

THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG

UNIVERSITY STEERING COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT

Minutes of the 4th Meeting of the University Steering Committee on Environment (USCE) held on Monday, October 15, 2001 at 2:30 p.m. in Room 126, Institute of Chinese Studies.

- Present : Professor Chan King-ming (Chairman)
 Professor Ho Wing-shing John
 Professor Lim Wan-fung Bernard
 Professor Wong Po-keung
 Ms. Amelia Chan, representing the Director of Student Affairs
 Mr. Andy Cheung, representing the Director of Estates Management Office
 Mr. Liang Shing Hok, representing Director of Estates Management Office
 Mr. Louis Heung, representing the Bursar
 Mr. Jonathan H. Amies, Safety Manager
 Mr. Richard Ma, representing the Director of Administrative Services
 Mr. Vincent Chen, Director of Campus Development Office
 Mr. Ho Yuet Hang (Student Representative)
 Professor Jimmy C.M. Yu (by invitation)
 Ms. Amanda Chan (by invitation)
- Apologies: Mr. Kwan Siu Kwan (Student Representative)
- In Attendance: Mr. Jack Yung (Secretary)
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1. Introduction

The Chairman introduced the new secretary, Mr. Jack Yung, and members to the meeting and thanked for the contribution of Mr. S. S. Tam in the committee last year.

2. Minutes

USCE confirmed the minutes of the 3rd meeting held on 22 March, 2001. Mr. Louis Heung suggested action party could be added to relevant item to clarify the responsibility.

3. Matters Arising

(a) *Annual Environmental Report*

Mr. Jack Yung had sent the Draft Environmental Reports (English version) 2001 to the committee members for comment. Then it will be translated to Chinese later. Mr. Jonathan Amies had budgeted \$75k for the publication of Environmental Report 2001.

(action by University Safety & Environmental Office)

(b) *Construction of Environmental Web Page*

Mr. Jack Yung reported the construction of the proposed Environmental Web Page for promoting the Environmental Protection was completed and it will be uploaded to the server after minor amendment.

(action by University Safety & Environmental Office)

(c) *Student Work*

- (i) USCE would write a letter to the Colleges to explore if they might wish to include in their weekly assemblies and/or other regular feature activities talks on environmental protection and conservation, given by members of USCE.

(action by Chairman)

- (ii) Ms. Amelia Chan reported the idea of giving the reusable mug to the new students during O'Camp was rejected by the O'Camp Organising Committee.

(action by Office of Student Affairs)

- (iii) Mr. Jack Yung arranged a Marine Life Photo Exhibition organized by Agriculture, Fisheries & Conservation at Cultural Square from 9 – 14 October to enhance the environmental awareness of students on marine life protection.

(action by University Safety & Environmental Office)

(d) *Environmental Improvement*

- (i) Mr. Richard Ma reported that Security Unit set up cages to catch dogs attracted by the canteen garbage from campus outside.

(action by Security Unit)

- (ii) Mr. Richard Ma reported no noise complaint was received from the nearby residents and inside the University at nighttime during O'Camps.

4. Progress Reports of Sub-committee

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

Mr. Jack Yung reported the common findings of the Monthly Black Spot Inspection and the committee members suggested the solutions as follows:

- (i) It was observed that odour was generated by the canteen garbage dumped at the refuse collection point. To solve the problem, Mr. S. H. Liang had already selected a specialize contractor for the collecting the canteen garbage in December.

(action by Estates Management Office)

- (ii) It was observed some vehicles still switched on the engine when idle and discharged the exhaust. To make the drivers aware of the air pollution problem, notice will be posted at the parking area to remind them switch off the engine.

(action by University Safety & Environmental Office & Transport Unit)

- (iii) It was observed oily wastewater with strong odour was discharged from Yuca De lac Restaurant through Chung Chi Campus to Tolo Harbour. The case had been reported to the EPD for investigation but no improvement was made. Mr. Jack Yung will keep monitor the discharge and report to EPD if necessary.

(action by University Safety & Environmental Office)

- (iv) Dust emission and flooding of muddy water were observed in the slope working at Mong Man Wai Building. The Campus Development Office should remind the contractors to take corrective measures to reduce environmental impacts during the work.

(action by Campus Development Office)

- (v) It was observed that construction and renovation wastes were abandoned in the campus. USCE showed the concern to the undesirable condition and requested CDO and EMO to post the name of relevant Clerk of Works to the site boundary and designate area for waste disposal.

(action by Campus Development Office & Estates Management Office)

(b) *Canteen Hygiene Action Team*

Miss Amanda Chan submitted a written report on the work of the Action Team in the past few months.

- (i) The Action Team was pending the Environmental Protection Department's report on the safety of food container. Then they will choose the suitable Environmental-friendly food utensil for usage.

