

THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG
UNIVERSITY STEERING COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT

Minutes of the 29th Meeting of the University Steering Committee on Environment (USCE) held on **23 April 2008 (Wed) at 2:30pm in 2/F Conf. Rm. 233, Wong Foo Yuen Building.**

Present : Professor K.C. Lam (Chairman)
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. W.T. Yu, Student Representative
Mr. Billy Wong, Estates Management Office
Mr. C.S. Chow, Estates Management Office
Mr. S.T. Yip (Secretary) representing Manager of University Safety & Environment Office
Mr. Jack Yung (Under-Secretary)

Apologies: Professor Michael Hui, Associate Pro-Vice-Chancellor
Professor L.M. Chu, Teacher Representative
Mr. C.P. Wong, Student Representative

The Chairman welcomed Mr. S.T. Yip who represented Mr. S.K. Lam in this meeting and also Mr. Billy Wong, Landscape Manager and Mr. C.S. Chow, Sustainability Manager of EMO. He hoped that all items could be discussed and resolved as it was the last meeting in this academic year.

Action

1. Minutes

The draft minutes of the 28th meeting held on Thursday, 17th Jan, 2008 were confirmed.

2. Matters Arising

Progress of Sustainability Report 2006 (M2)

In accordance with the decision made in the last meeting on 17th Jan 2008, the Under-Secretary had sent the draft report to the AAC for comments. The report was discussed twice in AAC which suggested that the data presented in the draft report could be expressed on a per capita rather than aggregated basis. The Under-Secretary informed that he had amended the report accordingly and re-submitted it for approval.

USEO

Mr. Benny Tam, who is also the member of AAC, supplemented that the data in terms of per capita was more appropriate and less sensitive. He pointed out that the HKU only issued the Sustainability Report 2005 and no more reports were prepared in the next few years. He guessed that they might face similar problems as CUHK and he suggested the ASD Report released recently was good with appropriate contents.

The Chairman opined the USCE had tried its best to prepare the report and two years were a bit too long to establish the indicator sets, collect data and prepare the report. He highlighted that most corporations, as socially responsible firms, give both total and unit data in their sustainability report as it could help the government to grasp more information for understanding the sustainability of Hong Kong. He hoped that Prof. Michael Hui, Mr. Benny Tam and Mr. David Lim, being members of AAC, would reflect the views of USCE to AAC.

The Chairman further explained the report was prepared by USEO and steered by USCE. In fact, the report was prepared and submitted to AAC for approval quite some time ago. As far as USCE is concerned, the task was completed and AAC could ask USEO directly to edit should they have further comments. He thanked the members and USEO participation in preparing the Sustainability Report 2006

Mr. Benny Tam suggested it was time to prepare the Sustainability Report 2007.

WEEE (Waste Electrical & Electronic Equipment) Recycling (M3)

The Under-Secretary reported that the “WEEE Recycling Day” was held by EPD on 19th and 20th January. Therefore, he found that there was not adequate time for USEO to arrange the on-campus recycling programme shortly after the meeting

Under-Secretary

of 17 January. He would communicate in future with the colleges and other green societies to collect the WEEE and other used items on campus during hostel retreat and then donate to the charitable organisations.

Review of Sustainability Indicators (M3)

The Chairman opined that it was inappropriate to review the indicators at this moment as the AAC still had questions on the sustainability indicators and the Sustainability Report 2006 was, at the time of the meeting, not yet cleared for release..

Recycled Toilet Tissue Paper (M4)

The Chairman opined both the quality and hygiene of recycled toilet paper were important. Mr. Dominic Ho reported the Business Office had submitted the requirements to joint university tender board. The relevant certificate and test report of the toilet paper made of recycle paper and made of paper pulp were received and they would select both small rolls and jumbo rolls dependent on these results. EMO &
Business
Office

Mr. Benny Tam reported that there were quite a number of complaints about the quality of recycled toilet paper. He revealed that only one supplier could provide toilet paper that is made of 100% recycled paper can pass the hygiene test. However, the quality was not good and it ranked only 4th in the joint-U tender.

The Chairman thanked EMO and Business Office for their efforts in purchasing toilet paper made from recycled materials. He also suggested them to find out how the government adopts green purchasing practices.

3. Tree Preservation on Campus

Mr. Billy Wong, EMO Landscape Manager, gave a brief presentation to summarise the tree removal, planting and transplantation in 2007 and introduced the future measures in tree protection in CUHK. EMO

Mr. Benny Tam supplemented that a nursery would be established to keep trees temporarily to increase the survival rate of transplantation.

Prof. K.C. Chau opined that *Leucaena leucocephala* 銀合歡 was a weed tree without any conversation value and this species should not be transplanted. He also suggested some less common species which could be introduced from AFCD and cultured in the mentioned nursery. Mr. Arthur Ma also agreed *Leucaena leucocephala* was not species for compensation in government technical circular.

Mr. Dominic Ho asked whether sick trees receive appropriate treatment. Mr. Benny Tam explained the Landscape Section would provide treatment to cure the sick tree as far as possible so as to avoid felling.

The Chairman informed that EMO would make the database of tree with 500mm DBH available in 2009. He also concurred that the CUHK should nurture rare and native species. He asked the secretary to circulate this comprehensive tree report, tabled at the meeting, to all members for comment. If no objection is raised, this report would be accepted.

4. Any Other Business

Mr. Billy Wong presented a Swift Report to study their lives and their nests on the wall of Main Library. He explained this study would last for 5 year as the New Library Extension works would be started in the near future.

The under-Secretary asked how many swifts would be affected by the works. Mr. Billy Wong estimated about 7.5% of the swift population would be directly affected.

The Chairman thanked EMO conducted a study proactively to protect the birds. Mr. W.T. Yu hoped that this data could be presented to the students.

8. Date of the Next Meeting

The Chairman informed that he would step down as Chairman of USCE after the current term and would take sabbatical leave in the latter half of 2008. He thanked member for their time and contributions and hoped that the work of USCE would make significant breakthroughs in future years. He also highlighted the importance of communication with the university administration and with university members at large.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:00pm.