

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

Minutes of the 15th Executive Committee Meeting

Venue : Water Supplies Department Headquarters Conference Room, Room 4819,
Immigration Tower, Wan Chai

Date : 19 December 2019 (Thursday)

Time : 3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Present

Ir. CL WONG	Director of Water Supplies (IWAHK Chairman) Water Supplies Department (WSD)
Ir. Kelvin KW LO	Director of Drainage Services (IWAHK Vice Chairman) Drainage Services Department (DSD)
Ir. SW CHAU	Deputy Director of Water Supplies, WSD (IWAHK Secretary)
Ir. TO LEE	Assistant Director/Mechanical & Electrical, WSD (IWAHK Treasurer)
Ir. David MW LUI	Senior Vice President, AECOM
Dr. Daniel TSANG	Associate Professor, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University (PolyU)
Ir. Anthony WK FOK	Principal Environmental Protection Officer, Environmental Protection Department (EPD)
Ir. Andy KWOK	Director, Black & Veatch Hong Kong Limited
Mr. Stephen LEE	Director, Asia Allied Infrastructure Holdings Limited
Ir. John LOUIE	Senior Engineer/Headquarters, WSD (IWAHK Secretariat)

Absent with Apology

Mr. Raymond CHAN	Executive Director, Analogue Holdings Limited
Prof. GH CHEN	Chair Professor, The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology
Dr. May CHUI	Associate Professor, The University of Hong Kong

In Attendance

Ir. Benedict LS CHEUNG	Technical Secretary 1, DSD
Ir. Enoch WONG	Engineer/Headquarters, WSD (Note Taker)

1. Welcoming Remarks

The Chairman welcomed all Members to the 15th Executive Committee (EC) Meeting of IWAHK, and introduced new EC members, Dr. May CHUI of the University of Hong Kong and Mr. Stephen LEE of Asia Allied Infrastructure Holdings Limited who replaced Prof. XY LI and Dr. Derrick PANG respectively. The Chairman also thanked the contributions of Prof. LI and Dr. PANG during their tenure as EC members.

2. Matters arising from the 8th General Meeting

In the 8th General Meeting held in November 2017, it was agreed to issue an IWAHK newsletter regularly to publicise the latest news, events and projects of IWA, IWAHK and the water industry in Hong Kong in a bid to forge closer ties in the local water industry and members of IWAHK. The Chairman suggested that a newsletter editorial board with about seven to eight members be set up to take forward the initiative. Members agreed to the suggestion and would make nominations for the editorial board members. Dr. Daniel TSANG expressed his interest in the meeting in joining the editorial board.

All EC
Members

[Post-meeting note:

With nominations from the EC Members, the editorial board for the IWAHK newsletter has been formed with members as follows:

Ir. CF LAM - EPD

Dr. Daniel TSANG – PolyU

Ms. Sylvia CHAN - Black & Veatch Hong Kong Limited

Ir. Tony YUE - Wo Hing Construction Company Ltd

Mr. Greg FOK - Wo Hing Construction Company Ltd

Ir. Raymond YEM – ATAL Engineering Group

Ir. Kane TSE – DSD

Ir. John LOUIE - WSDJ

3. **Report on 8th IWA ASPIRE Conference and Exhibition on 31 October to 2 November 2019 in Hong Kong**

The Secretariat made a short presentation on the 8th IWA ASPIRE Conference and Exhibition (Conference) held on 31 October to 2 November 2019. A copy of the presentation slides is attached at **Appendix I**.

The Vice Chairman suggested that the delegates of the Conference should be enabled to access the conference materials to reap the most benefits from the Conference. Ir. David MW LUI enquired if there was a plan to publish electronic proceedings including the poster presentations of the Conference for knowledge transfer. The Chairman welcomed the suggestions and invited the Secretariat to explore the feasibility of the suggestions.

Secretariat

[Post meeting note: Conference delegates were notified in December 2019 that the Conference electronic proceedings including the poster presentations were available on the Conference website.]

The Secretariat reported that the Conference Final Report was under preparation and would be circulated to Members in due course.

The Secretariat also reported that the Conference financial account was being finalised with an estimated surplus of about \$2M according to the Conference Secretariat. The Secretary advised that suggestions had been received from the members of the Organising Committee of the Conference regarding the future use of

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the surplus. They included setting up a fellowship for young water engineers, organising lectures on water related subjects, refunding to sponsors, donating to Construction Industry Council or charity etc. Members agreed that the EC would consider how the surplus should be utilised for the long-term development of IWAHK in due course.

The Secretariat reported that currently IWAHK had no bank account. The Chartered Institution of Water and Environmental Management Hong Kong Branch (CIWEM HK) operated a bank account on behalf of IWAHK for the income and expenses arising from the Conference, and the bank account would be closed as soon as the Conference financial account was finalised. The Chairman therefore suggested that IWAHK opened its own bank account for holding the surplus from the Conference and disbursement of the necessary expenditure incurred in its operation and future developments. Members agreed to open a bank account of IWAHK and the Secretariat would follow up. After deliberation, Members agreed on the following combination of Authorised Signatories in the operation of the bank account of IWAHK to be opened:

Secretariat

The Authorised Signatories should consist of two officers in the EC of IWAHK, one from group (1) Chairman and Secretary; and another from group (2) Vice Chairman and Treasurer.

