



Editorial

Environment – The Flavour of the Month?

We seem to be increasingly bombarded with a multitude of questions ranging from an Olympian concern about air quality, harbour protection, earthquakes, building design, social auditing, carbon foot-printing and more. Are we stepping up to the debate or are we just enjoying our place in the (hazy) sunlight?

It is our responsibility as environmental professionals to develop ourselves and our institutions. Have you read and shared any good books? Have you attended any films, seminars or training sessions that could be beneficial to a wider audience? Have you participated in HKIEIA events or assisted in holding one yourself? Are you active in environmental knowledge management or are you just a passive holder of information?

There are significant issues that we as environmental professionals will be involved with in the next few years. Are we prepared?

Glenn FROMMER

Chairman's Remarks

Welcome to this August 2008 newsletter! First of all, I would like to give my special thanks to Mr. Josh Lam for his excellent leadership that let the Institute grow healthily and successfully in the last two years. The new Executive Committee took up the duties immediately after the 15th May 2008 AGM and had formulated a new plan for the coming year.

Internally, our Continuous Professional Development programme will continue to be as diversify as possible to accommodate the ever-changing environmental issues in Hong Kong and in the region. A sub-committee on activities had been set up to coordinate

the up-coming activities. We will continue to hold seminars and technical visits that are of interest to our members. Of particulate interest, HKIEIA will sponsor a series of international and regional conferences through collaboration with other professional associations in Hong Kong. We hope that these conferences will be of benefit to the members and at the same time enhancing our image to gain more recognition from the industry. In addition, we will continue to promote the knowledge and practice of environmental assessment in the community.

Young members are the backbone of our Institute, we will provide a platform for them to share and exchange knowledge on various environmental technical issues. It is always our goal to have sustainable growth of our junior members in the profession.

David YEUNG

Report from the Secretary

With the Annual General Meeting 2008 held in May, a new Committee, under the leadership of our newly elected Chairman, David Yeung, has been formed. The Committee is organised as follows:

- Chairman: David Yeung
- Honorary Treasurer: Freeman Cheung
- Honorary Secretary & Professional Development: Marcus Ip
- Membership Secretary & Website Management: Clara U
- Event Organiser & Website Management: Henry Leung
- Newsletter Editors: Dr Glenn Frommer & Lisa Poon
- External Secretary: Simon Hui
- External Affairs: Josh Lam
- Co-opted Committee members: Claudine Lee & Mitch Law

Observant members will no doubt note from the above list that we have retained a core of experienced members in the Committee but the less obvious fact is that we are also working very hard to introduce “new blood”. For instance, a new sub-committee with a number of young and vibrant members has recently been set up to bring you the Institute’s events this year. So why are you still hesitating if you have some brilliant ideas in mind for the Institute? Share them with us and join us in realising them!

Marcus IP

Annual General Meeting 2008

Twenty-five Fellows and Members gathered at the Kowloon Club on 15 May 2008 for our Annual General Meeting (AGM). Apart from the respective reports by Josh Lam (Chairman, 2007-8) and Freeman Cheung (Honorary Treasurer, 2007-8) on the Institute’s accomplishments and finances for 2007-8, Mr. C. W. Tse (Assistant Director (Environmental Assessment), EPD) shared with us his experience and observations on EIA in Hong Kong. After seeing the Institute through two very fruitful years, Josh concluded his term as the Chairman and David Yeung was elected to take his place. At the AGM, members also agreed on the re-appointment of Louis Lai & Luk Certified Public Accountants as the Institute’s Honorary Auditor for Year 2008-9 and an amendment to the Memorandum relating to the Institute’s registered address.

Marcus IP

Highlights of the 28th Annual Conference on International Association for Impact Assessment 2008 (IAIA08) in the Land Down Under

The Art and Science of Impact Assessment represents the IAIA08 theme and the event took place in Perth, Australia from 4-10 May 2008. There were about 750 delegates from 85 countries to take stock of key trends, issues and approaches in the field of impact assessment.

Impact Assessment practitioners from HKIEIA such as Prof. Lam Kin Che, Dr. Ng Cho Nam, Josh Lam, Simon Hui and Gigi Lam were there to explore questions on the role of impact assessment in

promoting societal change towards sustainability, and particularly, how the biophysical and the social sciences could be meaningfully alloyed with the art of policy making to contribute to the change process.

