



Editorial

Air Quality Review

EPD has commissioned Ove Arup and Partners in HK to review the AQO (Air Quality Objectives) with an aim to develop a long-term air quality management strategy for HK. In connection with the study, HKPC is commissioned to assist with public consultations.

AQOs, as advocated by the WHO and those in the EU and US, will be examined and it is expected that the outcome of the study will provide a balanced consideration between public health, cost effectiveness, society's expectations, maturity of technologies, cross boundary cooperation and the impacts of air quality on other government policy areas.

Changes of AQOs and targets could materially effect air quality assessments within EIAs. This could have a knock-on effect to EIA cost and implications for mitigation measures.

We as environmental professionals must keep abreast of this discussion and ensure the debate is appropriate. Please go to EPD's web page and take part in the debate.

http://www.epd.gov.hk/epd/english/action_blue_sky/action_blue_sky.html

Glenn FROMMER

Chairman's Remarks

It has been a very eventful year as planned, with a range of technical activities that have covered local and global issues, as well as active participation in international conferences in Hong Kong, China and overseas. The success of the well-attended events reflect the Institute's movement ahead in the right direction, catering to our needs and the development of the profession.

The 28th Annual Conference of the International Association for Impact Assessment (IAIA) will soon be held in Perth, Australia, in May, with the interesting theme of "The Art and Science of Impact Assessment". Together with five members, I will represent the Institute at this significant conference.

Our AGM this year will be held on 15 May. The new Assistant Director of Environmental Protection, Mr CW Tse, will be our honorary speaker. Following last year's high participation, I look forward to seeing you all in the AGM again, particularly those new members who have joined us in the past year.

The arrival of May marks the end of my two year tenure as Chairman. It has been a challenging and instructive experience. I hope you have found the past two years as productive and interesting as I have.

Thank you all for your continuous support to the Institute and to me.

Josh LAM

Report from the Secretary

The 2008 budget outlined by the Financial Secretary had highlighted the implementation of large scale infrastructure projects for Hong Kong including those ten announced earlier in the Policy Address. These investments in infrastructure and promotion of long term development certainly open up new opportunities and challenges for environmental consultants which all of us have been waiting for so long. For these complex projects, we will have to utilise our professional knowledge and refined skills for the unavoidable public engagement exercises to go through the Environmental Impact Assessment Ordinance process. HKIEIA will strive to continue in providing members with the latest development on these projects and necessary support on professional development through CPD programme.

David YEUNG

HKIEIA Activities

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Technical Visit to Wind Farm & Power Plant in Lamma Island

The last technical visit in 2007 was organized with assistance from The Hongkong Electric Co. Limited, to the wind farm & power plant in Lamma Island.

After a warm welcoming at the visitor centre in the Lamma Power Station from Ir. Edmund Pang of HEC, the background and development of both the power plant and the 800-kW wind turbine were introduced. Afterward, participants have walked to the top of Tai Ling, where the 71m high wind turbine is perched. Edmund indicated that with an average wind speed of about 5.9 m/s at Tai Ling during the visit, the power output from the wind turbine was about 132 kW. On average, the wind turbine is sufficient for the generation of about 800,000 to one million units of electricity every year.



Ir. Edmund Pang introduced the technical background of both the Lamma Power Station (above) and wind turbine (below) at the visitor centre in the Lamma Power Station.



Group photo at Tai Ling, the Wind Turbine Site



Mr. Henry Leung (right) presented a souvenir to Ir. Edmund Pang (left)

Participants have gained from this technical visit, a detailed understanding of how the renewable energy facility operates. The Institute would like to thank Dr. C.W. Tso and Ir. Edmund Pang of HEC for arranging this technical visit.

Technical Visit to MTR Corporation, Kowloon Southern Link Tunnel Boring Machine (TBM) Launching Shaft

The use of TBM tunneling has proved to be effective in avoiding adverse environmental impacts to above ground areas.

MTR Corporation has kindly arranged for HKIEIA in January 2008, a seminar followed by a site visit to a TBM tunneling site at the Kowloon Southern Link project. This event aimed to provide our members, with the knowledge about TBM tunneling and the benefit brought to the project.

MTR’s representatives, Ir. Lisa Poon and Ir. Charles Yeung had provided the participants, the background of the 80m long, over 8m in diameter and about 800 tonnes TBM and how the TBM tunneling were planned and implemented for the KSL project.

The highlights on the benefits from TBM tunneling that was brought to the heart of the tourist area in Tsim Shai Tsui during construction, continuous public involvements and the substantial environmental monitoring conducted throughout the project were also explained.

The participants have also taken the opportunity to visit the TBM launching shaft within the West Kowloon Station site and looked at the extensive mitigation measures provided to contain the localized impacts during TBM tunneling and how they were brought to an acceptable level.



