Professional Development and Research

The EPD employs 1170 professional and technical staff, making it the largest employer of environmental experts in the HKSAR. Our staff come from a wide variety of backgrounds, such as science, applied science, town planning and engineering, and many are active members of learned societies in their spheres of expertise. We contribute to the development of the environmental management profession in Hong Kong and elsewhere, by organising conferences, seminars and staff exchanges, providing advice, collaborating with researchers, continuously training staff and writing for outside publications.

The highlights of 2001 included:

- Hosting the 14th meeting of the Asia-Pacific Economic Co-operation's (APEC) Marine Conservation Working Group, which was attended by delegates from 15 economies, as well as the Fifth Steering Committee Meeting of the APEC Project on Ocean Model and Information System for the APEC Region (OMISAR), which was attended by delegates from three economies.
- Mr Mike Stokoe, our Deputy Director, led a delegation of 13 EPD colleagues to the International Solid Waste Association's (ISWA) International Conference on Municipal Solid Waste Treatment and Recycling, held in Guangzhou.
- Co-organising with Environment Canada the "International Workshop on Emergency Incidents - Providing an Effective Response", which attracted more than 300 local and overseas participants.
- Co-organising with Environment Canada a workshop on "Greening Government Operations", which was attended by staff from different government departments and bureaux.
- Co-organising with the Hong Kong Construction Association a conference on Environmental Impact Assessment Ordinance (EIAO), which was attended by over 250 people mainly from the construction industry, some from the consulting industry and government departments to discuss Partnership in the implementation of the EIAO;
- Organising 8 meetings with the various EIAO stakeholders, which were attended by over 190 consultants, contractors, private/public developers and colleagues from various government departments to share experience on the operation of the EIAO;
- Organising a seminar on Improving the EIAO process, which was attended by over 250 colleagues from various government departments to share experience on how to improve the EIAO process;
- Introducing the EIAO to 3 teams of mainland officials during their visits to Hong Kong;
- Co-organising with the Hong Kong General Chamber of Commerce supported by Business Environment Council and Hong Kong Productivity Council on ‘Improve Efficiency and Public Image of your Corporation through Environmental Performance Reporting’ which attracted 170 participants from a wide range of private business sectors including construction, engineering, trading and manufacturing.
- Co-organising with Vienna a seminar on "Biological Waste Water Treatment and Sewage Sludge Incineration Technology".
- Co-organising another 8 events including technical meetings and visits with our overseas counterparts and local and international environmental associations.
- Having our Assistant Director (Environmental Assessment and Noise), Elvis Au, elected President of the International Association for Impact Assessment.
Environmental Graduate Training Scheme

More than 240 professional engineers in various fields now work in the EPD. But we are conscious of the need to train future generations of professional environmental engineers. In August 1997 we initiated a three-year Environmental Graduate Training Scheme. Fifteen engineering graduates have entered training under the department since then and six of them have completed the training.

We will continue to invest in staff development in the year 2002.

- Producing 59 papers, which were published in professional journals or presented at conferences or workshops. The papers were written by EPD staff on various environmental issues.
- Continuing to serve on the fund-vetting committees of the Innovation and Technology Fund and the Environment and Conservation Fund, which help finance education and research projects in the environmental field.
- Providing training to our professional staff for an average 6.5 days each in 2001. About 29% of the training sessions focused on environmental subjects and the rest covered management, safety, languages and computers. Our technical staff each recorded an average of 5.9 days of training in 2001, with about 18% concerning environmental subjects.