Opening Plenary Speeches on *Impact Assessment & Sustainable Development* and *Major Project Impact Assessment* were brilliantly delivered by the renowned Prof. Ian Lowe and Robin Bidwell respectively.

Thirteen Theme Forums including *EIA Methodologies*, *Public Participation*, *Strategic Environmental Assessment*, *Climate Change*, *Biodiversity and Sustainability*, *Corporate Stewardship*, *Capacity Building*, *Governance*, *Social Impact Assessment*, *Environmental Management Systems*, *Health Impact Assessment*, *Impact Assessment Law*, and *Policies and Practices*, were on the agenda to draw together major threads of the IAIA08 theme.

In addition, a total of 6 informative technical visits were organized aiming to enhance the participants’ understanding on the *Sustainability Initiatives of the local milieu and indigenous culture*. The Conference concluded with a Technical tour to the Pilbara region of Western Australia.

Sachihiko Harashina will be elected new President of IAIA in 2009, while Alan Kwok (FHKIEIA) will remain as Treasurer. The upcoming IAIA09 with the theme of *Impact Assessment & Human Well-Being* promoting human well-being and protection of ecosystems will be held 23-29 May 2009 in Accra, Ghana.



From left: Sachihiko Harashina, Prof. Lam Kin Che, Alan Kwok, Gigi Lam, Josh Lam



From left: Dr. Ng Cho Nam, Simon Hui, Prof. Zhu Tan, Prof. Lam Kin Che, Debra Zanewich, Josh Lam, Alan Kwok, Dr. Albert Koenig

Gigi LAM

HKIEIA Activities

Hiking at Tung O Ancient Trail in Lantau
(東澳古道)

It was a social event jointly organized by HKIEIA, CIWEM and HKIOA on 25 May. I joined the hiking and thought it would be the ultimate challenge to my limit – walking of more than 6 hours in a hot summer day! It turned out to be a fascinating hike. We started from Tung Chung new town and walked to the monument of Hau Wong Temple, then visited two indigenous villages at Sha Lo Wan and Sham Shek Wan, had lunch at the scenic Shum Wat Wan and finished up at Tai O which is also known as “the Venice of Hong Kong”. I was indeed out of breath at the final stop because of this unforgettable, beautiful and scenic Tung O Ancient Trail. I think we should do it again next year. I would also like to thank the members from the Effective Communication Club (言藝會) who led us through the trail.



Hau Wong Temple



Indigenous Village Houses



Shum Wat Wan



Tai O – the Venice of Hong Kong



A token of thanks to our guide

One Day Workshop on Risk Characterization and Assessment (Human Health and Ecological)

The one-day workshop co-organised by the City University of Hong Kong, the Hong Kong Baptist University and HKIEIA was held at the City University on 6 May 2008. Professor Ravi Naidu, Director of the Centre for Environmental Risk Assessment and Remediation, University of South Australia, delivered a whole day lecture on various risk assessment topics including risk characterisation, human health risk and ecological risk.

Professor Naidu also shared with us his valuable experience on risk communication and issues to consider when human and ecological risk assessments are proposed. It was a refreshing lecture and very relevant to our discipline.



Thank you Professor Naidu

Clara U

Chemical & Microbial Risk Assessment: Establishing Environmental Endpoints for use in Regulatory Decision Making

On 9 May 2008, the captioned seminar was jointly organized by HKIEIA and CIWEM. The guest speaker, Dr Lucy Fraiser was a senior toxicologist and program manager for ENSR US.

Human health risk assessment as the predominant paradigm in public health consequences of human

exposure to environmental contaminants was examined. Various exposure pathways including ingestion and exposure of drinking and swimming water and accidental ingestion of contaminated seafood were investigated. Numerically, it detailed how chemical health risk assessment and pathogen risk assessment could be applied in developing water quality objectives for Hong Kong.

The seminar was well received by about 20 participants including government officials, academics and risk practitioners. Mr Freeman Cheung of ENSR HK concluded the event by presenting a souvenir to Dr Fraiser on behalf of HKIEIA and CIWEM.



