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CIWEM HK – Annual Report 2008-2009

(I) Conference, Seminar & Workshop

Workshop on Forecasting and Resolving Global Financial Crisis 2008 to 2020: Projections with E3MG, 17 January 2009

Economic sustainability is one of the three constituent parts of sustainable development, having known that Dr Terry Barker, the Director for the Cambridge Center for Climate Change Mitigation Research of the Department of Land Economy of the University of Cambridge crossed the region, CIWEM committee urgently arranged for him to conduct a workshop titled “FORECASTING AND RESOLVING GLOBAL FINANCIAL CRISIS 2008 TO 2020: PROJECTIONS WITH E3MG” on 17 January 2009. Given the short notice of the event, a small group of members and non-members attended the meeting. Professor Bill Barron of the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology; Albert Lai, Vice-Chairman of the Civic Party and Damien Ku, the International Vice President of CIWEM joined the workshop. The history of the financial turmoil, the behavior of banks and people, some important financial analytical results using E3MG model such as the market performance of different countries including China, USA, Russia, Japan and Hong Kong etc. in the coming few years were revealed.

Seminar on SustainaBuild: the Trends for Inspiration, 25 March 2009

This event was well attended by more than 90 practitioners from government departments, consulting firms, utilities companies, contractors, and academics who aim to strive for the trends and inspirations from the latest development of sustainable buildings in Hong Kong, mainland China and overseas markets. The emerging and burning topics, “carbon zero”, has seemed to draw much attention of the audience among the agenda discussed in the seminar. CIWEM HK is honoured with Dr Kitty Poon officiating the event and we express our sincere gratitude to the guest speakers and Panel Chairs to furnish all participants with a real inspiring event and way forward to achieve “SustainaBuild” of our future.

Symposium on Sustainable Development of Wetlands for Hong Kong Ahead of 2010, 5 May 2009

This symposium aims to offer a forum for participants to discuss among various agenda and aspects in relation to the wetland development including but not limited to the global status, development pressure, opportunities for cooperation in wetland resources, management, technology and policies for sustainable development and explore strategy options for the enhancement of the local participation in conservation and wise-use in the future of Hong Kong.

(II) CIWEM HK Study Mission 2008 – Water and Waste Management Policy and Technology in Singapore, 24-27 June 2008

This is one of the most successful and unforgettable events that CIWEM HK has organized in 2008 which was attended by 14 members and peers as delegates. We were

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also pleased to meet with the Immediate Past President of CIWEM, Mr Bob Sargent, and the other CIWEM members in Singapore. The knowledge and experience gained from this event will be valuable to enable delegates to get acquainted with the current water and waste management practices in Singapore, hence serving a useful benchmark for us in Hong Kong. CIWEM HK would like to thank our sponsors, Metcalf & Eddy Ltd and Veolia Water South China Ltd. We deeply appreciate Keppel Seghers helping to coordinate the visits of this study mission. We would also like to thank all the organisations in Singapore for granting permission to visit their premises and their warm welcome.

(III) Technical meetings and visits

Apart from the conference, seminar and workshop, CIWEM HK has organized twelve (12) technical meetings, ten (10) technical visits, and supported fourteen (14) events organized by other institutions / organizations in the year 2008-2009. There are another three (3) forthcoming events planned ahead for the year 2009-2010.

Technical Meetings:

- Technical Meeting on Chemical and Microbial Risk Assessment: Establishing Environmental Endpoints for use in Regulatory Decision-Making, 9 May 2008 (co-organised with Hong Kong Institute of Environmental Impact Assessment)
- Technical Meeting on Waste to Energy - Saving \$\$ in Australia, 21 May 2008 (co-organised with HKIE Civil Division)
- Technical Meeting on A Price Too High: The Health Impacts of Air Pollution in Southern China, 15 July 2008
- CIWEM HK Social Gathering – Professor Chris Baines’ Visit to Hong Kong Branch, 3 November 2008
- Technical Meeting on Recent Update on Air Pollution Policy in PRD, 5 December 2008
- Forum on “How do we Envision the Harbour-front Development?”, 20 December 2008
- Workshop on Forecasting and Resolving Global Financial Crisis 2008 to 2020: Projections with E3MG, 17 January 2009
- Technical Meeting on Compliance Assistance Centre: a proactive way to help business trades on environmental compliance, 16 February 2009
- CUHK Talk, 25 February 2009
- Technical Meeting on the Arctic Ocean Research on Climate Change, 13 March 2009
- Technical Meeting on Sludge Treatment Facilities, 14 March 2009 (co-organised with HKIE Environmental Division, HKWMA and Association of Engineering Professionals in Society)
- Technical Meeting on Current air quality issues in Hong Kong: Science, Challenges and Solutions, 2 April 2009 (co-organised with HKIE Environmental Division)

