

Demystifying Environmental Impact Assessment and Cross-Boundary Planning Processes for Civil Society Groups

- Knowledge based Capacity Building on EIA and Cross-boundary Planning Issues

SIP Forum Presentation
17th January, 2014

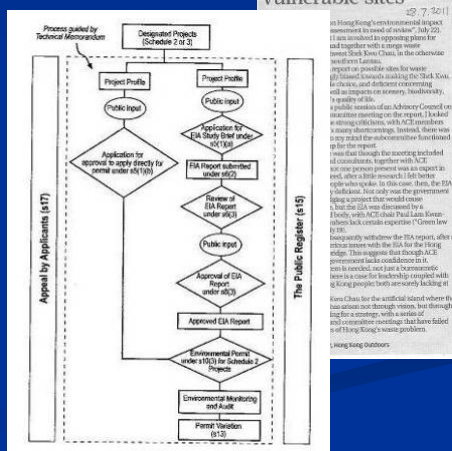
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Team Members:
Assistants:

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Mr. Owen Wong

Topic 1: Environmental Impact Assessment in HK

- The EIA system in Hong Kong
- The screening and scoping processes under the EIA Ordinance
- Impact assessment, evaluation and mitigation
- Public participation in Hong Kong's EIA process
- Decision-making and case studies
- Monitoring and Audit, and EIA Follow-up
- Effectiveness & limitations of Hong Kong's EIA process
- Strategic Environmental Assessment and international trends

Environmental assessment system is failing to protect vulnerable sites



Topic 2: Cross-Boundary Planning

- Institutional set-up and governance framework
- Plan-making approaches: Similarities and differences
- Cross-boundary infrastructure planning
- Cross-boundary land-use planning
- Cross-boundary environmental planning
- Cross-boundary marine ecology planning
- Stakeholder engagement in cross-boundary planning
- Role of civil society in cross-boundary planning



Objectives

- To provide a **comprehensive training and experience-sharing** programme for **environmental NGOs** and **community concern groups** on two major environmental planning issues: Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and cross-boundary planning
 - To enhance the participants' competency and capacity to make an **informed and reasoned contribution** to these two environmental planning issues, significantly strengthening their bargaining power in regard to the overall decision-making process
- => The contributions from such stakeholder groups should help **improve the overall quality** of the decision-making process.

Summary of activities/events from Mar 2012 – Aug 2012

Date	Activities (Research, events, workshops, meetings etc.)	Description
20 Apr	A Trial Training Session on HKEIA Screening Process for ENGOs	Described the current screening process in the EIA system in HK. Discussed past examples and limitations of the process.
5 May	1st Network Group Meeting	Identified the needs and key concerns of ENGOs and CCGs regarding to EIA & cross-boundary issues; an introduction to the workshop
25 Jul	Literature review on cross-boundary cooperation mechanisms	
31 Jul	Literature review: "HK/GD Joint Working Group on SD & Environment Protection"	
9 Aug	Literature review on cross-boundary cooperation project initiatives	
14 Aug	Literature review on cross-boundary cooperation institutional development	
1 - 8 Aug	Meetings with the website designer	Discussed and confirmed the design of web-pages and the terms of the contact.
18–30 Jul	Research of case examples	5 case examples identified
24 Aug	Meetings with the website designer	Discussed the possible technical problems

Summary of activities/events from Oct 2012 to Apr 2013

Date	Activities
06/10/2012	1st training session: introduction of HKEIA system and the key features
27/10/2012	2nd training session: EIA process, prediction, evaluation and mitigation public participation, some case examples
27/10/2012	Guest presentation on "Air Quality Modelling in HK's EIA Study" by Mr. Freeman Cheung
01/12/2012	One-day field trip: EIA mitigation measures – practicality & effectiveness
23/02/2013	3rd training session: EIA follow-up, some case examples, merits and limitations of HK EIA's system
23/2/2013	A dialogue session for NGOs and experts
13/04/2013	Public Forum on "Hong Kong's EIA System at a Crossroad: Challenges and Opportunities"



One-day field trip on 1 December 2012

Topic: **Implementation Gaps of Hong Kong EIA Projects**



A dialogue session on 23/2/2013

- provided an open and interactive platform for participants to discuss some salient issues of the EIA System in Hong Kong with a panel of experts on this topic.



