



Editorial



As this will be my last newsletter as editor I would particularly like to thank the Executive Committee for their support and assistance. I wish the Institute the very best in its endeavours to develop and promote EIA practices in Hong Kong and wish all members success in the future.

Jacquelyn Anderson

Chairman's Presentation – AGM 2003

Together with the Executive Committee established at our last AGM, an aggressive set of targets for the HKIEIA was set out this year. I will report on how well we have performed this past year. I can only give a short summary of our many activities, and I apologize before hand if I have left any important activity or individual out of my list.

You may recall that we decided to:-

- Focus more on the broader picture of EIAs rather in addition to the more specialist approach;
- Provide more development opportunities to our younger members in particular;
- Support all our members to develop skills in stakeholder management and development; and
- Advance the Institute's importance locally, regionally and internationally.

State of the Institute

The Institute is doing well considering the current market and situations in Hong Kong. We have maintained our membership with a stable number of 157 members, and the accounts look robust. Dr. Westwood Hong will detail these for you shortly.

Through Simon Hui's efforts, we have also been able to conclude the final accounts for the IAIA 2000 meeting, with a credit of US\$33,000 that can be drawn by any HKIEIA members who wish to attend future IAIA meetings.

Development Opportunities

We have held a number of talks this year some alone and some in connection with other institutions. Let me highlight the following.

- Ms Peggy Wong, Mr Steven Ng & Mr Dominique Chan from ERM-Hong Kong, Ltd gave an interesting talk on Cultural Heritage Assessment in Environmental Impact Assessment Studies
- Mr Freeman Cheung from ERM-Hong Kong Ltd spoke to the Basic Principles of the EIA Process – Guiding Principles of “Avoid-Minimise-Mitigate”
- A joint event with CIWEM on EIA Review featured a talk by Mr. Rob Verheem. Mr. Verheem is Adjunct Secretary at the EIA Commission in the Netherlands.
- A talk on managing the Mai Po Nature Reserve was given by Dr Lew Young, Manager of the Mai Po Nature Reserve. This was also followed up by a visit later on this past spring.
- Lisa Poon from KCRC gave a talk entitled EIA - A Living Process throughout the Project Cycle: Examples from MOS Rail and TST Extension.
- Lawrence Ngo from EPD gave a talk on Screening and Scoping of EIAs.
- A joint event with HKIOA was held to discuss railway noise with Alan Crockett from WIA HK giving the presentations
- Matthew Ko from Maunsell Consultants Asia Ltd spoke on the decontamination of Cheoy Lee Shipyard at the Regional Conference on Waste Management Technologies for Environmental Management In Pearl River Delta in March 2003.

My thanks to all the participants for their assistance in these events, and especially to Marcus Ip for chairing the Events Committee this past year. Well done.

Developing Skills

The Institute supported and assisted with a number of meetings and conferences this past year regarding member's development. For example, the Institute:-

- Supported the Reshaping Environmental Assessment Tools for Sustainability Dec 9-12 Paper

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E-mail – Webmaster@hkieia.org.hk Website - www.hkieia.org.hk

with Jacquelyn Anderson presenting a paper on the Role of HKIEIA in improving skills;

- Participated in the Canada – HK MOU Environmental Collaboration Environmental Impact Assessment Workshop Nov 2002.
- Participated in the HKSAR Stakeholders Perception survey on the ETWB Departments;
- Participated in the View sharing Workshop “A Study of Toxic Substances Pollution in HK H2CMHill 27 January 2003
- Supported the Regional Conference on Waste Management Technologies for Environmental Management in Pearl River Delta in March 2003
- Some members participated in the IAIA 2002 Conference in The Hague
- Supported the organization of POLMET in November 2003;
- Participated in the EIAO Practitioners Liaison Group meetings
- Supported the Plowshares Workshop on stakeholder management.

Advancing the Institute

Two major initiatives commenced this year which will be ongoing.

- The number of members attaining Accredited Monitoring Professionals has increased significantly to 42 and appears to be increasing further. This is a result from the Executive Committee’s decision to pre-qualify relevant members for the accreditation. We will progress this with EPD and examine how the AMP requirement can be included into future Environmental Permits; and
- A delegation of the present and all past Chairmen of the HKIEIA went to Beijing to meet with the State Environmental Protection Agency and discuss how the HKIEIA’s experience could be supportive in their training of staff for their new EIA laws. The delegation also examined how HKIEIA members could become more active in the mainland.

In addition, a request was sent to the Constitutional Affairs Secretary, The Hon. Mr. S C Lam, to have the HKIEIA represented in the Engineering Functional Constituency.

