



Issue 27, February 2004

Editorial

As the new Editor, I would like to wish you all a Healthy and Prosperous Year of the Monkey.

Jacquelyn Anderson has resigned from the HKIEIA Executive Committee and as the Editor of our Newsletter. The Institute would like to take this opportunity to thank Jacquelyn for her most able contribution in this past period and best wishes to her and her expanding family.



Josh Lam

Chairman's Remarks

Accredited Monitoring Professional (AMP)

As members will know, the Institute has been developing the AMP accreditation. This accreditation signifies that an individual has proven professional expertise in undertaking and management of monitoring programmes of Designated Projects (DP). Currently 42 of our Members and Fellows have achieved this certification.

It was the Executive Committee's anticipation that the AMP could be used to complement the requirement for an Independent Environmental Checker (IEC) in DPs. Discussions has taken place between the HKIEIA and the Authority. While formal recognition is not possible other informal recognition issued in guidance notes and linkages in websites may be considered.

Though official recognition has not been forthcoming, the AMP is still one of the best means that Members have to demonstrate their capabilities to potential clients. I am confident that we will see more use of this

accreditation in the future and I firmly support new applications for AMP.

Glenn Frommer

HKIEIA Participation

Further Development of Tseung Kwan O Feasibility Study (including Western Coast Road)

On 3 February 2004, the Institute attended the Stage 3 Public Consultation organized by the Territory Development Department (TDD) on the further development of Tseung Kwan O (TKO), in particular Town Centre South, Tiu Keng Leng and Pak Shing Kok including the Western Coast Road (WCR) and the Cross Bay Link. TDD presented the proposed development plans, adopting no further reclamation, reduction of population density and provision of more open space and leisure facilities, by utilizing the waterfront areas and the TKO Stage 1 Landfill site. The deletion of waterfront roads to create a traffic-free pedestrian environment was also proposed. Extensive park development and waterfront promenade would provide a variety of open space for people to enjoy. Please forward your comments on the development plans to TDD (by fax to 2721 8630 or by e-mail to tsli@tdd.gov.hk) before 29 February 2004.

Freeman Cheung

HKIEIA Activities

Considerations for Mitigating Ecological Impact of Habitat Fragmentation

Dr Bryan Wong of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) gave an extremely informative presentation on habitat fragmentation on 13 November 2003. During his presentation, Dr. Wong explained how road networks would act as a barrier to animal movements between patches of habitat as a classic example of habitat fragmentation. He also pointed out that species numbers would decline as habitat patches reduced in size. In addition, isolating

Published Quarterly by HKIEIA

HK Institute of EIA P. O. Box 28756, Gloucester Road Post Office, Hong Kong
E-mail - Webmaster@hkieia.org.hk Website - www.hkieia.org.hk

wildlife into smaller populations might cause inbreeding. He further indicated that habitat fragmentation could be mitigated by avoidance of critical areas, realignment or adoption of the tunnel/viaduct option. In cases that avoidance could not be achieved by realignment, measures such as over-and underpass for wildlife (Ecoducts), combined passages for traffic, human & small wildlife could be considered.

The audience acknowledged that the subject was relatively new in Hong Kong and there had not been many local examples of measures specifically designed for mitigating habitat fragmentation. Nonetheless, the audience still participated with great enthusiasm in the discussion session that followed.

Henry Leung

Basic Principles of the EIA Process: Baseline Monitoring Data – Setting the Stage for EIA and EM&A

On 19 November 2003, Ms Susana Bezy of Atkins China Ltd provided us with an overview of the importance of environmental baseline monitoring and the EM&A process. The presentation included discussions at length on how monitoring duration, quality control, interpretations of the EIA Report/EM&A Manual and budget could influence the design of a baseline monitoring programme.

The Central Reclamation Phase III Project was used as an example to illustrate how locations of sewage/storm outfall, tidal conditions, and seasonal variations could affect the trend of the baseline data. Ways to improve the quality of baseline monitoring data, such as inclusion in the EM&A Manual requirements on better quality control for laboratory analysis and field measurement procedures, were also discussed.

The Institute would like to thank Susana, for sharing her valuable experience in planning and implementing a baseline monitoring programme, and providing the venue for the event.

Henry Leung

An Overview of Fisheries Impact Assessment in EIA Studies

The Institute invited Dr Y M Mak, who is the Fisheries Officer in charge of the Fisheries Impact Assessment Section of AFCD, to give us an overview of fisheries impact assessment in EIA studies on 27 November 2003. The Fisheries Impact Assessment Section is a functional unit under the Fisheries Management

Division, one of the four divisions of AFCD's Fisheries Branch.



Dr Mak started his talk by providing an overview of the Hong Kong present fisheries conditions, including those for both the capture and culture fisheries in Hong Kong. Assessment of potential environmental impact on fisheries is required for development projects involving foreshore and seabed, fish culture zones and fish ponds, in accordance with the EIAO. The discussion then continued on how fisheries impact assessments could be done in a better way for the different types of fisheries resources, including the use of appropriate baseline information (eg Port Survey), evaluation of impacts (loss or disturbance of seabed) and considerations for mitigation measures (eg fisheries enhancement). As conclusion, there was some brief discussion also on the topic of ex-gratia allowance. The talk was very informative and well received by the audience.

