



Green Hong Kong



EPD Celebrates 25th Anniversary of Serving Hong Kong

25 Years of Sustained Effort for a Greener Future




Mr Edward Yau (sixth from left), Ms Anissa Wong (fifth from left) and EPD senior management propose a toast at the launch ceremony of the roving exhibition.

To mark its 25th anniversary, the Environmental Protection Department has organized a series of public activities, which highlight the EPD's work and the importance of its mission.

A **roving exhibition**, which was opened to the public at the Hong Kong Central Library on June 18, showcases the efforts of the EPD, in partnership with the community, to enhance the environment and quality of life.

Speaking at the launch ceremony on June 17, Secretary for the Environment Mr Edward Yau said various goals of environmental protection have been achieved through the drive of the Government as well as the co-operation and support of members of the public and community partners.

"Nowadays, we witness increasing public awareness of environmental protection. People are willing to pitch in more to protect the environment, such as by recycling, bringing

their own shopping bags, promoting energy efficiency and switching off vehicle engines while waiting. This is a great leap forward when compared with the situation a few decades ago," he said.

Also speaking at the ceremony, the Permanent Secretary for the Environment/ Director of Environmental Protection, Ms Anissa Wong, noted that Hong Kong's environment has been significantly improved after 25 years of hard work. She thanked the community for its support and co-operation, saying that she hopes that the roving exhibition can provide an opportunity for members of the public to review the fruits of their efforts and to continue their support to make Hong Kong a greener place.

The roving exhibition features descriptive

and pictorial display panels to illustrate the achievements and changes in the local environment since the department's establishment in 1986. It covers environmental protection issues such as the handling of pollution problems, promoting green living, enhancing regional co-operation and measures to combat climate change.

Public television announcements produced over the years are also on display at the exhibition to recall major environmental issues from the past. Participants can also try some interactive multimedia games about environmental protection.

Roving exhibition panels at Central Library.



The exhibition will move to Revenue Tower in Wan Chai from July 25 to 29, and then to other locations across Hong Kong until March 2012.

Student Design Competitions



↑ First prize entry of the 3D Environmental Protection Mascot Design Competition.

As part of events marking the 25th anniversary, the student design competitions are intended to raise public awareness of climate change and low carbon living among the younger generation. Awards were handed out to the winners at the launch ceremony of the roving exhibition.

For primary, secondary and tertiary students, the respective competitions were: “Environmental Protection Mascot Handkerchief Design Competition”, “Environmental Protection Old Song New Lyrics Competition”, and “3D Environmental Protection Mascot Design Competition”.

The champions in the three categories were:

Primary:

Kan Long Yin, A.D. & F.D. of Pok Oi Hospital Mrs Cheng Yam On Millennium School

Secondary:

Ho Jia Jun, Wai Kiu College

Tertiary:

So Hon Kuen, IVE School of Business and Information Systems

Their winning designs and lyrics as well as those of the runners-up in all the three categories can be found on the Environmental Campaign Committee’s website at:

http://www.ecc.org.hk/english/core/core_detail_list.php?catid=205



↑ Environmental Protection Old Song New Lyrics Competition champion Ho Jia Jun’s performance.



→ First prize entry of the Environmental Protection Mascot Handkerchief Design Competition.

Open Days at Environmental Facilities



↑ Participants visit the Chemical Waste Treatment Centre on Open Days.

The EPD has also organized other anniversary activities for public participation. In May and June, a series of open days were held on weekends at different modern environmental and resource-recovery facilities around the city. It was a first-hand opportunity for the public to learn about and experience waste management as well as environmental restoration and recovery activities through guided tours, presentations and demonstrations.

The response to this event was enthusiastic. All scheduled visiting sessions were soon fully booked.

Through the visits, participants had a better understanding of the huge volume of waste disposed of in Hong Kong every day so as to better appreciate the effort and high level of efficiency needed to handle it on a daily basis.

The establishment of the EPD on April 1, 1986 marked a significant milestone in Hong Kong’s efforts to protect and improve its environment. For the first time, the majority of pollution control and prevention activities were brought under a single umbrella, allowing for the effective integration of environmental monitoring, policy formulation and enforcement.

