

THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG
UNIVERSITY STEERING COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT

Minutes of the 13th Meeting of the University Steering Committee on Environment (USCE) held on **Wednesday, November 3, 2004 at 10:00 a.m. in Room 126, Institute of Chinese Studies.**

Present : Professor Lam Kin Che (Chairman)
 Professor Ho wing-shing John
 Dr. Lai Pong Wai, representing Director of CEPRM
 Mr. Louis Heung, representing the Bursar
 Mr. Holman Chong, representing Director of Campus Development Office
 Mr. Benny Tam, Director of Estates Management Office
 Ms. Connie Chan, representing Director of Student Affairs Office
 Mr. S.K. Lam, Safety Manager
 Ms. Sarah Keung Yin Sum, Student Representative
 Mr. Kwok Wing Fai, Student Representative
 Dr. S. Y. Hu (by invitation)
 Mr. George Jor (by invitation)

Apologies: Professor Lim Wan-fung Bernard
 Professor Chu Lee Man
 Ms. Amanda Chan (by invitation)

In Attendance: Mr. Jack Yung (Secretary)

1. Welcome

The Chairman introduced and welcomed all new members. He also thanked Prof. K.M. Chan and Prof. P. K. Wong for their contribution in the past four years. He looked forward to the support of all members in the coming years to build a green campus for CUHK.

2. Minutes

All committee members confirmed the minutes of the 12th meeting held on 14 May 2004. The Secretary will submit the minutes to the former Chairman, Prof. K.M. Chan, for endorsement.

3. Proposal on Tree Naming & Conservation Project for CUHK

Mr. George Jor and Dr. S. Y. Hu gave a brief presentation on his "Sponsor A Tree"

Proposal in the meeting. Mr. Jor aimed to seek for the endorsement from the USCE on this project so that he could look for funding. He explained that it is a two-year tree-naming conservation and fund-raising project from 2005 to 2007. He anticipates the project will help protecting the campus plant species and raise awareness of campus environmental protection. Besides, an educational guidebook will be issued by Dr. S.Y. Hu to widen knowledge of the campus flora. He stressed that there is no financial implication on the part of committee by endorsing the project. He planned to promote the project by Alumni Magazine through Alumni Affairs Office and to seek assistance from the Office of Institutional Advancement.

Dr. S.Y. Hu persuaded that the University on keeping one of the biggest and most beautiful university campuses in the world and she held that the flourishing vegetation of the campus was an important asset of the University. She proposed a tree-naming and fund-raising proposal to help widen students' knowledge of the campus flora, and foster a sense of commitment to environmental protection and building a green campus.

Mr. Louis Heung believes the University has no strong objection on this proposal if there is no financial burden. But he reminded that all fund raising, donation and using people's name as signage must be approved by AAC and/or AAPC. After some discussion, all members agreed to support this proposal. The Chairman announced the USCE will support the proposal and he will issue an endorsement letter for Mr. George Jor later.

Mr. Louis Heung suggested the implementation of this project can be merged with the Environmental Week 2005 to raise its attraction.

4. Matters Arising

Energy Survey

The Chairman noted that Prof. K. M. Chan had suggested the Hostel Management Committee should review the energy consumption data and consider the installation of energy saving equipment in the hostels. He further questioned what type of energy saving programme had been implemented by the hostels in the past few years.

Prof. John Ho answered that energy saving competition was held in the hostels every year to encourage energy conservation in each college. Mr. Benny Tam explained that the light retrofit programme and installation of motion sensor had only been implemented in the academic buildings but not on the college facilities. Proposals have been drafted and submitted to persuade the colleges joining the programmes. However, the implementation of these programmes or not depends on the college's own decision. The Chairman understood the existing situation and he will contact the college management to discuss this issue later.

