

THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG  
UNIVERSITY STEERING COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT

Minutes of the 28<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the University Steering Committee on Environment (USCE) held on **Thursday, 17<sup>th</sup> Jan, 2008 at 9:00a.m. in 2/F Conf. Rm. 233, Wong Foo Yuan Building.**

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

Apologies: Professor L.M. Chu, Teacher Representative  
Mr. W.T. Yu, Student Representative

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The Chairman welcomed and introduced Mr. Dominic Ho of Business Office to other members.

**Action**

1. Minutes

Subject to those minor amendments proposed by the Chairman, the minutes of the 27<sup>th</sup> meeting was confirmed.

2. Matters Arising

*Progress of Sustainability Report 2006 (M3)*

The Under-Secretary reported that the draft report had been sent to the AAC for **Under-**

comment. If there is no major amendment, he would send it out for proof reading and artwork design. At the end of January, he would upload the English version onto the University webpage. At the same time, a translator will be engaged to translate the report into Chinese. When done, the bilingual version would replace the English version on the university webpage. Secretary

The Chairman suggested the report would be re-discussed if the AAC had any major comment.

*Follow up the proposal of using the Campus Circuit East by Civil Engineering Development Department (CEDD) for the site formation of Area 39 (M4)*

The Secretary reported that a consultation forum was held to brief the residents about the proposal and explain the relevant environmental mitigation measures. He also searched a model of radar detector and camera for the Security & Transport Unit to monitor the speed of the construction vehicles. The Chairman suggested the webcam technology, which has been widely used in the Environmental Management & Assessment (EM&A) exercises in Hong Kong under the EIA process be used to monitor the traffic flow in some infrastructure projects. CDO  
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USEO

The Under-Secretary reported that the Civil Engineering & Development Department (CEDD) would set up two sampling points at the roof of Residence 10 and Postgraduate Hall to monitor the baseline TSP and noise by 2 weeks and also the dust and noise impacts in future. He stated the USEO would set two set monitoring points: one at the impact receiving area and one at a location far away from Area 39 for parallel monitoring. The Chairman opined that the relevant technical issues could be discussed and resolved after the meeting.

The Chairman reminded that interaction with the affected persons by the liaison, monitoring and contingency plan should be available to make the residents confident to the project.

Mr. Arthur Ma supplemented that various departments would keep communicating with the interested parties and would attend the regular meeting with CEDD and liaison group to discuss the environmental and transport issues. The Under-Secretary had received and replied a few emails recently about the projects in Area 39.

The Chairman hoped that the relevant parties could proactive upload the background information of the project, sampling points, monitoring reports, etc. to the webpage.

3. Work of USCE in 2007 - 2008 Academic Year

Airport Visit

The Chairman planned a visit to the Hong Kong International Airport to see the environmental management of the Hong Kong Airport Authority (HKAA). Dr. Alice Kwan, the environmental manager of HKAA, would guide us in the visit. He opined that the University could gain experience from HKAA about energy management and usage of biofuel. The Secretary suggested we could see how the shops and caterers manage their wastes in airport. Prof. K.C. Chau suggested we should learn from their decomposition system.

The Chairman encouraged the members to join the visit and asked the Under-Secretary to follow up and co-ordinate with HKAA staff.

Under-Secretary

WEEE (Waste Electrical & Electronic Equipment) Recycling

The Chairman briefed that the EPD held the “WEEE Recycling Day” to raise public awareness about the need to reuse and recycle waste computers and electrical and electronic appliances. He asked the Under-Secretary to organise a large scale exercise to collect the WEEE on campus before CNY and then transfer these wastes to EPD Shatin collection point to show our support to the WEEE Recycling Day.

Under-Secretary  
&  
EMO

Mr. Benny Tam agreed to provide collection points such as refuse station for the recycling. He suggested issuing mass email and web-banner to promote the activity.

Prof. Michael Hui enquired the disposal procedure of the departmental office equipment. Mr. Dominic Ho explained the old equipment would be reused if possible; the rest would be sold to the university community in January and July by bidding procedure; the rest would be donated to the charity organizations and the unwanted equipment or accessories would be finally sold to the scrap

collectors.