Plan To Extend Plastic Shopping Bag Levy Scheme



Public consultation document is available at the EPD and District Offices.

Hong Kong people's shopping habits have changed for the better over the last couple of years. It's now a common sight to see people bringing along their own reusable shopping bags when they shop at supermarkets and other major retailers.

This change in attitudes and behaviour dates back to the introduction of the Environmental Levy Scheme on Plastic Shopping Bags in 2009 when registered retailers with some 3,100 outlets in total began charging 50 cents for each plastic shopping bag (PSB) they handed out to customers.

Since then the number of PSBs distributed by these retailers has fallen by about 90%, representing a major step forward in the territory's efforts to reduce the indiscriminate use of plastic shopping bags and encourage waste reduction at source.

About HK\$25.5 million in levies was collected under the levy scheme in the first year of its implementation, which was far less than the HK\$200 million originally estimated, indicating that the scheme has implemented successfully with broad-based community support.

In view of these positive results, the Environmental Protection Department issued a public consultation document on May 17 on the [Extension of the Environmental Levy Scheme on Plastic Shopping Bags](#).

The document proposes to fully extend the scheme to cover all retailers regardless of scale with a view towards maximising waste reduction.

Minimise Abuse

"Since its implementation on July 7, 2009, the Environmental Levy Scheme on Plastic Shopping Bags has received good support from citizens and relevant retailers, and achieved remarkable results. It is time to fully extend the scheme to further reduce the use of plastic bags to stop people from abusing their usage," said Secretary for the Environment, Mr Edward Yau.

The consultation document recommends to widen the scope of the scheme to cover all 60,000 retail outlets in Hong Kong, and ban retailers from distributing PSBs for free, except for those which are directly and solely used for carrying fresh food for food hygiene purposes.

Except for those needed for food hygiene reasons, "flat-top" bags (i.e. bags without handles) would also be brought under the definition of PSBs and included in the scheme.

The current levy of 50 cents per bag would be maintained as an economic disincentive to encourage shoppers to bring their own bag.

Reduce Administrative Burdens on Retailers

Unlike the existing scheme, however, it is proposed that retailers could retain the levy instead of remitting the collected charges to the Government.

The proposed "retention" approach would serve to reduce the administrative burden and costs of small and medium-sized enterprises.

This approach is also adopted under similar schemes operating in Taiwan and in the Mainland.

Members of the public could submit their views on the consultation document to the Environmental Protection Department by post, email or facsimile by **August 16**.

"Hong Kong is facing an imminent and serious waste problem. I call on citizens and retailers to support this meaningful waste-reduction measure. Let us save money, and save the environment together," Mr Yau said.

The levy scheme is the first statutory producer responsibility scheme implemented under the Product Eco-responsibility Ordinance.

In January this year, the Government announced its comprehensive and complete strategy and updated action plan to tackle the waste problem in Hong Kong using a multi-pronged approach. The extension of the levy scheme is one of several important initiatives to encourage waste reduction at source. ■



More than 4,500 buildings funded by Energy Efficiency Scheme



Energy Efficiency Projects encourage existing building owners to carry out alterations or improvement works to upgrade the energy efficiency performance of installations for communal use.



To address the challenges of climate change, the Environment and Conservation Fund allocated HK\$450 million to set up the Buildings Energy Efficiency Funding Schemes (BEEFS). Since its launch in 2009, the scheme has been delivering good results.

Up till May 2011, more than HK\$270 million has been allocated to fund over 4,500 buildings, saving up to 131 million kilowatts of electricity per year, which is equivalent to reducing carbon dioxide emissions by 92,000 tonnes and creating job of 3,780 man-years.

Energy consumption is closely related to greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. In Hong Kong, buildings account for 89% of the total electricity consumption. Therefore, reducing electricity consumption of buildings, e.g. by improving their energy efficiency, is instrumental in bringing down our GHG emissions and improving our air quality. It can also foster a green economy and power a sustainable future.

The saving in electricity tariff by building owners could help offsetting the building management fee or part of the capital for other green initiatives.

