

## Chairman's message

In a small but internationalized city like Hong Kong, we are by default faced with many challenging problems on waste-related issues. Waste generation rates are ever increasing while siting of new waste management facilities is becoming more difficult. For the past 15 years, the Hong Kong Waste Management Association has been active and will remain an integral part of the continuing development of the waste management industry in Hong Kong.

As a non-profit making professional organization, our membership is represented by some of the most respected professionals and active players in the local and international waste management arenas. We express our views through numerous consultation exercises to the Government and LegCo, and our opinions are well recognized as the professional voice of reason in an ever more emotional and politically-charged climate. HKWMA also serves as members of advisory committees, including the Advisory Committee of the Hong Kong Green Labeling Scheme.

Apart from an advisory role, HKWMA also actively promotes technical exchanges and networking opportunities, through a series of receptions, workshops, seminars, local and overseas visits. As an example, HKWMA has jointly organized a 5-day technical visit to Japan in October 2009, to visit some of the state-of-art waste management facilities. A series of debriefing seminars is also scheduled afterwards, to ensure the experiences from the visit are well communicated and shared.

HKWMA also believes that continual professional development is a very important element to ensure that the waste management professionals are up-to-date with the latest news and movements in the industry. As such, HKWMA regularly holds short courses (e.g. Certificate Course in Waste and Environmental Management) co-organized with the City University of Hong Kong. The next round is scheduled between February and May 2010. Lecturers of the course are drawn from the HKWMA membership to reflect the best and most professional practice within the industry. It is hoped that this course continues to be well recognized and valued by the industry at-large and that it will become a permanent offering.

We also maintain close contacts with our professional counterparts outside of Hong Kong. These include the International Solid Waste Association (ISWA), the China Association of Urban & Environmental Sanitation (中國城市環境衛生協會), the Chinese Institute of Environmental Engineering (中華環境工程學會) in Taiwan and the Macao Association for Environmental and Planning Engineering (澳門環境及規劃工程專業協會). As part of a series of events to celebrate our 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2009, HKMWA hosted the "Two-Coast Forum on Sustainable Solid Waste Management 2009" in Hong Kong. The event was very successful with over 110 delegates attended, including local participants as well as delegates from China, Taiwan and Macao who travelled all the way to Hong Kong just for this event. The next forum will be held in late 2010 in Taiwan, and a delegation from HKWMA will be attending this forum.

On behalf of the Executive Committee I would like to thank you for your support in the past and hope that you will continue to value your membership of HKWMA, both in terms of its technical standing and also in terms of the networking opportunities offered by some 200 of Hong Kong's top professionals in the waste management industry. As evident in the past 15 years, your participation and support is crucial to ensure the continued success of HKWMA in this ever-challenging environment.

Louis Chan  
Chairman  
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