As this report bears witness, your Executive Committee has achieved its targets for this past year. However, we could not have achieved this without the support of you, our members. I would like to thank the Committee for their efforts of this past year and look forward to their continued support next year.

I would also like to thank Tom Chapman who had produced our Newsletter for the last 6 years and to Jacquelyn Anderson who has picked this up from Tom. Well done Jacquelyn for a difficult assignment. Thanks also go to our Hon. Treasurer Dr. Westwood Hong and the Hon. Secretary, C S Chu to hold onto our administration and to Terence Tsang for leading our membership Sub-Committee and his

efforts on our website. Good communication is essential and we are doing very well in this area.

Lastly, I want to thank Professor John Hodgkiss for his efforts over the last many years, not least in getting the AMP accreditation up and running. John is moving on to other fields and he will be sorely missed. May I, on behalf of the Institute wish you well in your future endeavors.

Let me close by adding a note of thanks for all out-going Committee members for their efforts and patience.

I would propose that the next Executive Committee continue this year’s work in particular developing partnerships in connection with public involvement of EIAs and with the Mainland authority. In that connection I would like to solicit your views.

*Glenn Frommer
Chairman*

HKIEIA Participation

Over the past couple of months, the Institute has been invited by various Government Departments to provide our professional views on the following policy issues and implementation of proposed development projects.

Nature Conservation Policy

Dr Glenn Frommer and Freeman Cheung attended a Consultation Forum hosted by ETWB on 29 August 2003. We expressed our views on the proposed policy and commented on the Consultation Document. The development of a practical policy implementation involving nature conservation is supported but we expressed our concerns on the lack of any implementation programme with clear milestones, accountability and reporting. The Institute also disagrees the EIAO needs to be changed to tighten existing conservation measures as the ordinance is flexible and allows the inclusion of conservation measures within the Study Brief if required.

Further Development of Tseung Kwan O Feasibility Study – Alignment Selection for the Western Coast Road

Freeman Cheung attended a presentation organised by the Territory Development Department (TDD) on the alignment selection for the Western Coast Road (WCR) on 11 August 2003. TDD presented the pros and cons of the tunnel and coastal alignment options. The tunnel option provides a better overall performance, particular with respect to lesser extent of reclamation, less impact to nearby land uses and residents as well as less environmental impacts (especially visual impacts). The Institute commended TDD to conduct such an alignment selection study before the detailed assessments including EIA on the preferred WCR tunnel alignment option. However, the consultation digest has not included the justification of the WCR which will need to be strengthened in the EIA stage.

Policy Framework for Sustainable Construction in Hong Kong

Dr Glenn Frommer and Freeman Cheung attended a Stakeholder Consultation on the Policy Framework for Sustainable Construction organised by the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD) on 15 October 2003. The objectives of the meeting was to solicit views from stakeholders to assist the development of sustainability policies for construction and formulate a coherent policy framework for the promotion of sustainable development in Hong Kong's construction sector. We recommended the team to consider using the framework for Environmental Impact Assessment as a methodology to guide the proposed improvement works especially on the issues related to safety. We also encouraged the use of incentives rather than penalties in the approach to implementation.

Freeman Cheung

HKIEIA Activities

EIA – A Living Process throughout the Project Cycle -28 April 2003

As the last talk in the series of “Basic Principles of the EIA Process” for the year 2002-3, the Institute invited Ms Lisa Poon to share her experience on the EIA Process. Ms Lisa Poon has been working in KCRC's Environmental Team for the Corporation's new railway projects since the very early days of planning the West Rail. For the purpose of her talk, however, she chose to illustrate her points with two more recent KCRC projects, namely, the Ma On Shan Rail (MOS) and the Tsim Sha Tsui Extension (TSTE).

Ms Poon first showed us that the project cycle of KCRC projects, similar to that of other major infrastructure projects, could be broadly divided into the EIA study stage, the detailed design stage and the construction and operational stage. As Ms Poon told us, the main features of these three stages in the project cycle were as follows:

- EIA Study Stage: to identify and predict the possible adverse environmental impacts and recommend mitigation measures accordingly;
- Detailed Design Stage: to develop and design detailed measures to avoid, pre-empt, prevent and reduce environmental problems; and
- Construction and Operational Stage: to manage and control environmental impacts to within established limits or criteria.

Following the definition of these stages in the project cycle, Ms Poon went on to illustrate her points with plenty of examples from both the MOS and TSTE projects. For the EIA study stage, she showed us how the multi-plenum system had been adopted to solve the train noise problem for the MOS and the application of the principle of avoidance during the TSTE EIA to preserve the historically important Signal Hill and its associated features, including a

Champion Tree in the Middle Road Park at the foot of Signal Hill.

