

Reports of Technical Visits / Seminars

Seminar on the Basic Principles of the EIA Process

Date :	25 September 2003
Topic :	The future of HKIEIA
Speaker :	Dr Glenn Frommer, Chairman of HKIEIA
Venue :	Conference Room, ERM HK Ltd

Summary

To start off the Institute's activities programme for the year 2003 - 4, Dr Glenn Frommer, the Chairman of the Institute gave a very appropriate talk on "The Future of HKIEIA".

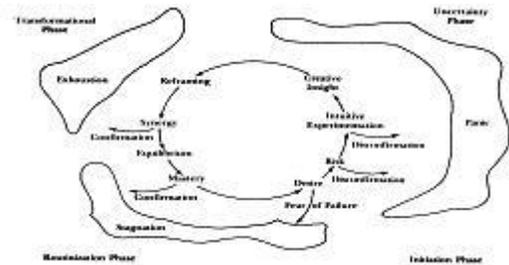
The talk covered four broad aspects of the topic:

- HKIEIA Memorandum;
- From novice to expert;
- Current state of affairs; and
- Future directions.



Going through each of the objects on HKIEIA's Memorandum, Glenn also informed us on the various means by which the Institute had been implementing them. These means included activities such as seminars and technical visits, responses to environmental policy initiatives and the Accredited Monitoring Professionals scheme.

In explaining to us how a novice could become an expert, Glenn pointed out that the crucial factor was 'resilience'. There would inevitably be feelings of panic, stagnation or exhaustion at different phases. Those who were able to overcome each of these feelings would be a step closer to gaining mastery of the subject. Further desire for knowledge and skills would then start the whole cyclic process again.



A quick review by Glenn of the current state of affairs made us realise the shift of focus from run-of-the-mill EIA studies to sustainability issues. Such a change also coupled with that of the skill set for conducting business in the field, eg Putonghua for cross-boundary work. In view of all these, HKIEIA had to react to ensure growth of the profession by providing assistance in developing new skills and formulating ways to get into new realms of economic activities such as that provided by CEPA (Closer Economic Partnership Arrangement) between the Mainland and the

SAR. It was clear that these would be the basis of the Institute's directions for the next 5 to 10 years.

The talk provided not only an opportunity for Members to have a clear view of the Institute's objects and what we had been doing to achieve them but also a pointer to the Institute's (and our Members') future directions. No wonder it was very well received and enjoyed by the audience of 30 on that day.

