THE POSITIVE INFLUENCE OF CEEQUAL (THE SUSTAINABILITY ASSESSMENT, RATING AND AWARDS SCHEME) ON PLANNING, DESIGN, DELIVERY AND MANAGEMENT OF CIVIL ENGINEERING PROJECTS

VENABLES R.
Crane Environmental
6 Electric Parade, Surbiton, Surrey, UK Tel: +44 (0)20 3137 2375 roger.venables@ceequal.com and roger@crane-environmental.co.uk

ABSTRACT

2012 has seen a major milestone in the development of CEEQUAL – the completion of the transition from an environmental assessment and awards scheme (previously reported to CEST in 2005) to a sustainability assessment, rating and awards scheme. This major development follows on from the creation in 2011 of the International Edition of the CEEQUAL Scheme for Projects.

The paper will describe the development of the CEEQUAL Scheme from an environmental assessment and awards scheme for UK Projects to an international sustainability assessment, rating and awards scheme that assesses maintenance and multiple small works contracts as well as projects, and which is applicable anywhere in the world. The paper will explain in principle how the scheme works, how verified scores and ratings are arrived at, how it has become a project and process improvement tool as well as a rating system, and how its uptake has grown from an initial group of assessments with construction values amounting to £125M (€155) to more than 450 projects, contracts and work packages valued at almost £21 billion (almost €26 billion).

The paper will then concentrate, with the use of selected case histories and feedback from assessed projects, on the benefits that project and contract teams have gained, and are continuing to gain, from use of the Scheme. All of the civil engineering, landscape and public open spaces at the Olympic Park in London were assessed using CEEQUAL, and all of the Crossrail project in London is being assessed using the Scheme.

Those benefits arise in five main areas:

- **public-relations benefits** arising not just from the Awards and rating at the end of the verified assessment but also from the preparedness of a project or contract team to subject their work to assessment;
- **improvements in stakeholder relations** through not only the preparedness of a project or contract team to subject their work to assessment but also the enhanced stakeholder consultation and engagement that CEEQUAL’s question set encourages;
- **team-building gains**, arising because CEEQUAL helps to generate active and constructive discussion within the team to arrive at the best actions to score well within the Scheme, and because of the recognition that a CEEQUAL Award brings for the delivery of high levels of environmental and social performance;
- **improvements to projects and contracts**, arising from consideration within the project or contract team of the CEEQUAL questions and how to achieve the performance they encourage;
- **improvements to design and/or construction processes** arising from the feedback and learning from assessments into future projects and contracts, and organisational processes to support them.

**KEYWORDS:** Sustainability; civil engineering; infrastructure; assessment; rating; awards; performance; project improvements; process improvements; international.