Overwhelming Response

There are actually two schemes, Energy-cum-Carbon Audit Projects (ECA) and Energy Efficiency Projects (EEP). Response has been

overwhelming, according to the Environment Bureau.

Up till May 31, 2011, there were 1,375 applications from the owners of over 9,000 buildings, representing more than 20 per cent of the total number of buildings in Hong Kong.

The schemes cover the communal areas of residential, commercial, industrial buildings or composite buildings comprising any two of these three types of establishments.

ECA Projects encourage existing building owners to carry out energy-cum-carbon audits, with a view to systematically reviewing the use of energy, quantifying the GHG emissions associated with their buildings, and identifying opportunities for improved energy efficiency and conservation.

Funds are granted on a matching basis. A limit of 50% of the approved total actual expenditure spent for the audit and subsequent reporting will be reimbursed up to a maximum of HK\$150,000 per building per application. Each project should last for at least four years, with the first audit to commence within six months after the approval of the application.

Energy Efficiency Projects encourage existing building owners to carry out alterations or improvement works to upgrade the energy efficiency performance of installations for communal use. Building services installations

covered include lighting, electrical, air-conditioning and lift and escalator installations. Estimated energy saving of some installations is listed in the table below:

Installation	Energy Saving
Compact fluorescent lamp vs Incandescent lamp	75%
Water-cooled air conditioning system vs Air-cooled air conditioning system	20%

Funds are also granted on a matching basis. Up to 50% of the approved total actual expenditure spent for the energy efficiency projects will be reimbursed subject to a maximum of HK\$500,000 per building per application. The projects should start within 12 months and be completed within 24 months after the approval of the application.

To further promote the schemes, the government has solicited support from various sectors such as real estate, property management and architectural services. It has also conducted more than 70 talks with training organisations, district councils, and community organisations.

At present, there are over 350 qualified professionals to provide energy-cum-carbon audits under the scheme. ■

HK to Step Up Efforts to Combat Climate Change



↑ Attending the C40 Climate Summit in São Paulo on June 2, the Secretary for the Environment, Mr Edward Yau, speaks at a plenary session on advocacy.

Secretary for the Environment Mr Edward Yau attended the **C40 Climate Summit** in São Paulo, Brazil, and pledged that Hong Kong would do more to promote work on combating climate change in the international community.

In a speech at the two-day gathering in June, he explained how the SAR has sought solutions

and taken action to combat climate change, including enacting the first principal legislation tailor-made for enhancing buildings' energy efficiency last year.

On green transport, he said the government was committed to promoting the use of electric vehicles (EVs) in Hong Kong and had been ex-

ploring the supply of different manufacturers' electric vehicles to Hong Kong.

"To lead by example, the Hong Kong Government will give priority to EVs when replacing government vehicles in this and the next financial years. Meanwhile, a wide range of financial incentives has been introduced to encourage car buyers in Hong Kong to purchase EVs," Mr Yau added.

The Secretary also highlighted plans to build infrastructural projects to help reduce the city's carbon emissions, including a district cooling system at the Kai Tak Development and some waste treatment facilities, which can turn waste into energy.

Hong Kong is now set to play a more active role in the C40 Large Cities Climate Leadership Group after joining the organisation's Steering Committee at the summit.

The Steering Committee is the decision-making body of the C40 and its duties include setting the work direction of C40 and deciding on the themes of working sessions and the biennial C40 Summits etc. Other cities represented on the Steering Committee include New York, London, Los Angeles, São Paulo, Johannesburg, Berlin, Seoul and Tokyo. ■

Geopark turns a new green page for Hong Kong

At the invitation of the Secretary for the Environment, 29 Consuls General and Recognised Representatives in Hong Kong visited the Sai Kung Volcanic Rock Region of the Hong Kong National Geopark on June 13.

Experts from the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department provided them with an explanation about the special and rare geo-features in the region, which offers some of Hong Kong's most beautiful scenery.

Secretary for the Environment, Mr Edward Yau, also briefed the guests about the establishment of the Hong Kong geopark and told them that the government is in the process of applying to the UNESCO for recognition of the area as a global geopark. To meet the relevant requirements, Hong Kong must not only demonstrate that the park has world-class geo-features, but also needs to have a sound management model to protect the natural resources, comprehensive science popularization plans to



↑ Guests took a picture in front of the unique twisted columns. They also gave ideas on naming these columns.

promote geo-education, as well as well-organised tourist facilities to attract visitors.

