

Tung Chung New Town Extension (TCNTE) – Professional Liaison Group (PLG)

Notes of 3rd Meeting

Date: 9th December 2019 (Monday)
Time: 09:30 am to 12:00 noon
Venue: Conference Room, Project Manager's Office, Tung Chung East, Tung Chung

Members present:

Mr WONG Chi-sing, Janson (Chairman)	Deputy Head (Works) Sustainable Lantau Office (SLO), Civil Engineering and Development Department (CEDD)	
Mr LO Siu-keung (Secretary)	Senior Engineer SLO, CEDD	
Ir Thomas C T CHAN	Environmental Division, HKIE	
Prof. Kenneth MY LEUNG	School of Biological Sciences, HKU	
Dr Simon WONG	Ocean Park Conservation Foundation Hong Kong	
Mr WONG Kwok-fai, Alfred	Chief Engineer SLO, CEDD	) Project Team
Mr CHEUNG Kin-tak, Henry	Senior Geotechnical Engineer SLO, CEDD	) Project Team
Mr HO Hei-ming, Bryan	Senior Engineer SLO, CEDD	) Project Team
Mr POON Wai-wing, Alvin	Engineer SLO, CEDD	) Project Team
Mr LAI Ho-keung, Stanley	Engineer SLO, CEDD	) Project Team
Mr WO King-tai	Marine Conservation Officer SLO, CEDD	) Project Team
Mr Jovy TAM	Environmental Team Leader, ERM-Hong Kong, Limited	) Environmental Team
Mr Raymond CHOW	Deputy Environmental Team Leader, ERM-Hong Kong, Limited	) Environmental Team

Mr Kelvin So	Deputy Environmental Team Leader, ERM-Hong Kong, Limited	) Environmental Team
Mr Manuel CHUA	Independent Environmental Checker, Black & Veatch Hong Kong Limited	) Independent Environmental Checker
Mr Ivan TING	Deputy Independent Environmental Checker, Black & Veatch Hong Kong Limited	) Independent Environmental Checker

In attendance:

Mr CHEN Xing-wei	Department of Civil Engineering, HKU	
Mr Francis Leong	Project Manager, AECOM (Asia) Company Limited	) Project Consultant
Mr Chris HO	Senior Project Engineer, AECOM (Asia) Company Limited	) Project Consultant
Mr Frankie FAN	Principal Resident Engineer, AECOM (Asia) Company Limited	) Project Consultant
Mr Dennis LEUNG	Chief Resident Engineer, AECOM (Asia) Company Limited	) Project Consultant
Mr Chris CHEUNG	Senior Resident Engineer, AECOM (Asia) Company Limited	) Project Consultant

Absent with apology:

Dr Cynthia YAU	Division of Life Science, HKUST	
Prof. Quentin Zhong Qi YUE	Department of Civil Engineering, HKU	

- | | | Responsible |
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| 1 | Welcome | |
| 1.1 | The Chairman welcomed and thanked members for attending the third meeting of the PLG. | |
| 2 | Confirmation of Last Meeting Minutes | |
| 2.1 | The Secretary expressed that the minutes of the last meeting was circulated to members and no comments were received. The last meeting minutes was agreed by all members without amendment. | Noted |
| 3 | Matters Arising from Last Meeting | |
| 3.1 | The Environmental Team (ET) reported the follow-up actions taken in respect of the items discussed in the last meeting: | |

(a) Benchmark for the action and limit levels of ecological monitoring

The ET presented the review of the soft shore ecological monitoring results conducted during the baseline and impact monitoring (as of September 2019) of the project. A review of the available soft shore results from a nearby project was also presented. The review showed that there were similarities and differences in the results between these two projects. It was considered that the differences were likely attributable to the differences in the locations of monitoring and survey methodologies. However, both projects showed a decline in the number of horseshoe crab during winter seasons. For intertidal assemblages, there was a noticeable seasonal variation in the number and density of intertidal species.

