

THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG
UNIVERSITY STEERING COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT

[Draft] Minutes of the 24th Meeting of the University Steering Committee on Environment (USCE) held on **Monday, 19th Mar, 2007 at 10:30a.m. in 2/F Conf. Rm. 233, Wong Foo Yuan Building.**

Present : Professor K.C. Lam (Chairman)
Professor Michael Hui, Associate Pro-Vice-Chancellor
Professor L.M. Chu, Teacher Representative
Professor K.C. Chau, Teacher Representative
Dr. M.Y. Leung, College Representative
Mr. Benny Tam, Director of Estates Management Office
Mr. Louis Heung, representing Bursar
Mr. Tom Fong, representing Director of Student Affairs Office
Mr. Arthur Ma, representing Director of Campus Development Office
Mr. W.T. Yu, Student Representative
Mr. S.K. Lam (Secretary)
Mr. Jack Yung (Under-Secretary)

The Chairman noted the resignation of student delegate, Mr. H.K. Chao and the Under-Secretary reported that the Student Representative Council would not assign another student delegate to replace him until next term.

Action

1. Minutes

The draft minutes of the 21st, 22nd and 23rd meeting were confirmed.

2. Matters Arising

UGC Memo to CUHK on Green Management

The Chairman briefed a UGC letter was received to ask the tertiary institutions to embark on wide range environmental measures on campus. In last meeting, it was agreed that the Secretary would draft a letter to UGC on behalf of the VC

summarizing the measures adopted by CUHK. He reported that a document, Paper 2006-07/004, was drafted to illustrate the environmental measures adopted on campus. Then he asked the members to give their comment before sending it Secretary to VC Office.

The Chairman pointed out some typo errors and data showing that the quantity of waste collection was declining. Mr. Benny Tam explained that the declining trend was due to the reducing usage of paper, plastic bottles and aluminum cans. He suggested some measures to further increase the quantity of waste paper collection.

Mr. Arthur Ma suggested that CDO would provide some supplementary information on construction (C&D) wastes. Prof. L.M. Chu opined the existing topic “Environmental Management System” might be inappropriate and Prof. K.C. Chau suggested an eye-watching topic could be used instead.

The Chairman requested the Secretary to issue a letter attached with this document to the AAC.

3. Progress of the Sustainability Indicator Study

The Chairman briefed that the HKPC was appointed as new consultant of the Phase II Study. The Secretary explained HKPC was selected due to their lowest bidding price \$53,000 among the 3 returned tenders. He conducted the first meeting with them on 15th March to give a briefing. Then the consultants would contact the relevant departments to collect and verify the data. He expected the consultant would provide the collected data to for writing report at the end of May.

The Chairman hoped that the consultant would get the data as much as they could. USEO & For the data not available, he still hoped that it would be published next year. He HKPC suggested the Phase II Study should be also steered by USEO like Phase I and all members agreed with this suggestion. He asked the Secretary to invite HKPC to report the progress in next meeting.

Louis Heung reminded USEO to introduce the new consultant to the data providers. The Under-Secretary explained an introductory and checklist would be issued to the related parties before the visit of new consultant.

4. Environmental Protection Week 2007

The Chairman reminded that it was time to finalize the schedule and topic of the Environmental Protection Week 2007 in this meeting. He suggested September would be a better time than March as we could enhance the environmental awareness of the freshmen. He agreed to have a community planting activity in the coming Environmental Week. He pointed out that global warming was now the hot topic all over the world and there would be an international conference of global warming held in June in Hong Kong.

Prof. Michael Hui briefed the community planting scheme and explained it would increase tree compensation ratio for the campus development projects. He reported AAC agreed with the scheme and he expected half of the cost, about \$300k, would be covered by the construction project's planting budget and the another half cost would be funded by AAC. In the planting scheme, he would be the co-ordinator among Campus Landscaping Enhancement Committee (CLEC), Alumni Office and USCE. He hoped that EMO would take up the administration works and the USCE would be responsible for promoting the planting activity and educating the university communities.

Mr. Benny Tam further explained that the planting period would be 5 years whereas 3 years was for planting and 2 years was for maintenance. He expected that there would be 5 to 6 planting activities in the first year by the staff and students. He reported the first planting would be started in spring very soon.

Prof. Michael Hui also reported that AAC would support the Environmental Compensation Plan for CO₂ emission if it would be implemented in form of voluntary programme.

Besides, Prof. K.C. Chau thanked the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) agreed to designate the nearby Grassy Hill 草山 for CUHK. He opined that, except the VIP, all participants were encouraged to walk from Fotan or Shing Mun to the planting site.

The Under-Secretary asked whether the September or October would be an appropriate season for planting. Mr. Benny Tam explained Spring would be the best season but planting could be done in September and October.

The Chairman opined that, apart from community tree planting, energy saving and walking culture could help solving the problem of global warming. He suggested forming a task group including the Under-Secretary, Mr. Benny Tam, Prof. K.C. Chau, Prof. L.M. Chu, Mr. Tom Fong and himself to plan the details in the Environmental Week Organizing Meeting. The Under-Secretary suggested also inviting the IPRO, Green World and Green Post to the meeting.

5. Pollution of the Chung Chi Stream

The Chairman reported that a task group led by Prof. Michael Hui was formed to investigate the pollution of the Chung Chi Stream. An investigation report, Paper 2006-07/006 with Annex 1a, 1b, 1c, 2, 3 and 4, was prepared by Dr. P. W. Lai, Centre of Environmental Policy & Resource Management, wrote an investigation report.

Prof. Michael Hui thanked all parties assisting in the investigation. He reported that a seepage was found with low pH and high salinity disturbing the stream. EMO Drainage Section diverted the seepage to the sewer but they could not identify the ultimate pollution source.

The Chairman explained the high salinity and low pH 3 – 4 from the seepage caused the outbreak of blue green algae in the past few months. He suggested the algal bloom was washed away in the rainy season but he worried the algae would be back in the dry season as the water volume was declined. Compared with the water monitoring results in the Environmental Audit 2000, he found the salinity of the stream increased obviously. He opined that it was due to the leakage of flushing system. Therefore, he suggested the flushing piped should be reinstalled and asked the works department to site investigation of the seepage. Mr. Arthur Ma reported seepage slope was investigated and could not find the source. The Chairman requested USEO and EMO kept monitoring the water quality and solving the ageing problem of the flushing system.

6. Any Other Business

There was no AOB. The Chairman thanked Mr. W.T. Yu for his contribution in the past year.

7. Date of the Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting would be determined in due course.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:55 noon.