Mr Yau said we are working diligently on all these fronts in the hope of acquiring global status for the Hong Kong National Geopark, and sharing this part of Hong Kong with more people.

The guests said they thoroughly enjoyed the visit, with some expressing surprise that while Hong Kong is only a small place it not only has a busy financial centre but also splendid countryside scenery. They also said the trip to the geopark gave them a deep experience of the theme of Hong Kong's application to UNESCO: Rediscovering Hong Kong. ■





Mission to Beijing Promotes Environmental Industries



Mr Yau (front row, fifth left) and the delegation called on the Ministry of Environmental Protection to gain a better understanding of the policy measures on environmental protection and the green economy under the National 12th Five-Year Plan.

Secretary for the Environment, Mr Edward Yau, led a Hong Kong green industry delegation to Beijing from June 6-9 to explore opportunities for environmental industries.

The group attended the 12th China International Environmental Protection Exhibition and Conference (CIEPEC 2011), a biennial event which is China's largest eco-exhibition.

Thirty-one Hong Kong environmental enterprises and organisations were there to showcase their green technology and services,

ranging from energy efficiency and renewable energy, to waste and sewage treatment technology and facilities, green materials, accreditation and consultancy services.

They also held discussions with national authorities focusing on new environment-related policy measures under the National 12th Five-Year Plan.

Mr Yau said that CIEPEC 2011 and the experience-sharing activities it provides will enable the Hong Kong delegates to gain a bet-

ter understanding of the latest developments in the Mainland's environmental industry. It also provides a platform for local industries to exhibit their experience and efforts in promoting green industry.

Five-Year Plan in Focus

During the visit, Mr Yau and the green-industry delegation held talks with the Ministry of Environmental Protection and the National Development and Reform Commission to gain a better understanding of specific policy measures on environmental protection and the green economy under the National 12th Five-Year Plan.

They also discussed environmental issues of mutual concern with the Beijing Municipal Environmental Protection Bureau and visited the Beijing e-Town Economic Development Area.

The Hong Kong delegation included representatives from 18 organisations, including the Hong Kong Chamber of Commerce, the Federation of Hong Kong Industries, the Chinese General Chamber of Commerce, the Chinese Manufacturers' Association of Hong Kong, the Hong Kong Institution of Engineers, the Business Environment Council, and the Hong Kong Environmental Industry Association etc. ■

First Commercial EVs Hit Hong Kong Roads

The first commercial electric vehicles (EVs) have rolled into town after being tested and approved by the Transport Department.

Three models, including lorries and minibuses, have been put onto the local market by Smith Electric Vehicles, a worldwide leader in the field.

Attending the launch ceremony at Hong Kong Science Park, Secretary for the Environment, Mr Edward Yau, said the government has widely promoted the use of EVs in Hong Kong through publicity campaigns and public activities.

Smith EVs would change local perceptions that these environmentally friendly vehicles were mostly restricted in passenger capacity in the form of family sedans, he continued.

Transport Sector: A Major Polluter

The extended use of EVs in the commercial sector has a significant meaning, Mr Yau said. The transport sector is Hong Kong's second major source of air pollution – responsible for 37% of the city's total emissions of respirable suspended particulates and nitrogen oxides and 6% of sulfur dioxide emissions.

Commercial vehicles are also the main culprit contributing to roadside pollution in the city, and are responsible for 18% of greenhouse gas emissions in Hong Kong.

To promote the wider use of EVs and to encourage transport operators to support a low-carbon transport model, Mr Yau said the government recently set up a HK\$300 million Pilot Green Transport Fund to encourage the sector to import more green transport technologies.



Secretary for the Environment, Mr Edward Yau, attended the launch ceremony of the first commercial electric vehicles.

