

# Professional Green Building Council Chairman's Report 2009

by K S Wong

## Overview

Professional Green Building Council has been devoting its efforts in delivering various projects, participating and voicing in the industry for the promotion of better built environment with quality and sustainability. PGBC has also been liaising with our counterparts for professional exchanges on sustainable building development and continuing professional development. I must deliver my sincere gratitude to PGBC Council and members of the four Boards who have contributed to the success of PGBC in the past year of 2009.

### PGBC Council 2009-2010

Mr Wong Kam Sing, Chairman	HKIA	Mr Bernard Hui	HKIA
Mr Sam Cheng, Vice Chairman	HKIS	Ir Dr M F Hui	HKIE
Ir K K Choy, Vice Chairman	HKIE	Mr Dick Kwok	HKIS
Ms Johanna Cheng, Honorary Secretary	HKIP	Ms Julia Lau	HKIA
Mr Simon Ng, Honorary Treasurer	HKILA	Prof Hon Patrick Lau	HKIA
Ir Reuben Chu, Immediate Past Chairman	HKIE	Prof Stephen Lau	HKIA
Ir Allan Chan	HKIE	Ir Maurice Lee	HKIE
Dr Chan Man Wai	HKIS	Ir Peter K K Lee	HKIE
Prof Edwin Chan	HKIA	Ir Charles Leung	HKIE
Mr James Chan	HKIS	Prof Edward Ng	HKIA
Mr Kenneth Chan	HKIS	Ms Kathy Ng	HKILA
Ir Victor Cheung	HKIE	Mr Evans Lu	HKILA
Ir Dr Vincent Cheng	HKIE	Mr James Pong	HKIS
Mr Ben Chong	HKIS	Mr Martin Tam	HKIA
Mr Franky Choi	HKIA	Mr Kenneth To	HKIP
Ms Carolin Fong	HKIA	Ms Serena Tong	HKIP
Mr Kin Heung	HKILA	Ms Apo Wai	HKIP
Ms Betty Ho	HKIP		

## Promotion of Quality and Sustainable Built Environment

### Joint Forum and Technical Tours on Building Design to Foster a Quality and Sustainable Built Environment

PGBC had accepted the invitation of Council for Sustainable Development to be one of the supporting organizations for public engagement on building design to foster a quality and sustainable built environment held between June and October 2009. PGBC and HKIA jointly organized a forum which was successfully held at Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre on 11 July 2009. Mr Bernard Chan, Chairman of Council for Sustainable Development, and speakers from HKIA, HKIE, HKILA, HKIP and HKIS delivered their speeches in the forum. Professionals from the 5 PGBC member organizations, representatives of other partnering organizations and other relevant stakeholders attended the forum to have an exchange of views on the various issues of the public engagement exercise. Presentation of speakers can be retrieved at PGBC website at : [http://www.hkpgbc.org/page6\\_9.html](http://www.hkpgbc.org/page6_9.html).

Subsequent to the forum, technical tours, jointly organized by PGBC and Council for Sustainable Development, were held on 10 and 17 October 2009 to Stanley Municipal Services Building, One Island East and the Orchards (HK route), and HK PolyU Community College and Ngau Tau Kok Estate (Kowloon route) respectively. The tours were well received by the public.

## **Symposium on Urban Climate & Urban Greenery 2009**

The UCUG 2009 symposium was founded upon the success of the first symposium on the same topic held on 2006, where international speakers shared their experience in their policy, research and design approach with respect to the aspiration of fostering a better quality and sustainable built environment. The symposium 2009 was held in the morning of 26 September 2009 at auditorium of Hong Kong Science Park. It focused on the aspects of implementation and actions. Professionals and researches from Europe, Singapore, Mainland China and Hong Kong shared the state-of-the-art knowhow on applying urban and building interventions with a view to addressing the challenge of creating healthy and low carbon living in high density cities like Hong Kong. The Secretary for Development and Permanent Secretary for the Environment were the Guests of Honour of the symposium. The event also echoed the topical issues of the public engagement exercise on building design to foster quality and sustainable built environment conducted by the Council for Sustainable Development. The presentations of the speakers of symposium 2009 can be retrieved at PGBC website at : [http://www.hkpgbc.org/symposium2009\\_6.html](http://www.hkpgbc.org/symposium2009_6.html).