Marcus Ip

Technical Visit to KCRC Sheung Shui to Lok Ma Chau Spur Line

Most Members would probably still remember the controversy over the KCRC Sheung Shui to Lok Ma Chau Spur Line project, the rejection of the first EIA report for the viaduct scheme project and the EIA appeal that followed. Over the past few years, much work has been done on revising the alignment and reassessing the associated environmental impacts, especially those related to ecological habitats at Long Valley and the Lok Ma Chau fishponds. The project was finally granted an Environmental Permit in April 2002 and its construction is now well underway.

With the kind arrangement by Mr Simeon Cheng of KCRC, the Senior Environmental Specialist in charge of the Spur Line project, the Institute had the rare

opportunity of having some first-hand experience in the construction of the project on 6 December 2003.



We started off with a comprehensive briefing by Simeon on the background of the Spur Line project and highlights of the tunnel-cum-viaduct scheme currently being constructed. A visit was then paid to the launching shaft where the tunnel boring machine “Mulan” was launched for the construction of the tunnel underneath Long Valley.



The group then continued on to various locations within Long Valley, where we were shown how the combination of inflatable dams, irrigation channels and sluices operate together to maintain the water levels within the area and keep wet agriculture, hence the ecological habitats, thriving.

A visit to the Spur Line of course could not be complete without a tour of the Lok Ma Chau fishponds, where the unprecedented concept of habitat enhancement had been introduced as mitigation for the habitat loss caused by the construction of the Lok Ma Chau Terminus. The group was given the privilege of going on the tower hide at Lok Ma Chau to have an unobstructed view of the entire area and see what has been done to enhance the use of the habitats by birds.



The Institute would like to take the opportunity to thank all relevant staff members of KCRC, in particular Simeon Cheng, and KCRC's contractor for the tunnel section for making this a successful visit.



Marcus Ip

Reception for Delegation of Chinese Environmental Academics

A delegation of environmental academics from Mainland China was in Hong Kong for a study tour on the EIA process during 14 to 20 January 2004, arranged by Prof K.C. Lam. The Institute held a reception for the delegation led by Professor Ma Zhong of the School of Environment and Natural Resources, Renmin University of China, on 15 January. Members attending the reception included Alan Kwok, Freeman Cheung, Josh Lam, Matthew Ko, Clara U, David Green and Marcus Ip.

The reception started with a discussion session. The Chinese delegates were particularly interested in knowing more about guidelines for economic impact assessments in EIA studies, public participation in the EIA process and strategic environmental assessments.

The delegates were particularly impressed by the transparency in the entire EIA system in Hong Kong, which is afforded by the extensive public consultation and participation throughout the EIA process.



The reception concluded with a very tasty Chinese supper at the Residents' Club of the Royal Ascot. The Institute is grateful for Josh Lam's arrangements for both the discussion session and the supper.



Marcus Ip

Membership Application Procedures

Complete the membership application and attestation form and send for the attention of the membership secretary, Mr. Terence Tsang at the HKIEIA P.O. Box. The Institute Memorandum can be obtained from the Institute founding members, the HKIEIA Website or from Mr. Tsang direct.

Upcoming Events and Activities

Technical Visit

The Institute has arranged a technical visit to the decontamination and infrastructure works at Penny's Bay on 6 March 2004. Information on the visit has been circulated via e-mail. Interested members are advised to fax their reply slip with an indemnity form to Ms Catherine Chan of ERM (Fax 2723 5660).

Hong Kong 2030 Study Briefing

A briefing by officials of the Planning Department on the Hong Kong 2030 Study will be held jointly by the HKIEIA, the Chartered Institute of Water and Environmental Management (CIWEM) and the City University, in March. Details will be circulated shortly when arrangements are finalised.

HKIEIA Web

A professional website contractor has been appointed by the Committee to improve the existing HKIEIA web, overseen by our web master Terence Tsang. The website will have a fresh look and more information will be provided and regularly updated, such as activity plan and details, membership information and seminar material. Initial layouts have been drafted and the revived website should be ready soon.

Annual General Meeting 2004

Please note that the AGM this year has been scheduled on 25 May 2004 (Tuesday) at the Kowloon Club, TST.

HKIEIA Membership

The Institute has currently a total of 170 members, including 24 Fellow, 115 Corporate and 31 Associate & Student Members. AMP members are reminded to make your annual AMP membership renewal immediately to Freeman Cheung.

HKIEIA Finances

The Treasurer is pleased to report that as of February 2004 the cash at bank is HK\$685,350.49.

Newsletter Produced by MTR Corporation

MTR Tower, Telford Plaza, Kowloon Bay, Kowloon, Hong Kong Tel: 2993 3543 Fax: 2993 7577 E-mail: gfrommer@mtr.com.hk