

THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG

**UNIVERSITY STEERING COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT**

Minutes of the 7th Meeting of the University Steering Committee on Environment (USCE) held on **Tuesday, October 8, 2002 at 2:30 p.m. in Room 622, Mong Man Wai Building.**

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Present :            Professor Chan King-ming (Chairman)  
                         Professor Ho wing-shing John  
                         Professor Lim Wan-fung Bernard  
                         Professor Wong Po-keung  
                         Mr. Louis Heung, representing the Bursar  
                         Mr. David Lim, Director of Campus Development Office  
                         Mr. Ringson Sham, representing Director of Estates Management Office  
                         Mrs. Amelia Chan, representing Director of Student Affairs  
                         Mr. Jonathan H. Amies, Safety Manager  
                         Mr. Samuel Wong, representing the Director of Administrative Services  
                         Ms. Lee Wai See (Student Representative)  
                         Mr. Leung Cheuk Yee (Student Representative)  
                         Ms. Amanda Chan (by invitation)

In Attendance:    Mr. Jack Yung (Secretary)

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1. Minutes

USCE confirmed the minutes of the 6<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 7 May, 2002.

2. Matters Arising

(a) Introduction

The Chairman firstly introduced the new members, Mr. David Lim (Director of CDO) and Mr. Leung Cheuk Yee and Ms. Lee Wai See (Student Representatives) in the meeting. He also thanked Mr. Vincent Chen, retired in August, and Mr. Jonathan Amies and Yau Chung Kei (EMO Landscape Section), both of them will retire very soon, for their contribution in the past years.

(b) College Assembly for Students

The Chairman will write to each college to arrange some dinner or college assemblies for the students to discuss the environmental issues. Mr. Louis Heung reminded that the committee should suggest but not impose this idea on the college.

(c) Environmental Report

Mr. Jack Yung drafted the Environmental Report 2002 in English and distributed the copies to the committee members. He welcomed any comment and suggestion. The report will be submitted to the senior management for comment in November and then translated to Chinese.

The Chairman suggested to add the indoor air quality (IAQ) data to the Environmental Report 2002 and Mr. David Lim will provide a summary report to Mr. Jack Yung for reference.

(action by University Safety & Environmental Office)

(d) Tree Cutting Plan

The Chairman wrote a letter to Prof. Arthur Li, the Chairman of the Campus Planning Committee, to express the environmental concerns on the future projects. He believed that the liaison between both committees will help protecting the campus environment and avoid hindering the progress of the projects.

The Chairman reminded that CDO and EMO should inform him or Mr. Jack Yung if there is any project with tree cutting. Then they will inform the Botanist such as Dr. Hu Shiu Ying to have a site visit for conserving the rare species.

3. Environmental Guideline for Contractors

Mr. Jack Yung stated the current tender document for construction works include safety requirements. He suggested that the environmental requirements should also be considered in these documents so that he drafted an environmental guideline for reference. Mr. David Lim opined that more regulations will increase the project cost. The Chairman proposed that the contractors will be black-listed if they do not follow the requirements. Mr. Jack Yung will amend and upload the general environmental requirements on the environmental web and required the contractors to submit the environmental plan for the large project.

Mr. Jonathan Amies explained that the existing safety system authorizes the safety personnel to stop the project in case of any unsafe occurrence but the environmental officer does not have the same authority to implement any environmental measures. He thought that it will hinder the environmental personnel to performing his/her duties so that he recommended the top management to grant authority to the environmental personnel.

4. Noise Permit Application of the Engineering Building Phase II

Mr. Jack Yung was informed that the contractor of the Engineering Building Phase II will apply for the noise permit to conduct work after 7:00pm and on Sunday/holiday. He will hold a meeting for the CDO and affected parties such as Chung Chi residents and the Head of Engineering Department to discuss this item. The Chairman suggested the procedure and requirements for applying the noise permit should also be stated in the guidelines. Besides, public consultation period will be arranged for the interested parties to express their concerns.

5. Progress Reports of Sub-committee

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

Mr. Jack Yung reported some findings of the Monthly Black Spot Inspection:

- (i) It was observed canteen waste problem was much improved after hiring the collectors to collect the wastes generated by each canteen. But the operator of BMSB Canteen still placed the wastes at the main entrance.
- (ii) It was observed that wastes were abandoned at the different parts of campus. Mr. Jack Yung urged the CDO and EMO to ask the contractors to clean up. He also reminded that the water accumulation and drainage blocking must be eliminated to avoid mosquito and dengue fever.