Noise enclosure provided at the slurry treatment plant



Seminar on TBM operation and site environmental management before site visit



Group photo at KSL project office (Canton Road Government Office)

Thank you Lisa, Charles, and those site staff from MTR and contractor (Link 200JV) who assisted in the event.

Henry LEUNG



Noise enclosure provided at the launching shaft to contain localized environmental impact during TBM tunneling

International Conference on Siting of Locally Unwanted Facilities: Challenges and Issues

The HKIEIA supported the Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK) to organize this international conference on 12 -14 December 2008. It was a great success, with authorities from 9 countries speaking on diverse subjects and over 150 participants from a range of backgrounds. The conference was the first of its kind in Hong Kong on this sensitive subject, and has definitely provided more insights and useful pointers to better ways of addressing locally unwanted facilities siting issues.

On behalf of the HKIEIA, I shared my EIA experience and presented a paper on “Contested Siting of a Transport Facility in Hong Kong – Challenges Met and Experience Gained”. The last session of the conference was devoted to a roundtable discussion,

highlighting important issues such as stakeholder engagement to develop trust, comprehensive assessment to encompass social impact, and international networking for experience sharing.

A follow-up seminar by Prof Chiou Chang-Tay on “NIMBYism and Environmental Movement in Taiwan” has been arranged for 11 April (post time of writing), in collaboration with the CUHK, HKIE and CIWEM.



Guest of Honour the Hon. Mrs Carrie Lam, Secretary for Development HKSAR, CUHK organizers Prof Paul Lee, Prof Fung Tung and Prof Lam Kin-Che, speakers and supporting organization representatives at the opening ceremony

The seminar focused on areas of trackform noise assessment through which reduction measures can best be applied and their effectiveness examined. An example is the vibration isolation on the floating slab tracks found in Hong Kong and Taiwan. The seminar also attempted to dissolve some strongly held beliefs on the performance and effectiveness of vibration reducing trackforms.



A souvenir presented to Mr Alan Crockett by Mr Mitch Law (right)

Mitch LAW



Some of the HKIEIA participants

Josh LAM

Railway Noise Control Seminar Series of 2007

The 12th December 2007 marks the end of the Railway Noise Control Series of 2007 jointly organized by HKIOA, HKIEIA, BSE and ME Dept of HKPolyU. This was the final seminar entitled ‘Trackform Vibration Reduction – Myths and Legends Reviewed’ which was presented by Mr Alan Crockett at the Hong Kong Polytechnic University.

Introduction to Climate Change and CLP’s Climate Vision 2050

On 29 January 2008, Dr. Jeanne Ng, a Group Environmental Manager at CLP Holdings gave a talk to introduce members and professionals on climate change. The concepts of climate change and the sources of air pollution causing this phenomenon were discussed. While providing interesting charts and graphs, she effectively showed the trend of global warming, comparisons of different countries and their responsibilities for meeting the challenges to mitigate global warming.

Jeanne also discussed CLP’s climate vision for the year 2050. As it is a significant user of fossil fuels for providing electricity, CLP monitors and manages their climate change needs by setting CO₂ reduction and renewable energy targets. One such target set in 2004 to establish 5% of renewable energy was met in 2007. Through their climate vision, they seek to transition towards cleaner technologies and continue to make energy efficient improvements.



Seminar participants



Mr. Henry Leung (right) presented a souvenir to Ms. Jeanne Ng (left)

We thank Jeanne for sharing with us her experience and CLP's visions for tackling climate change.

Lisa POON

Forthcoming Events and Activities

Before we get into the monsoon season, the Institute will organize more technical visits to let our members explore the scenic natural beauty of Hong Kong and to learn more about nature conservation. We will also

continue to provide EIA practitioners, with an update of the on-going and upcoming EIA works in Hong Kong.

Henry LEUNG

Annual General Meeting 2007

The Annual General Meeting 2008 together with a dinner reception will be held on 15 May 2008 at the Kowloon Club, 15/F New World Centre East Wing, TST starting 6:30pm.

The Institute would like to take this opportunity to share with members her successful achievements in the past year. Also, this annual event provides a time for us to get together and catch up with each other. Come and take part in this enjoyable evening. Please pencil it in your diary!

HKIEIA Membership

The Institute has currently a total of 205 members, including 21 Fellows, 154 Corporate Members, 28 Associate/Student Members and 2 Honorary Members.

Members are reminded to make your annual membership renewal together with the completed CDP record immediately to Ms Clara U.

HKIEIA Finances

The Treasurer is pleased to report that as of March 2008 the cash at bank is HK\$810,214.75.

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