Guest speakers/panelists:

- Prof K.C.Lam, Former Chairman of ACE
- Mr Freeman Cheung, AECOM
- Dr Alan Leung, WWF HK

A public forum on 13 April 2013

>130 participants from ENGOs, community groups, project proponents, professional consultants and government officials.



A Public Forum

**HONG KONG'S EIA SYSTEM
AT A CROSSROAD:
CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES**

Abstract: Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) has been an effective tool in protecting our environment. This Forum provides an open and interactive platform for participants and groups to discuss various challenges that are confronted by, and future opportunities provided for, key stakeholders concerned with Hong Kong's EIA system. This Forum is being organized as a part of The University of Hong Kong's EXCEL3 Training cum Networking Pipeline Hong Kong's EIA system.

Moderator: Dr. Cho-nam Ng
Department of Geography,
The University of Hong Kong

Programme:

Keynote speakers:

- Mr. Chin-wan Tse, Deputy Director, EPD (2:05p.m.)
- Mr. Henry Leung, Chairman, The HK Institute of EIA (2:20p.m.)
- Dr. Alan Leung, Conservation Manager, WWF-Hong Kong (2:35p.m.)
- Prof. Kin-che Lam, former Chairman, ACE (3:00p.m.)

Open discussion and dialogue session (3:15p.m. - 4:30p.m.)

The forum will be conducted in Cantonese.

Date: Saturday April 13, 2013	Time: 2:00p.m. - 4:30p.m.	Venue: K419, Knowledge Building, HKU
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All are welcome

For enquiries, please contact Ms. Clara Wong at ccw@hku.hk.

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Summary of activities/events from Aug 2013 to Jan 2014

Date	Activities
31-08-2013	Networking-cum-training workshop on cross-boundary issues for ENGOs based in HK & Guangdong
31-08-2013	Half-day Field-trip on Environmental Management
10-11-2013	-----
19-12-2013	Networking meeting with ENGOs including FoE, WWF-HK and CA
11-01-2014	A Public Forum entitled " 'One River, Two Systems' - Challenges and Opportunities in Planning for the Future of the Shenzhen River Basin"
On-going	Preparation of the web-base training materials
On-going	Preparation of training materials on cross-boundary planning

Networking-cum-training workshop on cross-boundary issues for ENGOs based in HK & Guangdong



GREENOVATION: HUB



宣绿广州
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Eco Canton











广州市观鸟协会
GUANGZHOU BIRD WATCHING SOCIETY



绿点
广州市绿点公益环保促进会

Public forum on 11 January 2014

>70 participants from ENGOs, community groups, professional consultants and government officials.




A Public Forum on
“ONE RIVER, TWO SYSTEMS”

CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES IN PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE OF THE SHENZHEN RIVER BASIN



Moderator:
Dr. Frederick Lee
Senior Lecturer
Department of Geography, HKU

Keynote Speakers:

- **Mr. David Lam**
Chief Executive (Strategic Planning)
Planning Department, HKSAR
- **Dr. Wang Fu-hai**
Former Director, Urban Planning & Design Institute of Shenzhen
- **Dr. Michael Lau**
Senior Head of Local Biodiversity and Regional Wetlands Programme, WWF-Hong Kong
- **Dr. Ng Cho-nam**
Associate Professor, Department of Geography, HKU

Open Discussion & Dialogue Session
(4:00p.m. - 5:30p.m.)