Technical Visits:

- Social Gathering – Hiking at Tung O Ancient Trail (東澳古道) in Lantau, 25 May 2008 (co-organised with HKIEIA and HKIOA)
- Technical Visit to Two Water Reclamation Plants in Dongguan and Panyu, 6 September 2008 (co-organised with IAHR-HK)

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- Networking Event – Visit to Fung Yuen Butterfly Reserve, 20 September 2008
- Technical Visit to Swire Beverages at Siu Lek Yuen, Shatin, 4 October 2008
- Technical Visit to Ngau Tam Mei Animal Waste Treatment Facility, 29 November 2008
- Technical Visit to Pak Kong Water Treatment Works, 6 December 2008 co-organised with IAHR-HK)
- Technical Visit to Waste-to-Energy Plants in Baoan (寶安) and Water Re-use Project in Shekou (蛇口), 10 January 2009 (co-organised with HKIE Environmental Division and HKWMA)
- Technical Visit to Print-rite Factory in Zhuhai and Refuse Incineration Facility in Macau, 21 February 2009 (co-organised with HKWMA)
- Eco-tour Walk to Natural Scenery from Hok Tau Reservoir to She Shan Tsuen via Fung Yuen, 22 February 2009
- Eco-tour walk to natural scenery of Ma Shi Chau, 19 April 2009 (co-organised with HKIE Environmental Division)

Supported Events:

- Enhancement Programme for Hong Kong Engineers on Total Air Quality Management, 2007 – 2008 (organised by HKPC)
- One-Tonne Challenge, July 2007 – June 2008 (organised by Tai Po Environmental Association & Kadoorie Farm and Botanic Garden)
- One Day Workshop on Risk Characterization and Assessment (Human Health and Ecology), 6 May 2008 (organised by CityU and HKBU)
- International Conference on Waste Engineering and Management, 28 – 30 May 2008 (organised by HKIE)
- 9th International Symposium on Environmental Geotechnology and Global Sustainable Development, 1 – 4 June 2008 (organised by HKU and HKUST)
- The Fourth Symposium on Sustainable Development – Cooperation among Hong Kong, Macau and Guangdong, 25-28 September 2008
- 全國給水深度處理研究會 2008 年年會, 21-25 November 2008
- Second Regional Conference on Waste Management Technologies for Environmental Management in Pearl River Delta, 4-5 December 2008
- International Conference on Utility Management and Safety, 1-4 March 2009 (organised by Hong Kong Institute of Utility Specialists and Hong Kong Utility Research Center)
- Sustainable Buildings Master Class Session 2: Energy-Efficient Lighting on 18 March 2009 (organised by the Canadian Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong)
- Road to Green Build? - Real Experience in Hong Kong and China (organised by WWF Hong Kong, Hong Kong Polytechnic University, City University of Hong Kong)
- HKIE Environmental Division Annual Seminar – Sustainable Waste Management Policies and Practices on 24 April 2009
- HKAASST Study Mission to Wuhan and Jiangsu (organised by the Hong Kong Association for the Advancement of Science & Technology)
- The 13th World Lake Conference, Wuhan, Hubei Province, on 1-5 Nov 2009 (organised by the Chinese Society for Environmental Sciences).

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Forthcoming Events:

- Technical Visit to Marine Mammal Survey; and Low Level Radioactive Waste Storage Facility at Siu A Chau, 9 May 2009 tentative (co-organised with HKIE MMNC Division)
- Water Saving Competition 2009
- Technical Visit to KMB Exhaust Treatment System

(IV) Attendance of Conferences and Seminars by Committee Members

China Water Congress 2008 by *Albert Cheng (2007 – 2008 Committee Member)*

The Congress was held in Beijing on 14 – 16 May 2008, it was well attended by more than 200 participants, with representatives of government departments, technology providers, consultants, finance and law practices from various countries, such as US, UK, Germany, Australia, Hong Kong, etc. Discussion topics covered water resources planning and technology development, financing investment and legal risk management, in particular on future water and wastewater tariff, and project delivery experience in China. Attendees have taken this opportunity to network and introduce their respective organizations. CIWEM cards and brochures were placed together with the other publications such as "China Economic Review", "Everything about Water", etc for the attendees. This event has provided an opportunity to introduce CIWEM to the organizations engaged in the environmental sectors in China.