The Smith EVs introduced to Hong Kong include light goods vehicles, 16+1-seat minibuses and 10-tonne trucks. Both the light goods vehicle and the electric minibus can cover 100-150 kilometers and are capable of a maximum speed of 80kph with a fully charged battery while the 10-tonne truck can cover 80-180 kilometers with a top speed of 80kph. ■





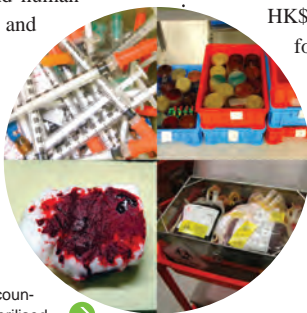
Control Clinical Waste to Safeguard Public Health

New measures to safeguard public health and minimise pollution risks are set to take effect on August 1 with the implementation of the **Clinical Waste Control Scheme**.

Clinical Waste generally refers to waste generated in connection with medical practices or laboratory works, for example, used sharps, laboratory waste, animal and human tissues, infectious materials and dressings etc.

The new scheme tightens control on the handling, collection, transportation and disposal of clinical waste. Producers of such waste are required

Clinical waste commonly encountered such as sharps, unsterilised lab.cultures, dressings etc.



to arrange licensed clinical waste collectors to collect and transport their clinical waste to the licensed waste disposal facility for proper disposal.

Disposal Charge

The charge for disposing of one kilogram of clinical waste at the disposal facility is around HK\$2.70. "It will be an offence for improper disposal of clinical waste. Offenders could face a maximum fine of HK\$200,000," said a spokesman for the Environmental Protection De-

partment.

The scheme not only applies to major clinical waste producers such as hospitals and government clinics, but also small producers like private clinics, private medical laboratories, nursing homes and universities with medical teaching or research.

These producers also have a duty of care to provide safe and secure temporary storage areas to pack and label clinical waste, and to segregate clinical waste from other waste streams in order to prevent clinical waste from entering the disposal chain of municipal solid waste. ■



Safe handling of clinical waste.

Hong Kong, Macau Environment Talks



Ms Anissa WONG Sean-ye (front row, third left), Permanent Secretary for the Environment/Director of Environmental Protection, led the HKSAR delegation to attend the 3rd Hong Kong-Macau Environmental Protection Liaison Meeting in Macau.

She suggested that environmental protection efforts have become multi-dimensional, involving environment monitoring and regulation, infrastructural work, environment impact assessment and planning, as well as promoting lifestyle changes in the community to conserve resources and reduce pollution. As such, there would be wider room for co-operation between the two places.

In particular on improving regional air quality, both sides will carry out exchanges on the expert level in respect of compiling pollutant emission inventory and air quality monitoring measures will be looked into for reducing vessel emissions. And both sides are committed to transferring the region into a quality living area.

Mr Cheong introduced the Macau Environmental Protection Conceptual Plan at the meeting. He said Hong Kong has many years of experience in implementing environmental policies with many success stories which Macau can draw reference in developing into a low-carbon economy.

He added that both sides have begun to work more closely together, especially in promoting environmental technologies, environmental industries and in raising awareness. He expects co-operation to advance further to produce more tangible, diverse and enduring results. ■

Hong Kong and Macau agreed to continue to co-operate in the promotion of environmental awareness, low carbon development, and the development of green industries.

This follows the 3rd Hong Kong-Macau Environmental Protection Liaison Meeting held in Macau on May 31.

The two sides further agreed to strengthen exchange in environmental monitoring, environmental impact assessment, law enforcement, food waste reduction, and to initiate discussions on control of air pollution associated with marine emissions etc.

The meeting was co-chaired by Hong Kong's Permanent Secretary for the Environment /Director of Environmental Protection, Ms Anissa

Wong, and the Director of Macau's Environmental Protection Bureau, Mr Gary Cheong.

Apart from reviewing progress made in the past year on environmental co-operation, both sides shared recent developments on major local and regional initiatives, and discussed the work plan for the coming year.

Calls for Closer Co-operation

Ms Wong said the liaison meetings have helped to increase bilateral co-operation and exchanges between both sides to tackle common environmental issues. She hoped this would lead to even closer co-operation and communication in the near future, with a view to improving the regional environment and promoting its sustainable development.



