

THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG
UNIVERSITY STEERING COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT

Minutes of the 9th Meeting of the University Steering Committee on Environment (USCE)
held on **Friday, June 13, 2003 at 2:30 p.m. in Room 622, Mong Man Wai Building.**

Present : Professor Chan King-ming (Chairman)
 Professor Wong Po-keung
 Mr. Louis Heung, representing the Bursar
 Mr. Samuel Wong, representing the Director of Administrative Services
 Mr. Norman Yip, representing Director of Campus Development Office

Office Mr. Andy Cheung, representing the Director of Estates Management

 Mrs. Amelia Chan, representing Director of Student Affairs Office
 Mr. S.K. Lam, Safety Manager
 Mr. Leung Cheuk Yee (Student Representative)
 Ms. Amanda Chan (by invitation)

Apologies: Professor Ho wing-shing John
 Professor Lim Wan-fung Bernard
 Ms. Lee Wai See (Student Representative)

In Attendance: Mr. Jack Yung (Secretary)

1. Introduction

The Chairman firstly introduced the new members, Mr. S. K. Lam (Manager of University Safety & Environment Office) in the meeting. He also thanked Mr. Jonathan Amies, retired in January, for his contribution to protect the campus environment in the past years.

2. Minutes

USCE confirmed the minutes of the 8th meeting held on 14 January, 2003.

3. Matters Arising

(a) Environmental Report

The Environmental Report 2002 in English and Chinese was published in mid-March and distributed to the guests during the Opening Ceremony of Environmental Protection Week 2003. The PDF file of Environmental Report will also be uploaded to the webpage of USEO.

The Chairman observed that, compared with 2001, the water consumption of 2002 was reduced significantly by 10%. Mr. Andy Cheung of EMO explained the reduction was due to the Water Reduction Campaigns ran by United College and Chung Chi College during 2002.

The Chairman also welcomed the USCE members to suggest some topics for the next Environmental Report. Mr. Andy Cheung stated EMO has taken some Energy Saving programmes and survey which can be highlighted in the report. The Chairman requested Mr. Jack Yung do not forget to mention the adoption of ozone generator to replace the chlorination to sterilize the swimming pool water.

(action by University Safety & Environmental Office)

(b) Environmental Audit

Mr. Jack Yung found that \$500k was used for the last audit and some costs were hidden as the former Centre of Environmental Studies took up some duties such as measurement and analysis. It was estimated about \$1million will be spent if the University hires a consultant to conduct an audit with similar scope. To reduce the cost, Mr. Jack Yung suggested that the scope may be reduced and The Chairman agreed to audit only the campus blackspots and some measurement such as noise, air quality and water quality can be taken by the related University units. But, both the Chairman and Prof. Wong Po-keung requested a third party to write the final report in order to get a fair and independent comment.

Mr. Louis Heung advised that it is very difficult to get \$1million budget for conducting an audit. He suggested the Chairman to separate the audit into several small parts during the budget planning stage.

4. Progress Reports of Sub-committee

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

- (i) Mr. Jack Yung reported the soil exposed on the roadside during the replacement of water pipe in Residence Road was properly covered to prevent the dust emission.
- (ii) Mr. Jack Yung found the soil was left outside the site hoarding in the construction site near the Shanghai Fraternity Association Research Services

Centre. He said United College Student Hostel construction site is a good example to other contractors as both the housekeeping and environment outside hoarding were kept clean.

- (iii) The wastewater with awfully odour was kept discharged from Luca De'Lac Restaurant through the storm drain of Chung Chi Campus causing nuisance to the people at the Bus Stop. Mr. Jack Yung will pay attention to the water quality and write a complaint letter to EPD if necessary.
- (iv) Mr. Jack Yung reported some complaints were received about the disturbance of swift nests in Chih Hsing Hall of New Asia College. He requested the CDO and EMO reminded their contractors should take measures, such as remove the green nets or using suspended working platform rather than scaffolding, to prevent hindering the in/out of the swifts from their nests. The Chairman will provide a building list to illustrate the location of swift nests in CUHK campus for the CDO and EMO.

(b) *Canteen Hygiene Action Team*

Ms. Amanda Chan reported that the frequency of canteen inspection was increased during the SARS outbreak. All canteen staffs wore face mask and 1:99 diluted bleach was used for cleaning. Besides, no buffet was provided and disposable utensil was provided, but not necessarily used by patrons, in all canteens.

(c) *Air Pollution Action Team*

Mr. Andy Cheung reported that the EMO staff has posted the Non-smoking Label to stop the people smoking in the indoor area and the new set of posters were being designed for the promotion of Non-smoking in the CUHK campus.

The Chairman concerned the implementation of Non-smoking Policy while Mr. Jack Yung suggested the Smoking Policy may be the issues related to the Health Steering Committee chaired by Dr. Lee Shiu Hung. Therefore, the Chairman will arrange a meeting with Dr. Lee Shiu Hung to prevent the overlapping of works between two committees.

5. Environmental Guideline for Contractors

Mr. Jack Yung simplified the guideline and broke down the guideline for the large projects and small projects. He arranged a meeting with the relevant person to explain

the guidelines and requested the submission of Environmental Plan of the large projects. Mr. Norman Yip of CDO advised that all tender documents of CDO's major projects and alternation works have included relevant regulations and requirements laid down by the HK Government and other authorities having jurisdiction over the works. Mr. Yip pointed out that the proposed Environmental Guidelines would need to be updated from time to time should it be incorporated in the tender documents. Mr. Jack Yung will arrange another meeting with the relevant persons to further discuss the guidelines.

6. Progress of the Environmental Protection Week 2003

The Environmental Protection Week 2003 was smoothly held in mid March and Mr. Jack Yung briefed each programme to the USCE members. He reported that the attendance of some programmes were relatively low such as debate and forum while other programmes such as bird watching activities were high. He suggested the low attendance may be due to the repeat of programmes and the similar environmental activities held by the colleges. To solve the problems, the Chairman asked Mr. Jack Yung to replace the debate and forum by other activities such as outdoor visits.

Mr. Jack Yung also concerned the booking and usage of the Cultural Square as he found that the other parties still occupied and used the venue even he had completed the booking procedure with the Student Union. Ms. Amelia Chan explained the Cultural Square is no more controlled and managed by the Student Affairs Office. She will follow the case and make investigation with the Student Union.

(action by Organising Committee of Environmental Protection Week 2003)

7. Progress of Recycling & Energy Consumption

The Chairman pointed out the current recycling rate is low and it may further decrease as some valuable wastes such as aluminum cans are taken by the cleaners. He thought the recycling rate cannot be increased just by placing more recycle bins. He will visit a waste collector later to seek for another collection methods to obtain a higher recycling rate.

Mr. Andy Cheung reported a steel recycle bin has been made according to the winning design of the Recycle Bin Design Completion Contest held by the Shaw College Environmental Committee. Besides, a energy promotion questionnaire will be conducted by EMO. The Chairman suggested the automatic switch, thermostat system and T8 lighting system will help curb the increasing trend of energy consumption.

8. Any Other Business

There is no AOB.

9. Date of the Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held in mid October 2003.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:50 p.m.