

19^h General Meeting, April 2, 2019

The Guest Speaker Mr. Wong Kam-sing (黃錦星), GBS, JP, Secretary for the Environment was briefly introduced by our Second V.P. Elizabeth Cheng (see appendix). The topic of his talk 山竹之後.

[Download here for the appendix]

Appendix

Mr KS Wong was born in 1963 and is an architect by profession. He has been promoting sustainable built environment since 1990s. He had served as the Vice Chairman of the Hong Kong Green Building Council and the Chairman of the Professional Green Building Council. He has contributed to the development of local standards and guidelines for sustainable built environment.

Before joining the Government, he has contributed to the work of a number of Government advisory bodies. In particular, he had active involvement in the public engagement processes of the Council for Sustainable Development. He was the convener of the Support Group on Combating Climate Change: Energy Saving and Carbon Emission Reduction in Buildings. He was also a member of the Support Group on Building Design to Foster a Quality and Sustainable Built Environment.

Mr Wong graduated from the Department of Architecture of the University of Hong Kong. He received further education on sustainable built environment from the University of British Columbia in Canada. He has been appointed as the Secretary for the Environment of the HKSAR Government and assumed the post on 1 July 2012.

[Download here for a summary of the talk]

Global warming

Our world has overdrawn on our natural resources (地球超支) since the 1970's and we are repaying our debt with global warming now. By 2019, the world's natural resources can sustain our current style of living up to July (by annual calendar), and August to December is really "over-drawing" on our future environment resources. Many young people are now demanding "Climate Justice" (唔好貪他人財

物).

In 2015, we have the Paris Accord, whereby the signatory countries agreed to reduce carbon waste by 50% by 2030 and keep the world's temperature to rising not more than 1.5⁰C. The years 2019 – 2030 are the “critical 11 years”. The world must have a “Climate Blue Print” and adapt its life style to achieve this goal.

(A) Carbon Footprint in Hong Kong

Four main factors are:-

- (i) Electricity generation by our two power companies (發電) amounts to 70% of the total carbon footprint.
- (ii) From building (heat) – 9%
- (iii) Cars (transport) – 16%
- (iv) Waste Reduction

Our society must also pay attention to the Carbon Footprint from outside Hong Kong, e.g. food source, etc. (beef is a big offender)

Also pay attention to the following factors: -

衣、食、住、行. Please see “Carbon Calculator” at www.carboncalculator.gov.hk

(B) The Three “P” is

- (i) Public
- (ii) Private
- (iii) People

The three “Ps” must be carefully assessed.

(C) Important Items in the Future

- (i) Clean Air
- (ii) Increase green areas, e.g. country parks
- (iii) Garbage disposal – charge disposable fees
- (iv) Reduce plastic waste by recycling
- (v) Clean garbage collection – e.g. recycle glass, reduce waste, battery-run cars, collect own garbage after picnics in country parks, recycle plastic products, etc.
- (vi) “T Park” – change waste to energy. At present Hong Kong produces 3,000 tons of garbage per day from food wastage, 1,200 tons of garbage from human excretion.

This interesting and stimulating talk was followed by sharing from Fiona Wong, Louis Wong and Serran Michael Lau.

