

10th GM, Dec. 3

The guest speaker Ms. Suzanne Cheung was briefly introduced by our Second V.P. Derek Ku. She spoke on the topic "Drink Without Waste".

[Download here for a summary of the talk]

Ms. Suzanne Cheung has worked as a Conservation Consultant for the Hong Kong Airport, the Ocean Park and the Disney World. She now works for the Coca Cola Company on conservation matters.

A. Plastic Waste Crisis

The world is facing a plastic waste crisis at present. Hong Kong is throwing away 1.7 billion waste plastic bottles per year. By 2040, there will be more plastic waste in our oceans than fish if this trend continues.

B. Recycle: Waste Hierarchy

Recycle of plastic waste product is not the only solution as we can see from the following Waste Hierarchy:-

Waste Hierarchy

Prevention

Reduction

Recycle

C. Prevention of Waste

A good start is by BYOC – "Bring Your Own Container" when one goes shopping or buying a cold drink. In certain places, the public in Hong Kong is provided with free distilled water from machines if you bring your own container.

D. Reduced Packaging

Certain beverage companies are using re-packaging. The cost effectiveness is proving a big obstacle and the Hong Kong Government is not doing much on this.

E. Recycle

All plastic containers or bottles must be cleaned before recycling. "WNM" – "Waste No More" should be encouraged. In the old days, coke bottles could be returned for a refund – but this is now no longer economically feasible. The New Life Plastic Ltd. Is doing "Circular Economy" by re-using plastics for discarded plastic containers. This company produces "circular economy toilet paper (Mil Mill Paper).

This timely and interesting talk was followed by sharing by Francisca Lo, Richard Tan and Peter So.