4. Recruitment of New Members

Ir. Andy KWOK enquired about the number of IWAHK members. The Chairman remarked that IWAHK members comprised all corporate, university and individual members of the IWA in Hong Kong according to the IWAHK Constitution. The Secretariat

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reported that there were about 10 IWA corporate members and about 10 IWA individual members in Hong Kong. The figure was comparatively low with reference to other countries/regions. The Chairman said that he had appealed for the support from IWA for the IWA members in Hong Kong during his attendance of the Annual General Meeting of the Governing Assembly in Lisbon, Portugal in October 2019. He also advocated that corporate members should nominate representatives up to their quota to participate actively in the IWA affairs and events. He asked the Secretariat to compile a list of all IWA members in Hong Kong for dissemination of news and updates of IWA to them.

Secretariat

[Post-meeting note: A request has been sent to IWA for the list of all IWA members in Hong Kong. Reply from IWA is pending.]

The Treasurer reported that a partnership had been established between IWA and the Chartered Institution of Water and Environmental Management (CIWEM) at the IWA World Water Congress & Exhibition in Tokyo in September 2018. Dual membership was offered for current members of these two institutions / associations. They were thus entitled to participating in activities and services of the two institutions / associations, including professional development, events, publications, training and policy. The Secretariat reported that the Immediate Past Chairman of CIWEM HK – Mr. C K LEE expressed his initial support to appeal to CIWEM HK members to apply for the dual membership. Members supported the initiative and the Secretariat would follow up with CIWEM HK accordingly. The Chairman also asked the Secretariat to explore other collaboration opportunities with CIWEM HK.

Secretariat

5. Way Forward of IWAHK

The Chairman said that riding on the success of the ASPIRE Conference, it would be opportune time to establish the future direction of IWAHK to reach new heights. He shared his view that IWAHK could leverage as a Governing Member of IWA to gather knowledge and experience from the international water industry for the benefits of the local water industry. Therefore, he suggested that IWAHK could act as a platform of enhancing knowledge and experience sharing for the local water industry, which could be achieved by, for example, inviting renowned water practitioners to give talks or seminars in Hong Kong. It could also help to attract more in the local water industry to join IWA (and hence IWAHK) as members.

The Chairman also noted that IWA had recently set up a global operation hub in Nanjing, China. He expected that, with the setting up of the operation hub in Mainland China which was close to Hong Kong geographically, IWA would be able to provide more support to IWAHK.

Dr. Daniel TSANG shared from his experience that IWAHK could consider organising Continuing Professional Development (CPD) courses and webinars delivered by overseas speakers to share the latest development in the industry. Ir. Andy KWOK said that IWAHK could increase its participation in the local water industry such as acting as supporting organisation for relevant local conferences. He also suggested to pursue enhancing the status of IWA membership such as equivalence to certain professional qualifications recognised by Development Bureau (DEVB) of the HKSAR Government. Ir. David MW LUI held the view that it was

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very difficult to put IWAHK membership status on par with other professional institutions, considering the fact that no professional assessment would be required for IWA as an admission requirement. Ir. David MW LUI also said that as the IWA Governing Member, IWAHK lacked support from IWA in carrying out its role. The Chairman welcomed the suggestions and said that the views collected would be reflected to IWA with a view to seeking more support and resources from it. With regard to enhancing IWAHK's status in the international platform, the Chairman said that IWAHK should aim to nominate EC Member(s) to serve in IWA including its councils in future and increase participation and presence in the activities of IWA.

The Chairman agreed that IWAHK could also increase its participation and presence in the local water industry, for example, by co-organising activities with CIWEM HK such as CPD courses. He also said that IWAHK could take part in some existing events of the local water industry such as the Research & Development forums organised by WSD and DSD. The Vice Chairman agreed and said that technical visits to WSD's and DSD's facilities could be arranged by IWAHK. He also said that the formal communication with the counterparts in Mainland China in the aspect of water industry often routed through WSD and DSD. IWAHK could enhance its status by having more involvement in such communications.

The Chairman suggested that a working group should be formed to take forward the new initiatives discussed. Members agreed and would make nominations for the members of the working group, Secretariat would follow up.

All EC
Members &
Secretariat

6. Recent Developments and Activities of IWA

The Secretariat reported that the Chairman and himself had attended the Annual General Meeting and the Governing Assembly in Lisbon, Portugal in Oct 2019. Mr. Tom MOLLENKOPF was elected as IWA President for the period from October 2020 to August 2022. Mr. MOLLENKOPF would assume the office of IWA President at the end of the IWA World Water Congress and Exhibition 2020 in Copenhagen, Denmark.

The Secretariat also said that all IWA Governing Members were invited to sign the Data Protection Agreement with the IWA to comply with the General Data Protection Regulation which was a regulation enforced since May 2018 under the European Union on data protection. The Secretariat had sent some enquiries to the IWA on the draft agreement. The Secretariat would send to Members the salient points of the draft agreement upon receiving reply from the IWA.

Secretariat

7. Forthcoming IWA and IWA-ASPIRE Events

Ir. Enoch WONG reported the following forthcoming events:

- (a) The 17th IWA Leading Edge Conference on Water and Wastewater Technologies, 1-5 Jun 2020, Reno, USA
- (b) IWA Water Loss 2020, 7-10 Jun 2020, Shenzhen, China
- (c) Singapore International Water Week – Water Convention 2020, 5-9 Jul 2020, Singapore (Co-organised with IWA)
- (d) IWA World Water Congress & Exhibition 2020 (WWCE 2020), 18-23 Oct 2020, Copenhagen, Denmark

The Chairman suggested that a delegation of IWAHK could be

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formed to join WWCE 2020 in Copenhagen, Denmark. Members agreed.

8. Date of Next Meeting

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m. The date of the next EC Meeting would be announced in due course.