5. Progress Reports of Sub-committee

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

The Secretary reported that black-spots of construction materials and wastes reported in last meeting had been cleared-off. He was concerned that problems concerning construction waste will aggravate when the HKSAR implements the “Polluter Pays Policy” to impose waste dumping charge. Mr. Benny Tam agreed and he was also afraid that the outsiders will drive into CUHK campus and dump the construction wastes in the remote area. The Chairman urged the EMO, CDO and Security Unit to co-operate to stop or call police when they find suspected trucks loaded with construction wastes enter the campus. He reminded the Secretary to write a letter to alert the Campus Security Committee about the illegal dumping problem when the “Polluter Pays Policy” is implemented.

Mr. Holman Chong reported that the storm drain near the shuttle bus stop will be covered to prevent the emission of odour affecting the nearby pedestrians. The Chairman concerned this water pollution problem and invited Dr. Lai to assist in the water monitoring if needed. The Secretary reminded CDO that they should check whether the cover construction involves the KCRC area or not before works.

Mr. Louis Heung reminded the CDO should pay attention to the trees during the re-construction of Li Tat Sam Building.

(b) Air Pollution Action Team

The Secretary reported that the Air Pollution Action Team was inactive since Prof. Yu left the Committee two years ago.

Ms. Sarah Keung complained that some contractor shuttle buses emitted black smoke. Mr. Benny Yu explained that it is common to see the vehicle emits black smoke when first starting the engine due the engineering design. The Secretary reported that the Transport Unit has issued the Environmental Requirement when signing contracts with the shuttle bus contractor, and all their buses reach the Euro Emission Limit and being maintained properly. He suggested the staff and students feel free to contact him or Transport Unit when they find the vehicles emitting black smoke seriously.

6. Goals & Strategy of USCE

The Chairman observed that composition of the committee may draw expertise, colleges, staff and student across the campus. He explained the origin and history of the USCE and the Environmental Policy. He also asked each committee member to review the Environmental Policy and give his/her suggestion and/or expectation about the future goals and strategy of the USCE :

- Ms. Sarah Keung suggested that renewable energy such as Solar Energy should be promoted and adopted in the campus.
- Mr. Benny Tam responded that high efficient solar energy system has been installed in UC College. He planned to submit proposal to Campus Planning Committee for endorsement and to apply government funding to install solar heaters for all 26 student hostels.

- Mr. Kwok Wing Fai suggested that the USCE should keep contact with the student organization to get their support in campus environmental protection.
- Mr. Louis Heung thought that promotion such as publication of newsletter is a key to encourage the student participation.
- Dr. Lai, being an alumni of CUHK, is proud of the green campus environment. He suggested the education to the students is very important to teach them protect the unique campus.
- Ms. Connie Chan found that many staff members do not know what the University has accomplished in environmental protection. She suggested more information about campus environmental protection should be communicated to the different levels of staff to reinforce their awareness.
- Mr. Holman Chong suggested that education to the staff and students is important. CDO and/or EMO have put effort on developing the hardware to facilitate the campus environmental protection in the past few years, however, the pay back period may take months to years, whereas better education may get an immediate result.
- Prof. John Ho also thought that education and promotion are important to enhance the environmental awareness among staff and students.
- Mr. S. K. Lam added that the education and environmental messages can be channeled to the staff and students by developing an Environmental Web.
- The Secretary suggested that the environmental protection should be one of the topics in the new staff orientation and be the core subject of General Education for the students. He also pointed out that the USCE and four college environmental committees have role overlapping and always launch similar programmes such as Environmental Protection Week at the same period that wastes the time and resources of the University and makes the staff and students losing interest in joining the activities.
- The Chairman summarised he will communicate with the different green student organization and college committees in the near future. He will urge the University to strengthen environmental education of students and arrange an education visit to some enterprises with a well-established environmental management system. Finally, he suggested some incentive measures in water conservation and energy conservation should be implemented to reward and encourage the staff actively participate in protecting the environment.

7. Environmental Week 2005

The Chairman decided not to discuss the arrangement of Environmental Week 2005 in this meeting, he will call another ad-hoc meeting for this issue instead.

8. Any Other Business

The Secretary reported that the Environmental Report 2003 was published in September.

9. Date of the Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held in mid January 2005.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 p.m.