

Category: Green Building Award

Subject: The Roles of the Hong Kong Government in Sustainable-built Environment

With limited space but a vast population, Hong Kong is still able to create a sustainable-built environment. This achievement could be credited to the Hong Kong Government, who has immense impacts on the sustainable-built environment in Hong Kong.

First of all, the Hong Kong Government assumes the role of a policy maker. As the policies initiated and implemented are legally-binding with deterrent effects and legal consequences, citizens will follow the policies strictly and the aims of policies can be achieved effectively. Sites of high ecological importance can then be well-protected by the policies. For example, to prevent country parks from irreversible damages, the Country Park Ordinance protects country parks from activities which may not be compatible with the environment, such as illegal logging. This can preserve natural environment and ecosystem of Hong Kong and hence the biodiversity of Hong Kong will consequently be maintained. This enables us to develop sustainably, without compromising the well-being of our future generations.

Furthermore, the Hong Kong Government is also a leader in promoting sustainable-built environment. Since sustainable building is still a novel concept, developers are not familiar with it and may encounter difficulties transforming their buildings into sustainable ones. Being the major developer of over 8000 buildings and utilities, the government can lead by incorporating green features and adopting green practices in its projects. An example of a governmental Green Building is the Tuen Mun T-Park. It adopts glasses with high thermal efficiency for making the interiors warmer and brighter, thus reducing energy consumptions. Also, it uses reclaimed timber, which has avoided further deforestation. These green features enable developers to gain a better understanding on sustainable buildings and even be innovated to enhance the green performance of their buildings. This fosters the sustainable built environment in Hong Kong.

Student Name: Cham Yiu Lam

School Name: Hoi Ping Chamber of Commerce Secondary School