Green Knowledge



"Clinical waste is potentially dangerous. It may contain infectious materials and sharps. If clinical waste enters the municipal stream or is recklessly deposited, it poses occupational safety and health risk to the general waste workers, and increases the risk of diseases spreading in the community."





Air Quality Supersites Programme

- Air Monitoring Site with Supersites Instruments
- EPD's Air Monitoring Site
- ▲ HKPU's Air Monitoring Site
- HKUST's Air Monitoring Site



Locations of Air Quality Monitoring Sites in Hong Kong.



Secretary for the Environment, Mr Edward Yau, officiated the opening of the HKUST supersite facility on May 20.

New insights into the nature and spread of air pollution in Hong Kong are likely to be forthcoming following the implementation of the SAR's Supersites Programme.

Following a study commissioned by the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) on the feasibility of establishing air monitoring supersites in Hong Kong, the EPD introduced the Hong Kong Supersites Programme in collaboration with the Hong Kong Polytechnic University (HKPU) and the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST).

The Supersites Programme aims to improve our understanding of the nature and character-

istics of the fine particulates and photochemical air pollution that affect the local and regional air quality, and provide scientific data to support the formulation of policy for addressing these air pollution issues.

The Supersites Programme will be partially supported by the Environment and Conservation Fund which last year approved a total of HK\$13 million in expenditure for two studies to be conducted by the HKPU and the HKUST. The HKUST's study will focus on real time characterization of fine particulates while the study by the HKPU will look into photochemical air pollution. The EPD has also upgraded its air quality monitoring network to conduct enhanced measurements that are complemen-

tary to these studies.

Under the Supersites Programme, advanced monitoring instruments have been installed in EPD's air monitoring sites at Tung Chung, Yuen Long, Tsuen Wan, Mong Kok and Tai Mo Shan, the HKPU's air monitoring sites at Hok Tsui and its campus, and the HKUST's site recently established at its campus. Previously unavailable real-time data covering a wide range of air pollutants will be measured with these advanced monitoring instruments. Comprehensive analyses will also be conducted to find out the sources and key chemical pathways leading to the formation of particulates, visibility impairment and photochemical smog pollution in Hong Kong. ■

Regional Air Quality Results for 2010

Concentrations of several major pollutants in the Pearl River Delta Region decreased in 2010 from the previous year.

Average annual concentration levels of sulphur dioxide, respirable suspended particulates and ozone fell by 14%, 7% and 5%, respectively, while the level of nitrogen dioxide remained more or less the same as compared to the 2009 level.

The findings were measured by the Pearl River Delta Regional Air Quality Monitoring Network, established in 2006 by Hong Kong's Environmental Protection Department and the Department of Environmental Protection of Guangdong Province, and were achieved against a backdrop of continued strong economic growth in the region in 2010.

Enhanced Emission Reduction Measures

The reductions in pollutant concentrations are attributable to enhanced emission reduction measures by both sides.

Last year, Hong Kong tightened the statutory specifications for motor vehicle fuels to Euro V standards and provided financial subsidies to encourage early replacement of Euro II diesel commercial vehicles. In addition, local power companies have been installing by phases the desulphurisation and denitrification systems.

Key measures in Guangdong include: accomplishing installation of desulphurisation systems for power plants and closing down

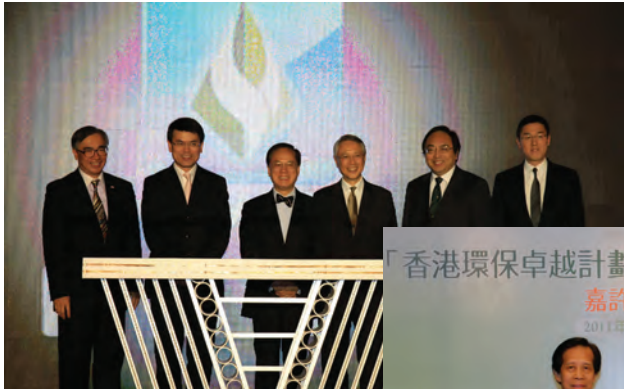
small power generating units; completing installation of denitrification systems for power plants with a total capacity of 5382 MW; completing the installation of vapour recovery system at petrol filling stations, oil depots and tanker trucks; implementing new pollutant emission standards for a range of industries; as well as tightening the emission standards for light duty petrol vehicles and gas vehicles in PRD region etc.

