Secretary

HKIEIA Events & Activities

HKIEIA organizes a varied programme of events and activities throughout the year, with some recent examples described below.

Look out for upcoming programme advertised on our website and Facebook page: we encourage all our members to join for interest and professional development!



Guests at the AGM



HKIEIA members and our honorable guests from HKIOA, HKWMA & EMAHK

Annual General Meeting on 28 May 2015

The HKIEIA Annual General Meeting (AGM) was held on 28 May. The AGM was started by the Chairman Report presented by Henry Leung. Henry summarized the many achievements made by the HKIEIA over the year, including the nurturing of EIA practitioners through a diversified training provided by the HKIEIA, as well as solidifying the status of the HKIEIA through knowledge exchange with international and regional EIA experts and also at the TVB News Magazine episode about HK EIAO presented by Freeman Cheung and KC Lam.

Henry's presentation was followed by a financial report and the election for new Executive Committee members. With the retirement of Henry's one-year extended chairmanship term, Clara U, our vice-chair will lead the ExCo as the new Chair. We also welcome Josh Lam, Jackie Yip, Raymond Wong, David Gallacher, David Stanton, be our newly / re-elected members of the Executive Committee.

Freeman Cheung introduced a new professional institute, the Hong Kong Institute of Qualified Environmental Professionals (HKIQEP), which is currently being established. Freeman explained how the ExCo of the HKIEIA together with various other professional institutes (including HKIOA, CIWEM HK, EMAHK and HKIEPO) are supporting the establishment of the HKIQEP and formulating the professional accreditation system for local Environmental Professionals to further strengthen the position of the practitioners. Details of HKIEIA collaboration with the HKIQEP will be announced at a later stage.

The UK Study Tour/IAIA15 conference debriefing was held after the AGM, where KC Lam, Henry Leung and M.H. Isa shared with our members the latest global IA development. They elaborated how Hong Kong could serve as an information hub and possible opportunities with the establishment of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank for the environmental industry through the innovation and good industry practices in Hong Kong.

The ExCo would like to thank Henry in leading the HKIEIA over the past 3 years, as well as Claudine Lee (who is retiring as Honorary Secretary), in addition to other ExCo members stepping down this term including Felice Wong, Tim Peirson-Smith, Sophia Lau and Lighting Chan.

Jackie YIP

Lung Fu Shan Night Safari on 13 June 2015

Members joined a night safari at Lung Fu Shan Country Park on 13 June 2015. The tour was led by experienced guides of HKU's Lung Fu Shan Environmental Education Centre. Though the route might be familiar to some of us in daytime, it brought a brand new experience walking in darkness (well, not completely!).



At the Lung Fu Shan Environmental Education Centre



Short-legged horned toad (*Xenophrys brachykolos*)

In the twilight, frogs croaked and cicadas sang a harmonious chorus. We met common frogs, lizards and insects which are usually active at night. We were also fascinated by the sight of fireflies dashing up and down the streams. The highlight of the tour is an encounter with a porcupine (箭豬), and a Short-legged Horned Toad *Xenophrys brachykolos* (短腳角蟾), a species thought to be endemic to Hong Kong!

Jackie YIP

Visit to ASB Biodiesel plant in TKO on 18 July 2015

Biodiesel is a clean, low-carbon transport fuel that can be used as a substitute for fossil diesel, or blended with fossil diesel in diesel engines without modification.



ASB biodiesel plant in TKO

ASB Biodiesel collect used cooking oil from the restaurant industry in Hong Kong and convert it to biodiesel locally. They are currently providing regular collection service for 8,000 outlets in Hong Kong.

The visit to their factory allow us to understand the technology of converting used cooking oil into a low-



Discussion at the ASB biodiesel plant carbon transport fuel, ultimately helping to offset greenhouse gas emissions from Hong Kong's transport sector.

M.H. ISA

4th SEA Forum at Chengdu on 2-3 July 2015 and its debriefing session on 20 August 2015

The 4th China Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Forum, with the theme “SEA under Perspective of New Environmental Legislation”, was held from 2 to 3 July 2015 in Chengdu, Sichuan Province, China. More than a hundred of EIA practitioners from administration, consultancy and academic sectors in China, Taiwan and other regions attended the forum and exchanged their views. As a supporting organization, a team of HKIEIA delegates joined the forum and Professor K C Lam, Honorary Fellow of the Institute, gave a keynote speech to share his insight on 2 July 2015.



Group photo of HKIEIA delegates

Professor Lam discussed the significance of SEA on “One Belt, One Road”, which is the latest development strategy proposed by the administration of China, focusing on connectivity and co-operation among countries in Eurasia. It is anticipated that “One Belt, One Road” will bring drastic economic and infrastructure development in China and surrounding countries. More importantly, SEA will play a critical role in environmental protection and sustainable development during the development process. Mr. G Y Liu and Mr. T W Li from the Ministry of Environmental Protection, and Professor H Xu from Nankai University also shared their valuable experiences on the implementation and development of SEA in China in the past years.

