

THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG
UNIVERSITY STEERING COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT

Minutes of the 25th Meeting of the University Steering Committee on Environment (USCE) held on **Monday, 16th Jul, 2007 at 2:30p.m. in 1/F Conf. Rm., Estates & Maintenance Building.**

Present : Professor K.C. Lam (Chairman)
Professor Michael Hui, Associate Pro-Vice-Chancellor
Professor L.M. Chu, 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. S.K. Lam (Secretary)
Mr. Jack Yung (Under-Secretary)
Ms. Jessica Chan, HKPC Consultant (by Invitation)

Apologies: Professor K.C. Chau, Teacher Representative
Mr. W.T. Yu, Student Representative

The Chairman welcomed Ms. Jessica Chan of the Hong Kong Productivity Council (HKPC) to the meeting.

Action

1. Minutes

The minutes of the 24th meeting was confirmed.

2. Matters Arising

Pollution of Chung Chi Stream (M5)

The Under-Secretary reported the water quality of stream was back to normal.

He introduced an annual comprehensive plan (Paper 2006-07/007) to monitor the water quality of stream and Weiyuan Lake. The plan not only listed out the sampling points, sampling frequency and testing parameters but also proposed hiring external laboratory and actions if any non-compliance is found.

Both Prof L.M. Chu and Mr. Benny Tam opined that hiring external laboratory to conduct water testing once per 6 months was not enough. The Under-Secretary explained that the charge of external laboratory was quite high and additional budget was needed if increasing the testing frequency. Mr. Benny Tam suggested the testing cost might be lower if integrated this plan with EMO existing water monitoring programme.

The Chairman opined the cost should not be the most important concern and he would ask the management for resources if necessary. He requested USEO to work with EMO to formulate a 2-year plan which would hire the external laboratory for testing the water quality bimonthly.

EMO
USEO

3. Progress of the Sustainability Indicator Study

Ms. Jessica Chan reported that the checklist had been sent to the related offices / departments in March and meetings were held in May and June to clarify the data. She presented that data collection for 44 indicators had been completed, those for the other 22 indicators were still outstanding, 2 indicators had to be amended and another 11 indicators were found not applicable to CUHK existing practices, among the total 79 identified indicators. She explained that problems we faced during the studies such as

Environmental Education (EE) – all colleges suggested the percentage of student to participate environmental activities was difficult to count;

Indoor Air Quality (IAQ) – all IAQ indicators were made only on EPD guideline but ignored what CUHK had done in the past few years;

Water Consumption (WA) – the existing water data in CUHK was in an aggregate form and meters need to be installed in future for data collection;

Green Purchasing (PU) – there was no clear policy/guideline on green purchasing in CUHK, some data such as percentage of expenditure should be available in future.

The Chairman opined all data should be collected not later mid September as these set of indicators would be published in the exhibition during the Environmental Protection Week in mid October. HKPC
USEO

4. Bio-diesel Proposal

The Chairman reported that Prof. S.W. Chiu submitted a Bio-diesel Proposal (Paper 2006-07/008) for discussion in this meeting. But Prof. Chiu withdrew the proposal suddenly as she noted that there was no supply of bio-diesel in the market.

All committee members agreed that this proposal was meaningful and they hoped that Prof. Chiu would submit the proposal again for discussion.

5. Promotion of the Engagement Process on Better Air Quality

The Chairman briefed the background information of the Engagement Process on Better Air Quality and the Council for Sustainable Development (the Council) has invited the public to comment on three key issues: energy saving; road pricing and measures on high air pollution days. He informed that CUHK had formally agreed to be a partner in the public engagement process and is hence obligated to play a key role in engaging the university community in discussion and collect views on these three issues.

The Under-Secretary suggested, and the meeting agreed, that pamphlets would be distributed to the students in the college assembly and hostels. Besides, student helpers would be hired to conduct survey in the Better Air Quality Exhibition organized by the Council on 18 – 20 September and in the Sixth Former Orientation Day on 29th September. Following these events, the University would collect the completed questionnaires and submit to the Council. Besides, he would ask the green student societies such as Green World and Green Post to arrange some promotion activities by using \$15k sponsored by the Council. USEO

The Chairman explained the views gathered would help shaping the Council's recommendations, which will in turn form part of the HKSAR Government's environmental policy.

6. Environmental Protection Week 2007

The Chairman reported that the task group had held a meeting in April and he was disappointed that some of the earlier decisions had to be revisited because not all key parties were present in all meetings. At this juncture, the Chairman welcomed Ms. Amy Tsui (PR) to the meeting. He informed that the earlier meetings agreed to focus on “Sustainability” as the theme for the Environmental Protection Week 2007 to be held in mid October. The timing is to increase the awareness of old and new students and staff members. He suggested that the VC and Mr. Edward Yau, the newly appointed Secretary for the Environment be approached to officiate the Opening Ceremony. Others would be approached if Mr. Yau was not available.

He further briefed that the programmes would include Opening Ceremony, Exhibition, Movie Show, Energy Reduction Competition, Campus Walk and Community Tree Planting. As mentioned, the sustainability indicator set would be displayed in the exhibition. Mr. Benny Tam suggested the exhibition could also include the CUHK invented hybrid car, new model of electrical scooters, solar panels and conceptual plan of a walking campus. The Secretary reported the Green World & Green Post would be invited to display their exhibits as well.

For the Community Planting, the Under-Secretary reported that he had a trial walk in May and meeting would be conducted with EMO and Alumni Affairs to plan this activity.

Prof. L.M. Chu suggested in the Movie Show, “An Inconvenient Truth”, a Workshop with speakers would be held to commentate the movie and give a Q&A session. If possible, he suggested inviting the former US Vice-President, Mr. Al-Gore to the event.

The Chairman opined that the Task Group should hold another meeting in mid August to consolidate the schedule, topic and programmes of the Environmental Protection Week 2007 in mid August.

6. Any Other Business

There was no AOB.

7. Date of the Next Meeting

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

The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 pm.