Overall, 77% of the Regional Air Quality Index was within Grade II, meaning the pollutant concentrations were within of the Class 2 National Ambient Air Quality Standards, applicable to general residential areas. This shows further improvement in the overall regional air quality as compared to that in 2009. ■





"Green" Honours Awarded



↑ Chief Executive, Mr Donald Tsang (third left) and Secretary for the Environment, Mr Edward Yau (second left) officiated at the Awards Presentation Ceremony with other guests.

Permanent Secretary for the Environment/Director of Environmental Protection, Ms Annisa Wong (right) presents a commemorative certificate to a company representative.



ishing in the Mainland.

Environmental Labels and Carbon“Less” Certificates Recognizing Significant Efforts

A total of 146 recipients of Environmental Labels and Carbon“Less” Certificates were honoured at a presentation ceremony on May 20 for their commitment and achievements in implementing environmental initiatives

Speaking at the presentation ceremony, Permanent Secretary for the Environment/Director of Environmental Protection, Ms Annisa Wong said in the past 10 years, businesses participating in the WasteWise scheme under the Environmental Labels, cut waste by at least 93,800 tonnes through waste recovery, recycling and source separation. More than 100 companies and buildings have obtained a Carbon“Less” Certificate since the launch of the scheme in 2009, leading to a reduction of at least 22,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions over the past year.

The Environmental Labels and Carbon“Less” Certificates schemes have been well received, with 2,950 and 230 applications being filed respectively, and both schemes are open to applications all year round. ■

Companies and organisations leading the way in adopting green management practices were recognised for their outstanding efforts in the **2011 Hong Kong Awards for Environmental Excellence** (HKAEE).

Sectoral Awards Presented to Environmentally Outstanding Organizations

At the Sectoral Awards Presentation Ceremony held on April 8, a total of 35 Gold, Silver, Bronze and SME Awards as well as 81

Certificates of Merit were presented to businesses and organisations in nine sectors for their outstanding environmental performance. Collectively, all award-winning companies and organizations helped deliver a clear message to the community: In Green We Succeed.

The Chief Executive, the Honourable Mr Donald Tsang gave a keynote speech at the ceremony to highlight the importance of green management with innovations and technology. He encouraged businesses to go green so as to capture the business opportunities now flourish-

Recognition for “Friends of EcoPark”

Forty-nine “Friends of EcoPark” were honoured for their supports to recycling businesses in EcoPark and contributions in waste reduction at a ceremony held on May 17.

The award scheme encourages joint efforts in environmental protection work and waste reduction, recognising that significant progress requires active participation and support from all stakeholders in both the private and public sectors.

Speaking at the ceremony, Dr Lawrence Wong, Principal Environmental Protection Officer of the Environmental Protection Department said the establishment of the EcoPark has encouraged individuals, corporations and the public sector to look at and treat waste differently, prompting industries to partner with the government to proactively promote environmental activities, recycling and reuse.

Promoting Green Partnerships

These partnerships have strengthened links within the community to promote and support the recycling businesses in EcoPark, he added. The “Friends of EcoPark” scheme recognises companies and organisations that demonstrate an existing sourcing partnership with the recycling businesses at EcoPark; regularly assist in the co-ordination of waste collection activities; or show support to EcoPark tenants through the use of recycled products in their daily operations.

Successful nominees are issued with a certificate and are eligible to use the “Friends of EcoPark” logo for various promotional activities and items provided to their customers and the public. The goal is to encourage different industries in Hong Kong to participate more in the environmental and recycling businesses

in EcoPark and present their positive image of caring for the environment, thereby achieving a win-win situation for all stakeholders. The 49 inaugural “Friends of EcoPark” awardees represent a wide range of sectors ranging from property management to hospitals, retail outlets, public organisations and utilities. ■



