

**Welcome** to the Winter 2002 edition of the HKWMA newsletter. In this issue we have included a summary of “The Search for Sustainable Integrated Waste Management Technologies for Hong Kong”, news on upcoming technical seminars and visits organized by the Association as well as a look into upcoming events in and outside of Hong Kong.

**Remember**, this Newsletter requires your participation. We would like to hear your experience in implementing good waste management practices in Hong Kong or overseas. If you have any interesting stories to tell, or news to share, please write to us at [newsletter@hongkongwma.org.hk](mailto:newsletter@hongkongwma.org.hk)

## **HKWMA Co-hosts Symposium on “Sustainable Integrated Waste Management Technologies for Hong Kong”!**

By: C.S. Poon

Hong Kong is facing the problem of running out of solid waste disposal facilities. Government figures show that all the landfills in Hong Kong will be exhausted in about 10-15 years time. Hong Kong needs to urgently identify suitable solid waste treatment/processing technology(ies). The Hong Kong Waste Management Association together with The Hong Kong Institution of Engineers jointly organized a 1-day Seminar entitled “The Search for Sustainable Integrated Waste Management Technologies for Hong Kong” on 5 July 2002. Local government officials overseeing solid waste management in Hong Kong and experts from Asia, North America and Europe were invited to share their experiences and knowledge on policy measures and technologies that are relevant to Hong Kong. The aim of the Seminar was to provide a forum for discussion among policy makers, waste management and engineering professionals in Hong Kong regarding the future of solid waste management in Hong Kong.

The Seminar was well attended by over 350 professionals, graduates and government officials who were either working or interested in the area of environmental management and waste management. The Seminar was opened by an address by Ir Otto Poon, Chairman of the Waste Reduction Committee. The proceedings of the seminar was as follows:

Dr Ellen Chan, Assistant Director, Environmental Protection Department  
*An Overview of the Solid Waste Management Problems in Hong Kong and their Possible Solutions*

Dr Masaru Tanaka, President, Japan Society of Waste Management Expert  
**Sustainable Waste Management and Technologies: Experience of Japan**

De. Jing-Yuan Wang, Nanyang Technological University  
**Sustainable Waste Management and Technologies: Experience of Singapore**

Dr Stephen S.H. Shen, Director, Taipei City Department of Environmental Protection  
*Zero Landfill*

Prof. Bernd Bilitewski, Technische Universitaet Dresden, Germany  
*Recent Advances in Solid Waste Processing Technologies in Europe*

Mr. G.M. Savage, Executive Vice President, CalRecovery Inc.  
*Recent Advances in Solid Waste Processing Technologies in US*

At the end of all the presentations, a panel discussion, Chaired by Prof. C.S. Poon, Chairperson of HKWMA for the 2001-2002 session, was held which attracted a lot of interesting questions and discussion from the participants.



## **Recycling Electrical and Electronic Goods - First for Refuse Transfer Stations**

The North West New Territories Refuse Transfer Station located near Yuen Long was officially opened on July 11 2002. Executive Members of the Association were invited guests to this event and were given a guided tour of the facility.

In addition to the refuse transfer facility itself, the site is also the location of EPD's first electrical and electronic (E&E) goods recycling centre at a RTS. According to Mr. Michael O'Keeffe of Swire SITA who designed, constructed and are now operating the RTS, the object of this pilot study is to determine:

- The quantity of waste E&E appliances generated;
- Efficient methods of dismantling; and
- Which components can be beneficially recovered.

## HKWMA Annual General Meeting

This year's AGM was held on 19 September 2002 at Hong Kong Club and was well attended by over 100 people. Highlights of that evening included the passing of the Chairperson's position from Prof. C.S. Poon to Mr. K.B. Lam. Ir C.F. Lam was inaugurated as the Vice-Chairperson.

Four members of the 2001-2002 Executive Committee were re-elected and included Mr. Daniel Cheng, Mr. Mike Stokoe, Mr. Frank Wan and Ir. C.F. Lam.

Owing to the stepping down of Mr. William (Bill) Anderson, a new member was sought from the members at large. That evening, Mr. Alexi Bhanja was nominated to replace Bill and currently serves alongside C.F. Lam as Seminar Organizer.

James Tam of Swire SITA was appointed to the Executive Committee to serve alongside Frank Wan and Daniel Cheng as Visit Organizer. Both Alexi and James join the other re-elected members in serving the Association for the coming two years.



## Environment Hong Kong: Looking Back and Ahead

By Lyn Ip

Prof. Kin Chee Lam of The Chinese University of Hong Kong was invited as the guest speaker to open the HKWMA AGM on September 19, 2002. His presentation focused on the past developments and milestones achieved in the area of Environmental Protection, in particular the 1989 White Paper, the 1996 Third Review of the White Paper and the 1999 Policy Address given by The Hon. Tung Chee Hwa. The following is a brief recount of Prof. Lam's presentation that evening.

In 1989, there was a sense of urgency to adopt good waste management practices and the Government set out to establish a framework to with the pollution problems they faced at that time. Through the development of the White Paper, legislation was tightened, plans for waste and wastewater treatment were formulated, infrastructure was put in place to support the initiatives and the monitoring and audit review process was identified. However Prof. Lam noted that while these were technical solutions they did not address the underlying problems such as cross border pollution.

The last known review of the White Paper was conducted in 1996, with the reason for no other review taking place unknown, remarked Prof. Lam. He noted that for the most part, all of the facilities proposed in the White Paper had been built on time however the introduction of regulations and control measures which required legislation met with considerable resistance.