For the next stage in the project cycle, Ms Poon pointed out how the multi-plenum system had evolved from ordinary viaduct structural design to incorporate innovative features tailored for railway noise mitigation. We also realised how much had been put into the detailed design for protecting the Champion Tree during the construction of the TSTE.

Marcus Ip

The Future of HKIEIA - 25 September 2003

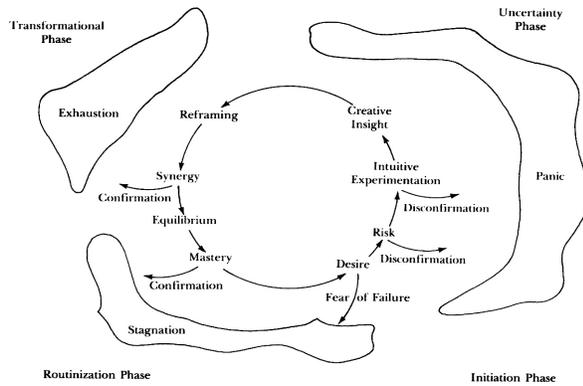
To start off the Institute's activities programme for the year 2003 – 4, Dr Glenn Frommer, the Chairman of the Institute gave a very appropriate talk on “The Future of HKIEIA”.

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.



Marcus Ip

Upcoming Events and Activities

Our extremely dedicated events organizer Marcus Ip has another full year planned. In addition to a series of technical presentations site visits to West Rail Compensatory Wetland/Long Valley/Lok Ma Chau are being arranged with KCRC, a site visit to Penny's Bay Development Contaminated Soil Treatment Facilities is awaiting confirmation from CED and visits to Shing Mun River Improvement Works and the Tung Chung Cable Car are being organized for 2004. If you are not currently receiving

the events reminders via email please contact Membership Secretary Terence Tsang to update your contact details.

EIA News

Members may be aware that a Judicial Review (JR) against the Director of Environmental Protection's decisions in approving the EIA report and granting the EP with conditions for the Permanent Aviation Fuel Facility project in Tuen Mun Area 38 has been lodged in November 2002. The JR was heard in the High Court for 8 days in September 2003. The key challenge was on the hazard to life assessment in the EIA report. The issue of the JR is whether DEP acted lawfully and reasonably in the public law sense in approving the EIA Report without requiring the Airport Authority to carry out a quantitative risk assessment on the scenario of instantaneous release of 100% of a tank content. On 30 September 2003, the High Court dismissed the JR. A copy of the full judgment is available at the EIAO Website (<http://www.epd.gov.hk/eia>)

Simon Hui

Members may be interested to know that a new technical circular (ETWB TC No. 13/2001) on Guidelines and Procedures for EIA of Government Projects and Proposals has recently been issued by the Environment, Transport and Works Bureau. The new Circular will replace two existing Circulars - the previous version WBTC No. 18/98 (or PELB TC 10/98) as well as WBTC No.33/2001 entitled Statutory Gazetting of Public Works Project in parallel with the EIA Process. The new Circular reviews and updates the guidelines and procedures for EIA of Government projects and proposals to incorporate the options set out in WBTC No.33/2001 and to establish an early warning system and conflict resolution mechanism for management of EIA process in each works department. Full version of the Circular is available from the ETWB website (<http://www.etwb.gov.hk>)

Areas of particular interest include the recognition of the importance for early consultation with stakeholders, a process termed Continuous Public Involvement as promoted by EPD. Emphases are also placed upon the importance of early consultation for large scale projects where matters such as alignment, choice of site or orientation may be significant in terms of environmental impact.

Simon Hui

HKIEIA Finances

The Treasurer is pleased to report that as of November 2003 the cash at bank is HK\$673,200.12

IAIA Conference 2004

The 24th Annual Meeting of the IAIA is being held in Vancouver Canada in April 2004. The theme for the annual conference is 'Impact Assessment for Industrial Development – Whose Business Is It?' The conference event

offers an opportunity for experts, decision makers, industry, and professionals of different visions and expertise to:

- Exchange ideas
- Discuss experiences on matters of environmental assessment
- Share lessons learned

- Seek agreement and better collaboration on building capacity in impact assessment.

Further details can be obtained from the IAIA website www.iaia.org

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3/F., HKPC Building, 78 Tat Chee Avenue, Kowloon, Hong Kong Tel: 2788 6371 Fax: 2776 1617 E-mail: jeanne@hkpc.org