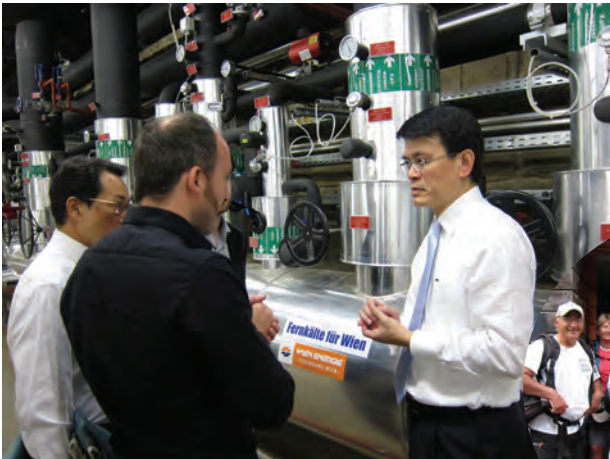
↑ Ecopark tenants and Dr Lawrence Wong, Principal Environmental Protection Officer of EPD (Centre).





SEN visits Austria, France

Geoparks in Focus



Mr Yau meets a group of hikers while he visits the Reserve Geologique de Haute-Provence in France.



Mr Yau inspects the district cooling system of the Spittelau Thermal Waste Treatment Plant in Vienna. He also sees how advanced incineration technology is being used to generate power from waste.

Secretary for the Environment Mr Edward Yau made brief visits to Austria and France in June to study and discuss important environmental issues.

In Austria, a key focus was learning more about the country's advanced waste-treatment facilities.

He visited the Spittelau Thermal Waste

Treatment Plant to see how advanced incineration technology has been utilised so that power can be generated from waste.

He also went to the Pfaffenau Waste Incineration Plant, which also uses advanced waste-to-energy technology. In addition to the treatment of waste, it provides electricity and heat for tens of thousands of families in Vienna.

Geological conservation was high on Mr Yau's agenda during his stay in France.

He met advisers of the Global Geoparks Network and briefed them on the work and efforts involved in developing a world-class geopark in Hong Kong.

He also visited the Reserve Geologique de Haute-Provence in France as part of preparations for Hong Kong National Geopark to join the Global Geoparks Network.

The Reserve in the Southern Alps of France is regarded as Europe's biggest geological open-air museum, with numerous fossil-rich sites and fascinating rock formations. It was one of the earliest members of the European Geoparks Network.

"The visit has been very fruitful, as the Reserve Geologique de Haute-Provence provides important references for us. Through exchanging views with city management authority, we have a better understanding of how to manage a geopark, how they work with local enterprises to develop tourism, and how they have developed a framework to conserve the geological features of their geopark," Mr Yau said.

Our Assets - Restored Landfills

Hong Kong's old landfills have been transformed into our assets. The restored landfills are bustling with life, offering residents of our crowded city attractive new venues where they can relax or enjoy recreational activities.

One case in point is Ngau Chi Wan Park where the Leisure and Cultural Services Department hosted the launch ceremony of the park cum sports and archery carnival on June 12.

The four-hectare site was opened to the public in September 2010 and features a jogging trail, Tai Chi Garden, archery field, elderly fitness corners, children's play areas, a maze garden and a rocky pool with buffalo sculptures among other attractions.

The park is on one of the 13 old landfills around the territory that were closed between 1975 and 1996.



Sai Tso Wan Recreation Ground.



Launch ceremony of Ngau Chi Wan Park on 12 June.

Careful Restoration Programme

A careful restoration programme implemented by the Environmental Protection Department was taken to minimise the potential adverse impacts on the environment from these sites and render them safe for new community uses. Many of the sites are now put to good use for public's enjoyment.

The Sai Tso Wan Recreation Ground at Lam Tin, for example, provides a multi-purpose

grass pitch for baseball and football, children's playground, jogging track and an environmental gallery.

The Jordan Valley Park on Clearwater Bay Road, is now home to a radio-controlled model car circuit, which meets international standards and can host major model-car racing events.

In Kwai Chung, the former landfill at Gin Drinkers Bay has been given a new life as a BMX Park and was one of the venues when Hong Kong hosted the 2009 East Asian Games.

Special thanks to Information Services Department and HKUST for providing photographs for inclusion in this publication.