The 2nd Annual GreenBuild Asia 2008 by *Fredrick Leong*

“Profiting from Green Technology and Design” was the theme of this workshop cum conference held on 8-10 July 2008 in Hong Kong, to which CIWEM was one of the supporting associations. The event pulled together different industry specialists and experts to discuss the practical and financial issues surrounding sustainability in Asian cities and to give industry representatives chances to voice their views on the development of green buildings and infrastructure to government bodies. The agenda of the workshop were amongst those fundamentals of green buildings, namely green building accreditation systems, nuts and bolts of establishing carbon footprints, and effective communication of green projects. The conference, on the other hand, facilitated in-depth discussions covering most, if not all, evolving and burning issues in the trade, including ways for global market to work, legislative drivers, real estate perspectives, barriers for low-carbon future, cost against benefits, sustainability considerations, implications of green financing, differences in rating systems, integrating green design and planning, insights into existing buildings, sustainable architecture and design, green building mobility systems, energy auditing to establish carbon footprints, importance of indoor environmental quality, green technologies and materials, innovations, case studies, etc. A common consensus has been reached in this event that all stakeholders of green buildings must get involved and act without further delay so as to move forward all green building initiatives. *Acknowledgement: Fredrick Leong thanks CIWEM and Meinhardt China to support his attendance of this conference.*

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CDM Asia 2008 by *Fredrick Leong*

“Clean Development Mechanism project origination is more urgently needed than ever” was advocated in this workshop cum conference held on 28-31 July 2008 in Shanghai, to which CIWEM was one of the endorsers. The event was held 3 weeks after the G8 summit in Hokkaido where climate change takes centre stage, and pulled together some 100 global players in the CDM market including carbon credit sellers, buyers, consultants, etc to source additional projects through face-to-face opportunities to network with and hear from regulators, market participants, and other key stakeholders. Participants were managed to grasp opportunities in the currently dominant host countries: China and India, and explore alternative options in emerging host countries nearby; to network and build business case with prospective project owners; to get inside information with regulators and analysts speaking about the state of the market, trends, and outlook for future scenarios; to learn strategies for navigating a variety of local landscapes across Asia from project participants themselves. Several Asian DNAs (Designated National Authorities) from, e.g. Indonesia, Thailand, Sri Lanka, etc were there to meet with all other participants. Experience of local business environments for CDM projects in Asia was shared among project participants. Panelists discussed among the burning issues namely the attractiveness of Asia to hold CDM projects, current inhibitors to investment, regulators’ needs, action of project developers and owners, etc. *Acknowledgement: Fredrick Leong thanks CIWEM and Meinhardt China to support his attendance of this conference.*

Meeting with PI-UK China in Shanghai on 27 August 2008 by *Fredrick Leong*

Fredrick Leong had an informal meeting with the Chief Representative of PI-UK China, Ms Geena Xie, to exchange views on different aspects about promoting CIWEM. The same views were shared that membership drive is important to the growth and expansion of a PI such as CIWEM in Hong Kong and mainland China, but keeping our existing members would be even more challenging and crucial to our sustainability. We are pleased that there can be ample room for collaboration between CIWEM HK and PI-UK China in Shanghai, e.g. starting with seminars to be delivered by CIWEM members in Shanghai, etc.

National Conference in Water Treatment Technology 2008 on 21-25 November 2008 by *Andy Kwok*

CIWEM HK was one of the supporting organizations of the above conference and Andy Kwok has attended the conference in Shenzhen. The main theme of the conference was to focus on the water treatment strategies in view of launching of the new drinking water standard (GB5749-2006) within the Mainland. Discussions on the advanced water technologies in terms of development, design, production and operation experience in tackling the issues of water resources being polluted and upgrading of existing water treatment plants were addressed in the conference. More than 300 participants attended the conference. As part of the conference, a site visit to Ngau Tam Mei Water Treatment Works was held on 24 November 2008 to share and gain the experience of using advanced treatment technologies, Granular Activated Carbon biological filters and ozonation. Colleagues of Water Supplies Department (WSD) escorted the 120 delegates

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during the visit and answered the queries raised by the delegates. We would like to thank WSD for arranging the visit and the hospitality provided by them.

