

THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG
UNIVERSITY STEERING COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT

Minutes of the 10th Meeting of the University Steering Committee on Environment (USCE)
held on **Friday, October 17, 2003 at 3:00 p.m. in Room 622, Mong Man Wai Building.**

Present : Professor Chan King-ming (Chairman)
 Professor Ho wing-shing John
 Mr. Louis Heung, representing the Bursar
 Mr. Cheng Tsang Sing, representing the Director of Administrative
 Services
 Mr. Norman Yip, representing Director of Campus Development Office
 Mr. Benny Tam, Director of Estates Management Office
 Mr. S.T. Yip, representing Safety Manager
 Mr. Leung Cheuk Yee (Student Representative)
 Ms. Amanda Chan (by invitation)

Apologies: Professor Wong Po-keung
 Professor Lim Wan-fung Bernard
 Ms. Clara Lee, Director of Student Affairs Office
 Ms. Lee Wai See (Student Representative)

In Attendance: Mr. Jack Yung (Secretary)

1. Minutes

USCE confirmed the minutes of the 9th meeting held on 13 June 2003.

2. Matters Arising

(a) Energy Survey

Mr. Benny Tam reported EMO has posted the questionnaire on the webpage but the response was unsatisfactory with only 28 completed questionnaires returned. EMO will extend the time of survey to gather more information. The results will be summarized and presented in the next USCE meeting.

Mr. Benny Tam reported some facilities were replaced for the purpose of energy conservation, with the financial support from University:

- * a new energy-effective boiler was replaced in the Shanghai Fraternity Association Research;
- * a hamper pump was installed to convey the stream water to the water storage tank by the gravity for irrigation;
- * water cooling was adopted for the ventilation system in Mong Man Wai Building instead of air cooling; and
- * Light Retrofit Programme Phase II was completed and the Phase III will start very soon.

But Mr. Benny Tam reminded that the retrofit programme was conducted in the academic building so that the electricity consumption was only lowered in the academic buildings but not in the hostels. He also pointed out that there is a trend of increasing electricity consumption in the hostels. The Chairman agreed with the explanation that the trend was due to more electrical appliances and facilities being used in the hostels. The Chairman suggested EMO should benchmark these data and send to the hostel management committee for discussion.

(action by Estates Management Office)

(b) Environmental Audit

As it is very difficult to get \$1million budget for conducting an audit, the Chairman suggested the audit can be separated into several parts to be conducted by different departments:

Air Quality

Mr. Benny Tam reported that EMO has regularly conducted monitoring on the carbon dioxide (CO₂) content. Mr. Norman also reported that CDO has hired the consultants to conduct IAQ testing in some buildings with sampling points according to the newly updated guidelines.

The Chairman believes that the indoor air quality (IAQ) of the CUHK building is very good when compared with the other buildings but he still asked EMO/CDO to take more new data for benchmarking. He also requested Secretary to describe the IAQ of the university buildings in the next environmental report and also suggested that the data of fresh air quality can be obtained from Prof. K.C. Lam, Prof. P.K. Wong and Prof. Jimmy Yu.

(action by CDO, EMO & USEO)

Noise

Mr. Benny Tam reported that three noise complaints were received including: Wong Foo Yuan Building, Leung Kau Kui Building and Postgraduate Hall. After the noise measurement, it was found that

Wong Foo Yuan Building – about 65dB(A)

Leung Kau Kui Building – about 70dB(A)

Postgraduate Hall – occasional over 80dB(A)

Mr. Benny Tam explained that it is not justified to carry out any improvement if the noise level is only about 65dB(A) for Wong Foo Yuan Building. For Leung Kau Kui Building and Postgraduate Hall, he suggested double-gauzed windows can be installed for sound proof.

The Chairman asked Mr. Benny Tam to keep measuring the noise level and investigating the number of affected people and draft a letter to persuade KCRC to build a noise barrier along the railway nearby the Postgraduate Hall.

Post meeting notes: Actually CDO had written to seek Highways Department's assistance of providing noise barriers fronting the Jockey Club Postgraduate Hall (PGH 1) since April 2003 . In reply to CDO 's inquiry, Highways Department indicated that they would investigate into the matter and would inform CDO the outcome in due course , despite CDO 's repeated requests for such provision.

(action by Estates Management Office)

Water

The Chairman explained that the water body of the University is composed of the two natural watercourses: one originates from the village of Chek Lai Ping and one originates from Kau To Shan, going into the Tolo Harbour via the Weiyuan Lake. The water quality of the stream and Weiyuan strongly depends on the upstream. Therefore, the Chairman requested EMO to extend the water monitoring from the existing sampling points to the upstream. The Chairman also suggested Secretary to contact the green student society to conduct some ecotour to study the natural habitats of the upstream.

