

**International Water Association  
Regional Committee of Hong Kong, China (IWAHK)**

**Minutes of the 12th Executive Committee Meeting**

**Venue** : WSD Headquarters Conference Room, Room 4819, Immigration Tower

**Date** : 8 December 2014 (Monday)

**Time** : 5:15 p.m.

**Present**

Ir Enoch T S LAM	Director of Water Supplies ( <i>Chairman</i> ) Water Supplies Department (WSD)
Ir K W MAK *	Deputy Director of Drainage Services ( <i>Vice Chairman</i> ) Drainage Services Department (DSD)
Ir Bobby M T NG	Deputy Director of Water Supplies, WSD ( <i>Secretary</i> )
Ir H S WONG	Assistant Director of Water Supplies/Mechanical & Electrical, WSD ( <i>Treasurer</i> )
Prof G H CHEN	Professor, Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, HKUST
Ir C Y FONG	Managing Director, ATAL Engineering Ltd
Prof X Y LI	Professor of Environmental Engineering Department of Civil Engineering, HKU
Ir Alan H L MAN	Vice President and Managing Director – North Asia Pacific, Black & Veatch Water
Ir Alex Y W NG	Principal Environmental Protection Officer Environmental Protection Department (EPD)

**Absent with Apology**

Ir Daniel K W CHUNG	Director of Drainage Services, DSD
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**In Attendance**

Ir Simon C H CHAN	Senior Engineer /Technical Secretary 1, DSD
Ir Vincent S C MAK	Assistant Director of Water Supplies/Development, WSD

Ir S W CHAU	Chief Engineer/Development(1), WSD
Ir M C WONG	Chief Electrical & Mechanical Engineer /Maintenance, WSD
Ir T O LEE	Senior Electrical Engineer /Maintenance(1), WSD
Ir C M LAM	Senior Mechanical Engineer/Maintenance(1), WSD
Ir K L FOK	Engineer/Customer Services (Special Duties 3), WSD
Ir Samuel L W CHOI	Senior Engineer/Headquarters, WSD ( <i>Note Taker</i> )

\* *in attendance on behalf of Ir Daniel K W CHUNG, Director of Drainage Services (DSD)*

## **Action**

### **(1) Welcoming remarks**

The Chairman welcomed all members to the 12<sup>th</sup> Executive Committee (EC) Meeting of the International Water Association Regional Committee of Hong Kong, China (IWAHK). The Chairman briefed the members of the new chairmanship and vice chairmanship taken up by himself and Ir Daniel K W CHUNG, Director of Drainage Services respectively subsequent to the change of leadership of WSD and DSD.

### **(2) Confirmation of Minutes of Last Meeting**

The minutes of the 11<sup>th</sup> EC Meeting held on 15 October 2013 were confirmed without amendment.

### **(3) 11<sup>th</sup> IWA-ASPIRE Council Meeting held on 23 September 2014, Lisbon, Portugal**

DWS reported that he had attended the 11<sup>th</sup> IWA-ASPIRE Council Meeting in conjunction with the IWA World Water Congress and Exhibition held in Lisbon in late September 2014, Portugal. During the Council Meeting, the following IWA-ASPIRE events were discussed/confirmed:

- (a) *6<sup>th</sup> IWA-ASPIRE Conference & Exhibition*  
20-24 September 2015, Beijing
  - Details of the event were confirmed.

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- (b) *7<sup>th</sup> IWA-ASPIRE Conference & Exhibition*  
2017, Kuala Lumpur  
- The outline of the event was discussed.

- (c) *8<sup>th</sup> IWA-ASPIRE Conference & Exhibition, 2019*  
The representatives of Macau have shown their interest in organising the event but the proposal has not yet been confirmed in the meeting. After the meeting, they approached the Chairman to see whether it was possible for Macau and Hong Kong to co-host the event. The matter would be kept in view and further discussion with Macau would be required in due course.

