

## **Hong Kong Sustainable Development Forum Chairman's Report: 2004-05 Session**

During the last year the Forum has continued to pursue the better understanding of sustainable development principles in Hong Kong amongst the public, businesses and the community at large.

Meetings were held between October 2004 and January 2005 with the following organisations to discuss sustainable development and to investigate strategies where the Forum could assist these organisations in promoting a particular aspect of sustainable development:

- (a) Buildings Department
- (b) Housing Department
- (c) Institute of Directors

A key means of disseminating information on sustainable development has been through the Forum's web site. During the session, the web site was given a significant overhaul, and has for the past thirteen months been updated on a regular basis. During the period July 2004 to June 2005, the average hits per month were over 18,000, with nearly 28,000 hits being recorded in October 2004.

An open meeting was held at Helena May in Central on 10 November 2004 at which Paul Zimmerman and Professor Hedley spoke on the subject of harbour protection and community health, respectively. Three members were lucky recipients of Terri Mottershead's book on Sustainable Development that had been donated by the publisher.

The Forum also supported an open meeting held on 21 January 2005 at the Business Environmental Council (BEC) on "Trees for Life".

During the year the Forum met officially with the Sustainable Development Unit of the SAR Government and offered the Forum's assistance in the promotion of sustainable development.

The Forum also supported the Council for Sustainable Development's (CSD) campaign of community engagement that started with the launch of their invitation and response document "Sustainable Development – Making Choices for Our Future". The Forum attended workshops organised by CSD on solid waste management, urban living space and renewable energy. Position papers on these topics were submitted to CSD and are included on the Forum's web site. CSD Seminars at which the CSD gave initial responses on the feedback on their campaign (13 December 2004) and later introduced their First Sustainable Development Strategy for the SAR (24 May 2005) were attended by representatives from the Forum.

The Forum responded to SAR Government public consultations (and the relevant submissions are on the Forum's web site):

- (a) Hei Ling Chau Prison
- (b) West Kowloon Cultural Development
- (c) Hung Hom Peninsula Development

Subject to the Administration setting out the way ahead on the West Kowloon Cultural District, it appears that the Forum's views have reflected those of the community at large in respect of these three projects.

The Forum also presented an introductory talk on sustainable development to a teenage audience of over 60 on 15 January 2005. Representatives from Rotary Clubs, Girl Guides' organisations and the Environmental Campaign Committee attended this talk.

During the year, the Forum developed a set of guidelines on corporate responsibility in the context of sustainable development, and these were issued to the Secretary General of the Hong Kong Institute of Directors.

During 2005, the Forum was a Supporting Organisation for the Enviroseries 2005 Conference Series organised by BEC. The Forum has also applied for membership of BEC.

The Forum continues as Hong Kong's official representative of the international Earth Charter.

During the year, the Forum has maintained its links with several of Hong Kong's Chambers of Commerce, and is developing programmes to work with a number of Chambers on sustainable development initiatives in the future.

To sum up, the Forum has had a busy and active year. It is also pleasing to report that sustainable development is now firmly on the SAR Government's agenda; and the Forum is committed to co-operating with the Government to spread the sustainable development message in the years to come.

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