After 10 years since the White Paper was first published, the view on pollution problems took on a different scope. The emphasis was now placed on a more holistic approach to solving problems rather than adopting end-of-pipe solutions, and Government began to look closely at sustainability and cross-boundary issues.

Prof. Lam noted that these key milestones have played an important part over the past 10 years, and over the years the mode of thinking, approach and targets have gradually changed to reflect the change in the nature of problems faced by society. He further noted that people's way of life must change as that is what underpins the problems associated with the environmental problems faced today, including waste generation, air quality, etc. Many people still adopt unsustainable ways of life and tend to still be very complacent when it comes to issues like waste management (waste is picked up and delivered to the landfill – out of sight out of mind). And while public interest in improving local air quality has forced action to be taken, one should not rely on solutions developed locally to address those cross-border issues i.e. air quality and water quality. Prof. Lam stated that there needs to be a more holistic and integrated approach adopted in the framework of thinking and working in Hong Kong and we have to start looking at the root of the problem rather than just the surficial symptoms of the problem.

In closing, Prof. Lam noted that we are short of VIP:

**Vision:** Hong Kong needs visionary measures or solutions to solve our problems; politicians need to broaden their views which may be blocked by the views of their political party and other narrow interests

**Institution:** there are still narrow and segmented views between government departments. While these may be vertically integrated, there is still a lack of horizontal integration and cross communication.

**Partnership:** It is difficult for the Government to work alone in tackling the SAR's environmental problems. There needs to be some partnership with the local community to drive the actions required to fulfill the actions/agendas announced back in 1999 by The Hon. Tung Chee Wah.



## Membership News

A big welcome to all our new members who have joined us since September 2002.

Updating your personal information? If there are any changes to your email address or any other contact information, please send a note to the Membership Secretary, Mr. Joe Zorn by fax (2497-4290) or by email [membership@hongkongwma.org.hk](mailto:membership@hongkongwma.org.hk) so that we can keep you updated of HKWMA happenings.

## Upcoming Events

### *HKWMA Technical Meetings*

1. Date: 28 January 2003  
Title: Corporate Responsibility and Transparency: Expectations, Trends and Sustainability Reporting  
Speaker: Ms Anne Copeland Chiu of BMT Asia Pacific Limited  
Venue: HKIE Seminar Room  
Remarks: Joint function with Environmental Division, HKIE
2. Date: 25 February 2003  
Title: Rose Garden – Total Waste Management System  
Speakers: Allied Process Engineering Co. Ltd., HKUST and Friends of the Earth  
Venue: HKIE Seminar Room  
Remarks: Joint function with Environmental Division, HKIE
3. Date: 26 March 2003  
Title: Application of GIS in Solid Waste Management  
Speaker: Dr. Eric Chan of Scott Wilson  
Venue: HKIE Seminar Room  
Remarks: Joint function with Environmental Division, HKIE

For more information please see the HKWMA website or contact the Technical Seminar organizer at [seminar-organiser@hongkongwma.org.hk](mailto:seminar-organiser@hongkongwma.org.hk)

## ***HKWMA Technical Visits***

To start off the New Year, the Association is organizing a technical visit to the North-West New Territories Refuse Transfer Station on 11 January 2003 (Saturday). This is your opportunity to see Hong Kong's newest Refuse Transfer Facility and the pilot E&E recycling centre. **Don't miss it!!** For more information please see the HKWMA website or contact the Technical Visit organizer: [visit@hongkongwma.org.hk](mailto:visit@hongkongwma.org.hk)

## ***International Waste Management Events***

The following are events organized by other organizations and associations around the world and are provided for members' reference only. Publishing this information does not constitute an endorsement of these events by the HKWMA.

1. Date: 12-14 February 2003  
Event: Energy Water Waste EXPO 2003 (Warsaw, Poland)  
Enquiries: +31 20 549 1212 (tel) +31 20 549 1889 (fax)  
Website: <http://www.ewwexpo.com>
2. Date: 23-26 March 2003  
Event: The 18<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Solid Waste Technology and Management (Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA)  
Enquiries: +31 20 549 1889 (fax)  
Website: <http://www.ecotechexpo.com>
3. Date: 1-3 April 2003  
Event: Engineering & Production Technology Exhibition – Incorporating Energy & Environmental Management Exhibition and Waste & Recycling Exhibition (Belfast, UK)  
Enquiries: +353 28 9072 1770 (tel)  
Website: <http://www.engexpo.co.uk>
4. Date: 13-15 May 2003  
Event: Ecotech 2003 – The International Waste Management & Technology Exhibition (Amsterdam, The Netherlands)  
Enquiries: +31 20 549 1889 (Fax)  
Website: <http://www.ecotechexpo.com>
5. Date: 3-5 June 2003  
Event: Waste Expo 2003 (New Orleans, Louisiana, USA)  
Enquiries: +1 203 358 9900 (tel) +1 203 358 5816 (fax)  
Website: <http://www.wasteexposhow.com>

6. Date: 3-6 June 2003  
Event: WasteTech 2003 (Moscow, Russia)  
Enquiries: +7 095 975 1364 (tel) +7 095 207 6310 (fax)  
Website: <http://www.waste-tech.ru>
  
7. Date: 3-5 November 2003  
Event: International Conference on Pollution in the Metropolitan and Urban Environment (POLMET 2003)  
Enquiries: 2895-4446 or [conf@hkie.org.hk](mailto:conf@hkie.org.hk)  
Website: <http://www.hkie.org.hk/POLMET2003>
  
8. Date: 9-13 November 2003  
Event: ISWA Congress 2003 – Sustainability in a New World  
Enquiries: +61 3 9877 9960 (tel) +61 3 9877 5534 (fax)  
Website: <http://www.iswa2003.net>