WSD

**(4) IWA Leading Edge Conference on Water and Wastewater Technology (LET 2015)**

Prof G H CHEN conducted a short presentation on the latest progress of LET 2015 (copy of the presentation slides attached at **Appendix I**). The details of the conference are summarized as follows:

Date : 30 May 2015 to 3 June 2015

Venue : Hong Kong Science & Technology Park (HKSTP)

Theme : Moving from Pilot to Full Scale

Co-organisers : HKUST and IWA

Major Sponsor : Environment Conservation Fund  
(ECF) of EPD

Prof CHEN thanked for the strong supports from DSD, EPD and WSD as well as the venue sponsor from HKSTP. He expressed that HKUST would take up the full financial liability of the event.

He reported that the LET2015 Programme and Organising Committees had been set up, which comprised different stakeholders from worldwide.

(Post Meeting Note: The 1<sup>st</sup> OC meeting was held on 9.12.2014 in HKUST.)

Regarding the technical tours of the conference, he appealed to DSD, EPD and WSD for typical sites to showcase the advanced technology of HK to the water experts from the globe. He particularly mentioned that Hong Kong's success in use of seawater for flushing would be one of the most interesting topics of the worldwide.

DSD  
EPD  
WSD

## **Action**

Besides, Prof CHEN invited DSD, EPD and WSD to contribute a couple of articles about interesting current active projects of their Departments for the publication of Water 21 magazine. All members concerned responded that they would fully support.

DSD  
EPD  
WSD

### **(5) World Water Monitoring Challenge (WWMC) 2014**

Ir Samuel L W CHOI reported that WWMC 2014 would be held in conjunction with Simplified “e-Bill Service” Launching Ceremony in Ma On Shan Water Treatment Works (MOSWTW) on 20 December 2014. Around 50 secondary students from 4 schools would participate in WWMC to test the raw water to be collected at MOSWTW. They would be provided with kits to test the quality of raw water by measuring four basic indicators, i.e. temperature, acidity, dissolved oxygen and turbidity. Waterworks chemists would take charge of the test as usual and brief participants on the testing instructions. The WWMC activity this year would be part of WSD’s launching event and the expenses of which would be absorbed by WSD.

The Chairman supplemented the reporting at this juncture:

#### **(a) Let’s Save 10L Water**

He hoped to bring out the message of water conservation with the promotion of WSD’s campaign “Let’s Save 10L Water” during the above event. He said that the campaign coupled with free distribution of flow regulators had won overwhelming responses from public in which more than 120,000 households had participated in the campaign that far exceeded the original expectation of 30,000. He would take this opportunity to advocate the application of e-Bill Service. Currently, only about 10,000 customers have applied for the e-Bill Service which was relatively small in comparison of some 2.5 million of customers in HK. WSD would launch a simplified e-Bill Service with an aim of increasing the e-Bill Service users to some two to three hundred thousand. All registered customers would be given a pair of flow regulators.

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| (b) The Chairman mentioned that the primary goal of WWMC was to encourage people everywhere to test the quality of their waterways and protect the world's water resources. WWMC participants should collect samples from different sources such as lakes, streams, rivers and reservoirs instead of collecting samples from one single source like in HK. He deemed that the present arrangement of the activity which had been adopted for many years would be reviewed for enhancement. | All members |
| (c) He added that WWMC would delink with IWA next year. One of the main reasons for organising WWMC in the past was that the activity was supported by IWA. It should be prudently assessed whether IWAHK would continue to support the event in this manner next year. If affirmative, the form and the arrangement of the event should be critically reviewed.   | All members |

### **(6) IWA World Water Congress & Exhibition (WWCE) 2014, Lisbon**

Ir K L FOK reported that she and one other senior engineer accompanied the Chairman to attend the WWCE 2014 in Lisbon from 20 to 26 September 2014. They had also attended the IWA Governing Assembly Meeting (GAM) which was held during the same period. The GAM was opened with the Annual General Meeting in which the vice-presidents were elected. The second part of the GAM was to select the continent for WWCE 2020 to be held. During the meeting, the IWA Strategic Plan 2014-2018 was introduced in the following four areas:

- (a) The IWA as a content developer promotes change agendas.
- (b) The IWA as an authoritative source and international network informs and influences policies and opinions.
- (c) The IWA as global network has regional presence and embraces cultural and language diversity to support professionals and regional initiatives.
- (d) The IWA as a facilitator enables learning and professional development.