Prof. Michael Hui reminded that the committee could co-operate with the colleges to run the programme. The Chairman asked the Under-Secretary to check the date of programme and EMO to provide collection points and transportation.

#### Review of Sustainability Indicators

Mr. Benny Tam suggested the data of sustainability indicators should be reviewed every year to inform actions to enhance environmental performance. The Secretary reported some of the 79 indicators could not be used in the first sustainability report but we should fine tune these step by step. He hoped that we could use all these indicators or add/replace some indicators one day. The Chairman suggested that the indicators should be re-discussed in April.

Mr. C.P. Wong opined the construction works and traffic increased continuously on campus. He suggested the university should explain the need of each development and brief the progress in the bulletin.

Prof. Michael Hui explained the campus master planning would involve the communication with stakeholders. A consultant would be selected from four well known consultants to design our campus and different committees would be involved in the project planning. He opined that a well planning would help reducing the environmental problems. He reported that a student was knocked by a shuttle bus recently. It implied the road traffic and the use of shuttle bus were overloaded. He hoped that the committee and relevant offices such as EMO and OSA could educate the staff and student to use the bus properly.

The Chairman summarized the campus planning was very important but it was steered by the relevant campus planning committee. For the campus development and transport and other environmental policy, the USCE should involve and give the professional views for the university.

#### 4. Survey of Recycled Toilet Tissue Paper (Paper 2007/08-005)

Mr. Benny Tam reported that toilet paper made of recycled paper had been used in the university about one year ago but the quality was found poor. In June 2007,

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six students from Green World and Green Post formed a group to audit the manufacturer in mainland. They inspected that the raw material of this toilet paper was scrap paper from industrial processes and the production was relatively environmental friendly than the toilet paper made of wood puff such as less sterilization and effluent discharge. The recycled toilet tissue paper had been ranked 2<sup>nd</sup> in the inter-university bulky tender but it was found the bacteria count exceeded the hygiene standard.

Mr. Dominic Ho supplemented that the test was conducted by the specialist of HKUST. The tender results were then circulated to the other tertiary institutions for their own decision making. He suggested that CUHK could state clearly the hygiene standard in the specification for the supplier. If the bacteria count was not in compliance with our requirements, we could reject their products.

The Chairman thanked EMO for conducting the studies as it could show CUHK's commitment to green purchasing. He suggested EMO and Business Office could refer to the Government practices on green purchasing.

5. Waste Management and Reduction Report and the Waste Collection Incentive Contract (Paper 2007/08-006A&B)

Mr. Benny Tam further reported that a survey was also conducted by Green World and Green Post with 500 responses from students and 200 responses from staff about waste management on CUHK campus. After reviewing the survey result, EMO planned to increase the number of collection on campus, request the collector to collect the recyclable wastes in the lorry inaccessible areas by amending the contract, and spend about \$500-600k to buy extra recycle bins.

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The Chairman appreciated the efforts of EMO to improve the hardware by acquiring more recycle bins and the software by amendment to contracts. All members agreed that the proposal was constructive and the committee would endorse the proposal.

6. Sustainable Fauna Ecology and Promotion of wildlife ecology Phase 1 - Resident Birds (Paper 2007/08-007A-E)

Mr. Benny Tam opined that there were sustainability indicators concerning the wildlife on campus. As there was no such survey or studies conducted recently,

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he proposed to hire experts to study the birds and insects for 5 years. He estimated that it would spend about \$50k per year for the survey and \$20k for the additional educational programme. The Chairman thought it was worth to conduct this studies and the committee agreed to endorse the proposal.

Mr. C.P. Wong enquired was there any studies to survey the plants. Mr. Benny Tam Benny reported the Campus Landscaping Enhancement Committee (CLEC) had assigned the EMO Landscape Section to conduct a habitat mapping.

The Under-Secretary introduced a tree naming programme sponsored by Hang Seng Sponsorship. He believed it would help to study the plant ecology on campus in the near future.

7. Any Other Business

There was no AOB.

8. Date of the Next Meeting

The next meeting would be in mid April of 2008.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00am.