(action by Canteen Hygiene Action Team)

- (ii) The management of New Asia College was informed of the canteen garbage problem. The College Secretary, Dr. Peter Man, immediately reacted and requested the canteen to make necessary arrangement to hire a specialist contractor to collect the wet garbage daily.

- (iii) USCE suggested composting machine can be adopted to dispose of the wet canteen and residential garbage. Currently, a programme is run by EPD to promoting waste composting and relevant experience can be obtained.

(action by University Safety & Environmental Office & Estates Management Office)

(c) *Air Pollution Action Team*

- (i) Professor Jimmy Yu reported that the Action Team considered the Smoke Free Policy can be implemented in canteen, indoor and all buildings. However, it is difficult to enforce. The Action Team will continue the studies on this topic.

(action by Air Pollution Action Team)

- (ii) The Action Team checked with the Transport Unit and found that all contractor buses were installed with the diesel oxidation catalyst converters to reduce air pollution.

- (iii) Professor Jimmy Yu planned to conduct indoor air quality (IAQ) testing on micro-organisms in lecture halls and canteen. USCE suggested the Air Pollution Action Team can seek the assistance from the Canteen Hygiene Action Team for arrangement.

(action by Air Pollution Action Team & Canteen Hygiene Action Team)

5. Energy Expenditure of Campus

The Chairman noted that a newspaper highlighted the electrical consumption of CUHK was the highest one among the seven local tertiary institutions. USCE members pointed out the message was misleading as the comparison was not comprehensive. Some important factors such as number of staff and students, gross floor and number of residential blocks were not considered. The Chairman believed that energy per capita could give the fact.

Mr. Andy Cheung briefed the existing energy consumption distribution of the campus and identified that Science Buildings, Engineering Building and Chung Chi Phase V (CCV) were the three most energy consuming buildings in campus. The Chairman understood the equipment and the air-conditioning system for keeping temperature and moisture of the Science Building and Engineering Building contributed a lot in the energy consumption. But he questioned why CCV has such a high demand. Mr. Andy Cheung explained that the high energy consumption of CCV was to maintain the air-condition of large lobby. Prof. Bernard Lim suggested the size of lobby should be minimised in the future building design.

6. Waste Collection & Recycling Scheme

- (i) Mr. SH Liang reported the Shaw College organized a Recycling Bin Design Competition. EMO will produce the bin of winning design for waste collection on campus.

(action by Estates Management Office)

- (ii) Mr. Jack Yung produced a page "Recycling in CUHK Campus" in the Environmental Web which introduces the waste classification, collection and the map of recycling bin.

- (iii) The Chairman noted that there was a Computer Collection Programme run by Green Power.

CUHK could join the programme to donate the old computer instead of disposal. He requested Mr. Jack Yung and Mr. SH Liang to contact Mr. Patrick Yiu of Business Section and Green Power for the arrangement.

(action by University Safety & Environmental Office & Estates Management Office)

7. Progress Report of Slope Improvement

The Chairman noted that many complaints concerning the visual impact and dust emission of the slope work of Mong Man Wai Building, University Clinic, United College and Campus Circuit North were received.

Mr. Vincent Chen briefed that the Civil Engineering Department of HK Government conducted the slope survey in CUHK since 1993 and identified over 300 slopes in CUHK campus. Approximately 40 of them had received "Dangerous Hillside Order" and required slope stability works. Mr. Chen explained that measures have been taken to mitigate the disturbance and all bare slopes will be revegetated.

8. Environmental Week 2002

USCE decided the Environmental Week 2002 will stress on Waste Recycling. Mrs. Mei Ng will be invited as guest-of-honour this year. The Chairman, the Secretary, two EMO representatives and two SAO representatives were assigned to sit in the Environmental Week 2002 Organising Committee. The first meeting will be conducted in November to discuss the detailed arrangement.

9. Appointment of Departmental Co-ordinator of Safety & Environmental Issues

Mr. Yung suggested the existing Departmental Safety Co-ordinator can also take care of the environmental issues related to their daily working activities and environment and help the communication between the committee and the administrative departments. USCE also agreed this idea. Mr. Jack Yung will contact the responsible person for discussing this issue.

(action by University Safety & Environmental Office)

10. Any Other Business

(i) Mr. Jack Yung reported the University Safety & Environment Office had set up a Promotion Booth on the Sixth Former Orientation Day 2001 to enhance the environmental awareness of the secondary school students and general public.

(ii) Ms. Amelia Chan noted that the Student Union requested the committees of CUHK to publish the minutes through electronic format. USEC agreed to publish the minutes and Mr. Jack Yung will upload the confirmed minutes in the Environmental Web.

(action by University Safety & Environmental Office)

(ii) Mr. Jack Yung reported the student representative of Green World asking for financial support to publish the Green Post. The Chairman considered to support them if there is surplus of Environmental Week budget.

11. Date of the Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, 15th January 2002.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p.m.