(action by EMO & USEO)

3. Progress Reports of Sub-committee

(a) *Task Force to Improve on Environmental Black Spots*

Secretary reported on following items:

- (i) soil exposure on the roof during the roof maintenance works of the Ya Qun Lodge in the Shaw College. To prevent the dust emission by the strong wind, it is suggested the dusty material should be properly covered. It was also

observed that the construction materials were placed in the nearby car park without proper fencing and labels.

- (ii) soil left open during the road works outside the Mong Man Wai Building.
- (iii) some good examples of the existing works such as the Chih Hsing Hall road work with proper fencing and soil cover, the Chien Mui Library renovation work with proper storage area and waste packing. It shows the environmental concern of the contractors during providing services for the University.

The Chairman asked Secretary to pay attention to environmental hygiene at the Chung Chi College and the USCE should issue letter to remind the Chung Chi Environmental Committee if necessary.

(action by USEO)

(b) *Canteen Hygiene Action Team*

Ms. Amanda Chan reported that 1:99 diluted bleach is still used for cleaning even after the SARS outbreak but the canteen staffs no more wear the face mask. The Chairman suggested Secretary should also prepare an environmental guideline for the university canteen operators to help them comply with the environmental legislation and enhance their environmental awareness.

(action by USEO)

(c) *Air Pollution Action Team*

As the air quality of campus is good, the Chairman proposed to dismiss the Air Pollution Action Group. All committee members had no objection with this suggestion. But the Chairman reminded Secretary that the most important source of air pollution is the school bus so he should pay attention to check whether the newly signed contract requires the campus transport contractor to install the catalytic converter for the school shuttle buses.

(action by USEO)

4. Environmental Guideline for Contractors

After the meeting with the representatives of CDO and EMO, Secretary had simplified the guideline. He will arrange another meeting with the relevant person to further explain the guidelines. Mr. Benny submitted the shortened version of guidelines for reference and he suggested Secretary can prepare some posters with both English and Chinese version for reminding the frontline workers about the environmental

compliance.

(action by USEO)

5. Waste Recycling Scheme on Campus

Mr. Benny Tam reported that 2,000 sets of deskside waste recycle bins were distributed to facilitate the collection and recycling of waste paper. After the adoption of deskside recycle bin and collection of confidential documents as trash, the quantity of waste paper increased significantly from 15 ton/month to 30 ton/month. Besides, the winning design of Recycle Bin Design Competition of Shaw College was produced with 20 bins which will be located at the lobby of the main academic buildings. Mr. Benny Tam also proposed the University can provide area for the collector to conducting waste sorting on-site free of charge. But the Chairman reminded Mr. Benny Tam that the choice of collector may need to go through the university tendering procedures.

Mr. Louis Heung suggested the food wastes of the canteen can be recycled by composting to produce the fertilisers. But Mr. Benny Tam pointed out that the carbon content must be added during the decomposition and the quantity of fertilizers is too huge for our own consumption and the demand of local market are limited.

6. Campus Master Plan

The Chairman reported that he represented the USCE to attend the Campus Planning Committee and he will further report on the campus development to the USCE committee members when he gets more details later.

7. Progress of the Environmental Protection Week 2003

The Chairman found that the Environmental Protection week 2003 was well organized with a wide coverage by the mass media. However, the attendance of the staff and students was unsatisfactory. Secretary added that the attendance of some programmes were relatively low such as debate and forum while other programmes such as bird watching activities were high. He suggested the low attendance may be due to the repetition of programmes and the similar environmental activities held by the colleges.

The Chairman suggested the Environmental Protection Week will not be held in 2004 and resume in 2005 due to the low attendance rate and limited budget. All committee members have no objection. But the Chairman asked the committee members with CUTA, CUSA and student society to form an Environmental Activity Committee in year end to organize the activities all around the year 2004 and some core subjects of

general education programme to enhance the environmental awareness among the staff and students.

8. Any Other Business

- (i) The Chairman reported that some oil stain was found on the roadside. Mr. Benny Tam reported that the EMO workers will use some tar oil to paint the colored road.
- (ii) The Chairman reported that there were some workers discharging the wastewater generated by cleaning filter of air conditioner to the rainwater drain. The Chairman asked the EMO to designate a site with sewer for discharging this cleaning wastewater.
- (iii) The Chairman reported that the refuse station without doors allowed the wild dogs to go inside for feeding, Mr. Benny Tam explained that the new station will be designed with the doors but the door and the lid of waste container were always kept open by the caterers. A notice should be posted to remind the people to close the lid and doors and throw the rubbish within the station to keep it out of reach by wild dogs and rodents.
- (iv) Mr. Benny Tam reported that EMO was awarded with the ISO 9001:2000 certificate. It is anticipated that ISO 14001 will be established within the coming one year.

9. Date of the Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held in mid January 2004.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:45 p.m.