## **Joint Hong Kong and Tianjin Conference for Sustainable Buildings, Tianjin 2009**

The symposium, jointly organized by PGBC and Tianjin University, was successfully held between 23-24 October 2009 at Tianjin. The event was the fourth of its series with the first one held in Shanghai 2004, second in Guangzhou 2005 and third in Hangzhou 2007. The conference was funded by PSDAS in effort to promote professional services in Hong Kong and technology transfer along with an exhibition of works from Hong Kong. Expert speakers from the 5 professional disciplines of architects, engineers, landscape architects, surveyors and planners, along with local keynote speakers from Tianjin and Hong Kong and international keynote speakers, shared with the mainland audience their professional experience and knowhow of sustainable building and development. A one-day site visit following the conference with optional routes to various heritage sites of Tianjin and Binhai new development area was held on 25 October 2009. Complete documentation of the Conference is available at PGBC website at <http://www.hkpgbc.org/tianjin/>.

Further to the successful holding of the Conference in Tianjin, a dissemination seminar was in Hong Kong at HKIA premises on 17 December 2009. The seminar reported the findings of the conference to PGBC members and other participants.

## **PGBC Eco-village**

PGBC was exploring the possibility of setting up an eco-village in Tseung Kwan O Area 77 restored landfill site for promotion of sustainable buildings and sustainability education. PGBC had written to Environment Bureau for formal expression of interest in initiating the eco-village project. Site visits and brainstorming workshop were held on 13 June 2009. A series of meetings was held with EPD and stakeholders of the site for getting information about the site and discussion on possible uses of the site. Sir David Akers-Jones, Mr Nicholas Brooke, Mr Cheung Hau Wai and Mr Lam Chiu Ying had agreed to be the advisors of the Eco-village project. A committee was formed under PGBC to follow up on the various tasks required for the compilation of feasibility study to Environment Bureau in due course.

## **Green Building Award 2010**

The Green Building Award aims at promoting sustainable and green development, recognizing developments and research projects with outstanding contributions to sustainability and the environment, and also encouraging the industry towards wider adoption of sustainable practices in planning, design, construction, maintenance and renovation projects. With the overwhelming support and recognition received from the Industry for the first and second Green Building Award held in 2006 and 2008 respectively, PGBC had decided to launch this biennial event in 2010. An Organization Committee would be formed to kick off the work of GBA2010. PGBC would collaborate with Hong Kong Green Building Council to organize the Award.

## **Participation in Eco Expo Asia 2009**

PGBC accepted the invitation of Hong Kong Trade Development Council to be one of the supporting organizations for the Eco Expo Asia 2009 held at AsiaWorld-Expo, Hong Kong International Airport, Lantau between 28-30 October 2009. Eco Expo Asia was an international trade fair to enable both industry stakeholders and the public to see and use a wide range of green products. A series of seminars covering a variety of environmentally themed topics of concern in Asia today, including Green Production, Green Transportation and Green Building was held during the fair period.

PGBC co-hosted an exhibition booth with HKIA and HKIE to showcase the sustainable building development in Hong Kong. The Permanent Secretary for the Environment was the Guest of Honour for the booth launching ceremony. PGBC Chairman and Council members also engaged in delivering presentations in the series of seminars.

## **Formulating Green Initiatives for Schools**

PGBC submitted a proposal to the Education Bureau for applying the Quality Education Fund for the project of "Formulating Green Initiatives for Schools". The project aimed at inculcating students with the concept of sustainable building and sustainable living. Whilst education materials on sustainable development would be provided to participating schools by way of workshop, handouts and CD, students are encouraged to search information in relation to the topic prior to producing the competition submissions. All primary and secondary schools in the territories would be invited to participate in a competition in relation to sustainable school and sustainable living. Private buildings firms would be invited to donating prizes in form of financial subsidy for improvement program towards a sustainable school. Results from Education Bureau were pending.