As in previous years, HKIEIA has sponsored members to attend the forum, particularly Associates to encourage younger members to enhance their knowledge on environmental assessment. As a young member of the Institute, this forum acts as an eye-opener to enrich my knowledge on what and how our mainland counterparts are practicing SEA and their latest development, as well as good practice which we could adopt for SEA in Hong Kong.

A debriefing session was organized on 20 Aug 2015 at the City University of Hong Kong. Professor K C Lam, Dr. Richard Cheung and other members who attended the forum, shared what they have learnt and observed.

The 5th China SEA Forum will be held in two years. Details will be announced in the future and members are encouraged to join.

William CHENG

Seminar on Retractable Noise Barrier for Construction Noise Control on 15 June 2015

Thank you Mr Wilson Ho (Wilson Acoustics Limited) for delivering an interesting seminar on "Retractable Noise Barriers for Construction Noise Control". The seminar was well received by members of HKIEIA.

At the seminar, Wilson highlighted that noise barriers for night-time construction would often obstruct or slow down daytime construction activities. In practice, construction noise barriers should be light and easy to erect but are expected to withstand strong wind load. Wilson shared with the audience some examples of retractable noise barriers, with wind load relieving mechanism being

incorporated to reduce gust wind pressure on carbon-fiber structural poles, which is a modular lightweight design up to 7m high that can be installed with minimum labour effort.

Clara U



Wilson Ho speaking at HKIE Headquarters

Professional Development / Training

I would like to take this opportunity to encourage members to register under our Accredited Monitoring Professional (AMP) scheme.

AMPs are expected to maintain the integrity and status of the profession but also to represent it to the public and the Government. This accreditation scheme has been implemented for 10 years, AMPs are becoming widely recognized by project proponents and the authorities as environmental professionals who are competent at taking up the role and responsibility of an Independent Environmental Checker and Environmental Team Leader under the Environmental Permit. A solid AMP list at all time is essential for us to show competency.

In order to gain accreditation, in addition to corporate membership, applicants must be knowledgeable regarding (a) environmental regulations in Hong Kong and (b) Environmental Monitoring & Audit (EM&A) methodologies; they must have 3 years of practical experience in the undertaking and management of these methodologies and show an understanding and appreciation of the background and aims of EM&A; and, finally, they must be able to show not less than 15 hours of Continuing Professional Development (CPD) training within the previous 12 months.

To join as an AMP, you need to download and complete the application form (including CPD record), add a 1 to 2 page summary of your relative experience and professional achievements over a period of up to 5 years, put in a cheque for \$200 made out to "Hong Kong Institute of Environmental Impact Assessment", and slip it in the mail to:

Mr M H Isa
AMP Accreditation Panel
HKIEIA
P.O. Box 28756
Gloucester Road Post Office
Hong Kong

Clara U, Acting Chair

Electronic Membership Fee Collection

Collection of annual membership fee is a laborious process for the Institute and members alike. A lot of effort is required to issue invoices and follow up cheque clearance at the bank. We are therefore streamlining this process by providing an alternative electronic payment option. PayPal is a common worldwide on-line payment system for electronic money transaction and management. It supports most major credit cards as well as direct money transfer between PayPal accounts.

The new membership fee collection process will be very similar to our existing system. The major difference will be the use of electronic invoice *in lieu* of hardcopy surface mail. These invoices will be sent to members via email. Upon receipt of the invoice, members can review and check invoice details by clicking the "**View and Pay Invoice**" button. Then, members can either pay for the invoice directly by clicking "**Pay Invoice**" or click "**Print**" to send it directly to a printer or PDF queue to obtain a copy for record purposes.

Alternatively, members can still choose to send cheque to settle their membership fees in the traditional way. In both cases, receipts will be issued accordingly. As email will be used in this new electronic payment option, members are reminded to update the Institute of any changes to their email contact details. For members using company emails as HKIEIA contact, should your company settings prevent the proper display of the invoice email, please provide an alternative email address, or inform the Institute.

Raymond WONG, Website Management

HKIEIA Membership

As of 18 August 2015, the Institute has a total of 372 Members, including 4 Honorary Members, 25 Fellows, 243 Corporate Members, 100 Associate and 3 Student Members. Eleven new applications were received and under review.

Clara U, Acting Chair

HKIEIA Finances

Our accounts remain healthy with accumulated funds of over HK\$1.0M at end of Sept. 2015.

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. If you have not paid the membership subscription, you can now remit via Paypal, or by sending a cheque to the following address for my attention:

Hong Kong Institute of Environmental Impact Assessment
c/o Mr. David Yeung (Honorary Treasurer)
Room 2403, 24th Floor, Jubilee Centre
18, Fenwick Street
Wan Chai
Hong Kong

David YEUNG, Honorary Treasurer

Contributors Wanted!

We're always on the lookout for new and interesting material to add to the HKIEIA Newsletter. Do you have any articles you'd like to contribute? Upcoming events you'd like to publicize? Photos from recent events you'd like to share? We'd love to hear from you! Please feel free to contact us on: hkieia.hk@gmail.com

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