(b) *Canteen Hygiene Action Team*

- (i) Miss Amanda Chan reported that the operator of Coffee Corner has stopped putting the cabinet and cleansing utensil at the backyard after receiving her notice.
- (ii) It was observed that the refuse collection point (RCP) of Chung Chi Staff Club was over-crowded with wastes. The Chairman suggested one more collection point can be built at the back of Hui Yeung Shing Building while the existing one is used for the wastes generated by the various canteens of Chung Chi College. Mr. Ringson Sham reported the collection frequency is increased from once a day to twice.

(c) *Air Pollution Action Team*

- (i) The Chairman has invited Prof. K.C. Lam to replace Prof. Jimmy Yu as the convener of the action team. However, Prof. Lam cannot take this duty due to his heavy workload. Prof. P K Wong suggested it is better to appoint a chemist as convener for investigating the air pollution quality.
- (ii) The Chairman inspected that a school bus of Shatin College with black smoke travels to the campus everyday to pick up the school kids. Mr. Jack Yung will draft a letter for the committee to the Parent Teacher Association. The Chairman suggested that the Security Unit can stop the regular visiting vehicles with black smoke entering the campus.

6. Waste Collection & Recycling Scheme

- (i) Mr. Ringson Sham reported that 1,000 sets of deskside recycle bin with two compartments are produced and he received 235 requests to get the bin. The Chairman suggested the bins should be used in the student quarters. Mr. Leung Cheuk Yee also requested one set for student union.

(action by Estates Management Office)

- (ii) The Chairman asked for the data of waste bottles collected. Mr. Ringson Sham reported that these are currently collected by the collector and \$1,000 is received per month. For the exact quantity, he will provide to the Chairman later.
- (iii) Mr. Ringson Sham reported that only 18 waste mobile batteries were collected under the Mobile Batteries Recycling Programme in September. The Chairman suggested the University should regularly collect the old computers electronic items but the disposal of department computers must be governed by the relevant University guideline.

7. Co-operation with the Hong Kong Bird Watching Society

The Chairman briefed that the University Library is the largest swallow nesting area (~300 nests) in mating season and EMO, Agriculture, Fisheries & Conservation Department (AFCD), Hong Kong Bird Watching Society (HKBWS) and two birdwatchers conducted an studies on the living of swallow during the library maintenance work.

Mr. Jack Yung reported that the HKBWS is interested in the bird community in the CUHK campus and keen on enhancing the environmental awareness of the students and staff. The HKBWS plans to arrange some workshops with the University to train up the bird watchers and then conduct a comprehensive survey to study the bird population in campus. The studies aims to understand the living patterns and the environmental factors in order to improve the campus environment and increase the total bird population and species. Mr. Jack Yung suggested to add these activities to the Environmental Week.

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

Mr. Jack Yung drafted the appointment letter and description of duties for the Vice-Chancellor. These documents will be sent to the relevant departments and units after VC's endorsement.

(action by University Safety & Environmental Office)

9. Environmental Week 2003

The Chairman planned that the Environmental Week 2003 will be held from 12 March (Wed) to 20 March (Thurs). The Chairman suggested to introduce the change of landscape of CUHK during the 40 years. Dr. Sarah Liao, Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works, Environment, Transport and Works Bureau, will be invited as the Officiating Guest for the Opening Ceremony and deliver a short speech. Mr. Jack Yung will draft the invitation letter for VC.

The Chairman asked Mr. Jack Yung to arrange the composition and first meeting of the Organising Committee before mid-November. He proposed the theme of Environmental Week 2003 will be "Waste Recycling" and composting of kitchen wastes will be probably the gimmick. Besides, debate, workshop, forum and birdwatching will be the activities during the week. The Week will be promoted by mass email and department co-ordinators.

10. Any Other Business

The Chairman suggested that another Environmental Audit should be conducted since the last one was done 3 year ago (2000). He asked Mr. Jack Yung to get quotation and then he will estimate how much need to be budgeted next year for the audit.

11. Date of the Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, 14<sup>th</sup> January 2003.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:40 p.m.