Based on the review, the ET suggested using the fixed number of intertidal species recorded and presence of horseshoe crabs observed from previous baseline ecological survey and quarterly monitoring records to determine if additional monitoring should be conducted. If the survey result is low, additional monitoring will be conducted at the next suitable date and tidal cycle. In the event that the number is still low, a detailed review will be conducted to ascertain whether the density or distribution pattern of intertidal soft shore communities are significantly different from the baseline/historical conditions.

Members suggested the use of statistical distribution method to set the benchmark for the additional monitoring, e.g. at 95-percentile. Data from previous year over the same season could be used for comparison. The ET would develop appropriate benchmark and seek members' comments accordingly.

ET

Given the low number of horseshoe crab (*Carcinoscorpius rotundicuda*) (圓尾蟹) recorded in Tung Chung Bay under the project, a member suggested the ET to liaise with the nearby project to ascertain their survey area and methodology for evaluating the reasons for the difference.

ET

(b) Non-project related exceedance cases for water quality monitoring

The non-project related exceedance cases for water quality monitoring was discussed by the ET in the presentation of the Environmental Monitoring and Audit (Item 4.2 refers).

4 Presentation

4.1 Progress of Reclamation Project

The Project Consultant briefed members on the construction progress of TCE reclamation contract and the forecasted works in the next six months. Moreover, CEDD would continue to issue Project Newsletters quarterly for disseminating first-hand project information to the nearby residents and the public.

4.2 Environmental Monitoring and Audit

The ET reported the environmental monitoring results including air quality, noise, water quality and ecology and their implementation situation. No project-related exceedance was recorded for all parameters. A table showing the environmental related complaints received was presented to members. The ET reported that for water quality monitoring, the majority of exceedance cases were on Dissolved Oxygen (DO) level. Similar levels of DO were recorded during the summer period in 2018 and again in same period in 2019 and thus it would be due to seasonal fluctuation in the surrounding marine waters.

A member suggested that a summary of exceedance cases similar to that for the ecological monitoring should be provided for the water quality, dust and noise impact monitoring so as to reveal the trend or variation over the course of construction.

ET

[Post-meeting note: Summaries of exceedance cases for the water quality, dust and noise impact monitoring were provided to members for reference after the meeting.]

4.3 Eco-shoreline

The Project Consultant presented the design of the eco-shoreline for the project. Three types of eco-shoreline, namely vertical, rocky and mangrove eco-shorelines would be provided. The key design features of each type of eco-shoreline and site trial at Siu Ho Wan were also presented. A visit to the trial site was conducted after the meeting.

5 Discussion

5.1 After the presentation and site visit, members raised the following questions and the responses from CEDD/ET/IEC/Project Consultant were summarized below.

a) Eco-shoreline design and site trial

Members noted the eco-shoreline site trial was in early stages. The following comments/observations were raised by members for consideration.

- i. Rough surface with different sizes of holes in bio-blocks was recommended for better establishment of marine organisms.
- ii. Some of the rock pools failed to retain water due to leakage between bio-blocks precast units. Such situation should be rectified so as to retain a sufficient depth of water.
- iii. Sediment from areas with existing mangrove habitats, such as Mai Po; protection from wave erosion around the mangrove plants and shelters (e.g. black coloured shade net) might be considered for better growth of the newly planted mangroves.
- iv. Regular watering of the mudflat with fresh water might be considered to reduce the salinity and risk of drying during low tide in dry season.
- v. The depth of geo-cell seemed to be too deep and erosion of mudflat was observed near the seawall block opening.

CEDD advised the eco-shoreline was the first of its kind in Hong Kong and welcomed the comments and suggestions given by the members. The Project Consultant advised the site trial adopted various combination of design features with a view to identifying the most suitable design for the project. Based on the survival and growth rate of the mangroves obtained during the site trial, a better design could be worked out to enhance the overall biodiversity and landscape of the eco-shoreline.

6 AOB

- 6.1 The Chairman thanked the members for their valuable comments and recommendations in respect of the environmental monitoring and auditing, and eco-shoreline design and site trial for the TCNTE project. The next meeting would be held in mid-2020.

- End -