Ir K L FOK also shared with the members her observations as follows:

- (i) The number of Governing Members from the regions of Europe plus Central Asia was more than the total number of Members from the remaining regions so that the Members from these areas had dominated the decision and election in the meeting.
- (ii) The Governing Members of China, Macau, Taiwan, Japan and Korea were very active at the meeting and they were full of enthusiasm to share their information with other countries.
- (iii) IWA could provide a platform for the members to network and to enhance knowledge sharing and exchange information and technology on water science and management worldwide.

**(7) Strengthening the Role of IWAHK**

The Chairman briefed the members that there were a number of new developments on water supply in HK as follows:

- (i) Desalination
- (ii) Reclamation water
- (iii) Smart network
- (iv) Water reuse/recycle
- (v) High technology application in new town development

He hoped that the practitioners in the water industry in HK could keep abreast of the latest developments in water technology worldwide. He also opined that IWAHK should enhance the communication and coordination with other members in particular to China and Macau.

The Chairman questioned whether IWAHK could play a more active role in the water industry in HK and have more participation in IWA activities in the future. He invited members to share their views.

Prof Chen and Prof LI concurred with the Chairman's view that IWAHK should play a more important role in the water

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industry and encourage the stakeholders to exchange their experience and knowledge with peers and specialists around the globe.

Ir Alan MAN shared his following views on the difficulties of promoting the membership of IWA in HK:

- (a) The position of IWAHK as a Governing Member of IWA representing HK was not clear.
- (b) The membership fee of IWA was very expensive which might obstruct companies from joining the association in case they could not take a reasonable reward from the membership.

Ir C Y FONG commented that Hong Kong people especially some young professionals had lacked adequate knowledge in water resources in HK. He considered that IWAHK would provide a platform for educating the public including water professionals on water resources and increasing their understanding of water issues and value of water.

Ir K W MAK agreed that IWAHK would strengthen the dissemination of the water business including fresh water and waste water in HK. He also mentioned that DSD would continue to actively participate in the activities organised by IWAHK

EPD commented that it would be quite difficult to attract professionals to join a new association unless they could receive a practical benefit of being a member.

The Chairman concluded that IWAHK could play a more active role in future to promote the international status of HK water industry.

## **(8) Young Water Professional (YWP) Chapter**

Ir K L FOK was invited to conduct a short presentation on the formation of a new Chapter for YWP (copy of the presentation slides attached at **Appendix II**).

The key issues of her presentations covered were:

- (a) Members of YWP should be age of 35 or below but

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this requirement was not very strict, e.g. the requirement was below 40 in China.

- (b) A steering committee should be formed for a YWP Chapter and all the steering committees should be Corporate Members or Individual Members of IWA.
- (c) It was necessary to build up the image of IWAHK and encourage more young professionals to join IWAHK before consideration of setting up a new Chapter of YWP.

After some discussions, the meeting agreed that the formation of the YWP Chapter could be taken forward in due course under the plan to strengthen the role of HK in IWA.

All members

### **(9) Membership of IWAHK**

Regarding the membership of IWA, WSD was a Governing Member but not a Corporate Member whilst DSD and EPD were the Corporate Members. The Chairman said that WSD was planning to apply for the Corporate Member in the near future so that the colleagues of WSD could participate in leading IWA Programs as a Corporate Member.

WSD

The Chairman enquired whether HKU and HKUST were the University Members of IWA. It was understood that the university membership was a recent development and no university in HK had joined the University Member. Prof CHEN commented that it was quite difficult to become a University Member on a university basis. It would rather be easier to join the membership on a departmental level. The requirement of joining IWA as an University Member should be clarified with IWA before inviting local universities to apply for the University Membership.