Attentive participants at the seminar

Benita KUNG

Technical Visit to the NEW Boardwalk and Floating Bird-watching Hide at Mai Po Nature Reserve

It was a follow-up event from what we learnt from Dr. Lew Young during our visit last year who explained the EIAO process for this boardwalk extension project. Bena Smith, WWF Reserve Officer, explained to about 30 of us on how WWFHK carried out EM&A works and the effectiveness of mitigation measures adopted during the construction and operation phases of the project. The details on the avifauna disturbance monitoring were also discussed.

The Institute would like to thank once again for the assistance of the WWFHK in organizing the event this year.



Bena gave a presentation on the EM&A works carried out for the project



Our usual photo position at Peter Scott Field Studies Centre



Participants on the new boardwalk



New chairman of HKIEIA, David Yeung, together with Clara and Henry, presented souvenir to Bena

Henry LEUNG



Bird watching at the new floating bird-watching hide

Railway Developments in Hong Kong – Present and Future

It has been clear in the 2007-08 Policy Address that railway would become increasingly important and would further be established as the backbone transportation mode in Hong Kong.

Dr. Glenn Frommer, the Head of Sustainability Development of MTR Corporation, had not only shared with the EIA practitioners in the seminar the EIA status for various railway projects, but also the railway planning in both Hong Kong and overseas in the next decade. Dr. Frommer highlighted the challenges the EIA industry could be facing from the numerous upcoming EIA projects in Hong Kong and ways to tackle them in order to safeguard the quality of the EIA studies.

Glenn, thanks once again for your update.



Glenn spoke on the railway planning



Josh presented souvenir to Glenn

Henry LEUNG

Forthcoming Events and Activities

Our theme this year is the importance of “People” and “Technologies” in the EIA process. Seminars, conference and technical site visits will be organized base on this theme with training and practical case studies to illustrate the techniques, aiming to provide our members with the possible solutions when tackling them throughout various stages of EIA studies.

Also, HKIEIA has participated in the IAIA08 conference held in Perth earlier and a debriefing session will be arranged to share with our members on those papers presented during the conference.

Henry LEUNG

Eco-Dive

The first marine park in Hong Kong to undergo official designation was Hoi Ha Wan on 5th July 1996. In a sheltered bay, the marine park is situated north of Sai Kung Country Park of the New Territories covering some 260 hectares. Famous for its variety of marine life, Hoi Ha Wan is also residence to over 120 species of reef fish and 50 species of coral.

In line with this year’s theme, HKIEIA is considering (with sufficient interest) organising an eco-tour of this species-diverse natural marine area. The main activity to be held shall be a guided introductory diving tour of the marine park that aims to raise awareness to members the importance of the area and explore the significance of its designation as well as understanding what has been done since July 1996.

As an early stage, interested parties are encouraged to contact Mitch Law, who can be reached at mitch.law@arup.com, to express their interest so that numbers of participants can be consolidated prior to incubating event arrangements.

Mitch LAW

Establishment of Events Sub-Committee

The Institute would like to announce a sub-committee for organizing the events and technical visits for the Institute that was formally established in July 2008. The Events Sub-committee aims to organize more diversified events in the coming year and comprises the following members:

- David Yeung (Environ)
- Clara U (EPD)
- Henry Leung (MTR Corporation)
- Claudine Lee (AEC)
- Mitch Law (Arup)
- Gigi Lam (ENSR)
- Eva Ho (Kerry Property)
- Arthur Lee (EPD)

We sincerely hope these diversified events to be organized by our new Sub-committee will bring new knowledge, technologies, industry updates and networks to every member.



From left: Mitch Law, Claudine Lee, Henry Leung, David Yeung, Clara U, Eva Ho, Arthur Lee, Gigi Lam.

Events Sub-Committee

HKIEIA Membership

The Institute has currently a total of 208 members, including 21 Fellows, 157 Corporate Members, 28 Associate/Student Members and 2 Honorary Members.

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

HKIEIA Finances

With the subscription for 2008-09 membership now due, you are requested to forward your cheque to the Hon Treasurer when you receive the invoice.

Our accounts has accumulated HK\$800,652.01 as of 14 July 2008.

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