(V) Response to Public Consultations / Policy Papers

CIWEM HK closely follow up with new Government initiatives and actively responding to their consultations in order to solicit views from local CIWEM members and recommend the way forward for policy making process. The CIWEM HK response papers are available at our webpage. CIWEM HK Committee members recently attended the following consultation meetings invited by the respective Government departments:

- Total Water Management Strategy in Hong Kong Consultation Forum, 13 May 2008
- Briefing session organized by Environment Bureau regarding the Policy Address on 16 October 2008 (attended by Alex Kwan and Norman Cheng)
- Rehabilitation of Yuen Long Town Nullahs – Feasibility Study, Discussion Forum on the Proposed Rehabilitation Works on 4 November 2008 (attended by Winnie Leung)
- Seminar on the Outline of the Plan for the Reform and Development of the Pearl River Delta (2008-2020), 19 February 2009 (attended by Luciana Wong and Winnie Leung)
- Offer written submission to the EA Panel discussion on Sludge Treatment Facility, 30 March 2009

(VI) CIWEM HK 2009 Budget

The draft CIWEM HK 2009 budget was submitted to the Council for discussion in January 2009, which was devised based on the CIWEM Hong Kong 2009-2011 Development Plan. The estimated total income will be HK\$130,000; total expenditure will be HK\$127,500; hence the estimated surplus will be HK\$2,500. In addition, the estimated HK branch office expenditure will be HK\$7,500. There are 2 items on New Service and Business Development Expenditure proposed: 1) Active Promotion of CIWEM: HK\$13,000; and 2) Yong Member Section: HK\$15,000. The budget was submitted to the CIWEM Headquarters for review.

(VII) Reciprocal Recognition of CIWEM and HKIE

Mr Alastair Moseley, president of CIWEM and Mr Peter Wong, president of HKIE will sign “Reciprocal Recognition Agreement on Professional Qualifications” to establish reciprocal recognition of requirements for Members of CIWEM who are Chartered Engineers and Members of HKIE who are in the Chemical, Civil, Environmental and Mechanical Engineering Disciplines on 6 May 2009.

(VIII) Membership of CIWEM HK 2008-2009

CIWEM has a total of about 10,000 members worldwide and has established two overseas branches outside UK. CIWEM Hong Kong is one of the overseas branches and has about 180 members at present which is slightly decreased from last year. Out of these 180 members, there are:

- 16 Fellows

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- 143 Corporate Members
- 9 Graduates
- 1 Associates
- 1 Student
- 2 Environmental Partners
- 3 Hon Fellows
- 1 Life Member

Among these members, we have 15 retired members, 9 introductory members and others are standard members. Most of standard members come from private organizations and others are from different Government sectors and education institutions. Since this year, Headquarters also provide the chartered status of our members for our reference. Within our members, we have

- 50 chartered engineers, CEng;
- 19 chartered scientist, CSci;
- 38 chartered environmentist, CEnv and
- 1 incorporate engineer, IEng.

Certainly, some of members bear more than one chartered status and some even bear all three chartered status.

If we look at our members from another angle, we have:

- 139 Mr
- 9 Miss
- 4 Mrs
- 4 Ms
- 14 Dr
- 3 Professors
- 3 Eurlng

Almost 10% of our members bear the title of “Dr” and “Professors” status. Also, 10% of our members are female.

(IX) Council Representative Report

(1) In response to Damien Ku’s earlier initiation on the subject, the issue of overseas subscriptions was debated at the meeting of the Joint Professional Board on 30 January 2008 at the Head Office. The Board considered that the matter needed a clear business strategy and formed an Overseas Subscription Group to prepare a business case for the Council’s approval. Members included, among others, Bob Sargent and Alastair Moseley. Damien Ku was also invited to be the corresponding member. The Group had its first meeting on 14 August 2008.

(2) A meeting with Mr David Hall, the proxy Council Representative for Hong Kong Branch to attend the CIWEM Council Meetings, was held in Hong Kong on 28 October 2008 with the following CIWEM HK committee members: Damien Ku, Norman Cheng, Alex Kwan, Stephanus Shou, Fredrick Leong and Winnie Leung. David informed that the Governance review has been voted down at the AGM on 11 September 2008 which was due to the fact that the review procedure is not transparent. The major concern from CIWEM members in Hong Kong has been reiterated to David during the meeting, which included (i) other UK institutions HK branches subscription fee is lower than CIWEM,

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and (ii) some CIWEM members in HK quit the membership in past 2 years due to the high subscription fee.

(X) CIWEM President Visit and Meetings with the EPD, HKIE & WSD, 30 April – 2 May 2008

CIWEM President Mr David Rooke and Director, International Development – Mr Paul Horton visited HK Branch and met with Dr Lo Wai Kwok, President of HKIE on 30 April 2008 and Mr Ma Lee Tak, JP, Director of Water Supplies & Ms Wong Sean Yee, Anissa, JP, Permanent Secretary for the Environment on 2 May 2008.