Prof CHEN  
Prof LI

In order to increase the Corporate Members in HK, the Chairman asked DSD and EPD to provide a list of their consultants and contractors in the field of water industry so that they could be approached for application of the membership.

EPD  
DSD



**(10) Constitution of IWAHK**

The Chairman, making reference to the Constitution of IWAHK, opined that IWAHK was not a regional branch of IWA and it was only an organisation related to water industry. He was dubious whether it was appropriate to use the name of IWAHK as it would give a false impression to the public. Ir Alan MAN enquired whether IWAHK was a registered body in HK. Ir M C WONG answered that IWAHK had not been registered as a society under the Ordinances in HK. The Chairman deemed that it would be more appropriate to register IWAHK as a society in due course and the issue of re-name of IWAHK should also be duly considered.

WSD

According to Rule 3 of the Constitution of IWAHK, the Members of the IWAHK shall comprise all Corporate and Individual Members (including Student Members) of the IWA in the HKSAR. The Chairman opined that it was very difficult to comply with the requirement and it would be sufficient if the Members of IWAHK would cover adequate representations from different water sectors including government, academia, consultants, contractors and suppliers. It was agreed that clarification from IWA should be sought before reviewing the Constitution.

WSD

(Post Meeting Notes: The view from Dr. Tao LI, Regional Director of Chinese Regional Office of IWA was sought. He considered that it was necessary to comprise “all” different sorts of members including government department, key water utilities, key professors and young water professionals.)

The Chairman said that, as a start, a full list with contacts of IWA members in HK should be obtained and those members not being the members of IWAHK should be invited to join IWAHK so as to fulfil the requirement of the Constitution pending a review on this requirement.

WSD

The Chairman also suggested that the number of Co-opted Members be increased from 5 to 8 in order to enhance the representation from different water sectors. All members had no objection to this proposed amendment.

Other minor amendments on the Constitution were discussed at the meeting. All members had no comment on the amendments. The Chairman proposed to hold the General

WSD

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Meeting (GM) in the first half of 2015 and the proposed amendments should be discussed at the GM.

### **(11) Forthcoming IWA and IWA-ASPIRE Events**

During the meeting, the following forthcoming IWA events were brought up to the attention of all members:

- (a) The 12<sup>th</sup> IWA Leading Edge Conference on Water and Wastewater  
Venue : Hong Kong, China  
Period : 30 May to 3 Jun 2015
- (b) The 6<sup>th</sup> IWA-ASPIRE Conference & Exhibition  
Venue : Beijing, China  
Period : 20 to 24 Sep 2015
- (c) The 6<sup>th</sup> IWA Leading Edge Strategic Asset Management – LESAM 2015  
Venue : Yokohama, Japan  
Period : 17 to 19 Nov 2015

The Chairman appealed to members for more active participation in these events.

### **(12) Strengthening the Leadership Role in IWA**

The promotion of participation in IWA Specialist Groups was discussed at the meeting. Ir Simon C H CHAN mentioned that several colleagues in DSD had joined the IWA Specialist Groups but their participation had yet to be promoted to go beyond just receiving the newsletter and information from Specialist Groups.

Regarding the bidding of 8<sup>th</sup> IWA-ASPIRE Conference 2019, the meeting agreed that IWAHK might consider to co-host the event with Macau. As mentioned at the meeting before, the matter should be kept in view and further discussion with Macau would be required in due course.

All members

The proposal of organising of a Theme-based Workshop in 2017 under the name of IWAHK in Hong Kong was discussed. This issue would be kept in view pending the progress of enhanced participation of Hong Kong in IWA.

All members

## **Action**

### **(13) Date of Next Meeting**

There being no other business, the meeting ended at 7:15 p.m. The date of the 13<sup>th</sup> Executive Committee Meeting would be announced later.