Date: Saturday, January 11, 2014
Time: 2:00p.m. - 5:30p.m.
Venue: K419, Knowles Building,
The University of Hong Kong

Within Hong Kong's jurisdiction, the Shenzhen River Basin is compartmentalised, basically defined, the area of North and Northeast New Territories, the Central Area, the East/Mid/Sha Tin Long, and Northeast New Territories. To formulate a long-term sustainable development plan for the entire Shenzhen River Basin, there is a need to adopt a broader, holistic perspective to generate a strategic, holistic and coordinated plan to tackle the challenges and explore the opportunities in this rapidly transforming urban landscape on both sides of the Shenzhen River.

This Forum is being organised as a part of The University of Hong Kong's ExCEL3 Training and Networking Project on Cross-Boundary Planning Processes.

The forum will be conducted in Cantonese and Putonghua.

All are welcome

For enquiries, please contact Mr. Chris Wong at wccc@hku.hk.



Forthcoming events

Feb 2014	Field-trip to Shenzhen River (Shenzhen side)
Mar 2014	Field-trip on Shenzhen River (Hong Kong side)
Mar 2014	NGO workshop on “Cross-boundary Planning Issues”
Jan - Mar 2014	Network meetings for preparing the joint submission of NGO’s views on the current EIA Process in HK

Summary of evaluations of the 4 training sessions

	1 Strongly Disagree	2 Disagree	3 Neutral	4 Agree	5 Strongly Agree
Content was appropriate and informative			2	40	62
The speaker was knowledgeable			1	23	80
The presentation was inspiring			11	40	52
My professional expertise was enhanced			5	48	51
The event was of appropriate length of time		1	15	55	32
I would recommend ExCEL3 events to peers			9	36	49

Summary of evaluations of the two public forums (on 13 Apr 2013 and 11 Jan 2014)


	1 Strongly Disagree	2 Disagree	3 Neutral	4 Agree	5 Strongly Agree
Content was appropriate and informative			3	46	28
The speaker was knowledgeable			2	34	42
The presentation was inspiring			11	36	30
My professional expertise was enhanced			7	49	18
The event was of appropriate length of time		4	15	42	15
I would recommend ExCEL3 events to peers			6	44	26

Participating organizations



Achievements

- 1st comprehensive training programme on EIA for local ENGOs.
- 1st stakeholder dialogue forum on EIA in HK.
- 1st networking-cum-training workshop on cross-boundary issues for ENGOs based in Guangdong and HK.



The collage includes three main components:

- Training Sessions:** Three photographs showing participants in a classroom setting, some listening and some taking notes.
- Training Manual:** A white cover with the title "TRAINING MANUAL" and a landscape image. Below the image, it reads "TRAINING-CUM-NETWORKING PROJECT ON CROSS-BOUNDARY PLANNING PROCESSES FOR CIVIL SOCIETY GROUPS". Logos for CEEL and other partners are at the bottom.
- Forum Poster:** A blue poster titled "A Public Forum HONG KONG'S EIA SYSTEM AT A CROSSROAD: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES". It lists a moderator, Dr. Chonam Ng, and several keynote speakers including Ms. Chan-wai Tse, Ms. Henry Leung, Dr. Alan Leung, and Prof. Khe-cho Lam. It also provides the date (Saturday, April 13, 2013), time (2:00pm - 4:30pm), and location (K419, Knowledge Building, HKU).

Impacts

- Raised awareness of the importance of public participation in the early stages of the EIA process
 - Partly resulted in the most detailed Study Brief in the history of EIA in HK - for the production of EIA report for "Expansion of Hong Kong International Airport into a Three-Runway System"
- Gathered and consolidated views from various stakeholder groups on HK's EIA process
- Capacity-building through forums with government representatives, academics, professionals and ENGOs
- Facilitated a joint submission by local ENGOs, to the Government, on a review of Hong Kong's EIA process

The expected impact!

- Upon the ENGO submission, a public hearing on HK's EIA process in the Environment Committee of LegCo (*likely within the 1st quarter of 2014*)



Thank you