## **Compilation of Green Book List and Guidelines**

PGBC had been updating book list on green buildings, with brief introduction on the book content for public reference. The green book list is available at PGBC web at : <http://www.hkpgbc.org/download/GBBList20090602.pdf>. In addition to the green book list, PGBC was planning to set up a library of green building literature in Hong Kong Architecture Centre.

PGBC had drafted a set of Guidelines on Application of Green Roof in Hong Kong. This pamphlet would provide guidelines to the public, including headmasters of schools, with regard to the planning, design, construction and maintenance of green roof. The guidelines introduced the details and community benefits of green roof, key technical issues involved in setting up, and administration procedure for reference. It would be posted onto PGBC web for public reference.

## **Participations in Local Industry**

### **Hong Kong Green Building Council**

PGBC was one of the founding organizations of Hong Kong Green Building Council, amongst others including Construction Industry Council, Business Environment Council and BEAM Society. In the past year, PGBC was involved in the preparatory work for the setting up of HKGBC including branding, drafting of Memorandum and Articles of Association, fund raising, launching conference organization, BEAM interim updates and initiation of BEAM Professionals. Chairman of HKGBC visited PGBC Council and gave an introduction of the scope of work of HKGBC on 2 December 2009. With the inauguration of Hong Kong Green Building Council on 20 November 2009, PGBC will continue to play her roles in this new united front.

Mr K S Wong, Ir Reuben Chu and Mr Kenneth Chan were nominated by PGBC to be the Directors of Hong Kong Green Building Council.

### **BEAM Society**

The BEAM Society is the non-profit organisation that owns and operates, on a self-financing basis, the Building Environmental Assessment Method (BEAM). The society oversees the on-going development and implementation of BEAM standards for building assessment, performance improvement, certification and labeling undertaken as an industry led, voluntary initiative to benefit the community.

Ir Victor Cheung, and Mr John Ng and Mr James Pong were nominated by PGBC to join the BEAM Society Executive Committee in response to the invitation of the BEAM Society for widening the representation of her Executive Committee.

### **Hong Kong Architecture Centre**

Hong Kong Architecture Centre is a charity institution founded by the Hong Kong Institute of Architects and PGBC in 2006. It aims at creating new forms of interaction between the general public and the local architecture, and to build a better city, and enjoy better quality of life through a joint effort between the architecture profession and the public.

Ir Mr Victor Cheung and Mr James Pong were nominated to represent PGBC in the Board of Directors of HKAC for the term 2009-2011.

## Responses to Local Public Consultations

PGBC had been delivering views and comments on subjects concerning green buildings and sustainable built environment. In particular, PGBC responded to the following major public engagement exercises in the past year :

- **Stage 1 Public Engagement on West Kowloon Cultural District**

The Stage 1 public engagement was to consult the public and stakeholders about their expectations and aspirations for the WKCD, and their requirements for the facilities in the arts and cultural venues. PGBC representatives participated in the focus group meeting for urban development and green groups held on 12 October 2009. Views on environmental urban design were presented in the meeting.

- **Public Engagement on Building Design to Foster a Sustainable Built Environment conducted by the Council for Sustainable Development**

The public engagement exercise was to consult the public on three areas of sustainable building design (including building separation, setback from narrow streets, and greenery), balancing provision of certain building features against the resultant increase in building height and bulk, and energy efficient building design. A written submission was delivered to the Council for Sustainable Development on 6 November 2009.

- **New Greening, Landscape and Tree Management Section in Development Bureau**

PGBC delivered a written submission to LegCo Establishment Subcommittee on 2 December 2009 to support the creation of a new Greening, Landscape and Tree Management Section as recommended by the Task Force on Tree Management under Chief Secretary for Administration, for its provision on the much needed central coordination at a strategic level so that greening, landscape and tree management issues would be considered in a holistic manner through planning, design, implementation and management. The establishment of the Design Panel with experts for enhancing the landscape quality of future public projects was also supported.

- **Invitation for Views on Green Buildings from LegCo Panel on Environmental Affairs and Panel on Development**

PGBC delivered a presentation on green buildings in the joint meeting of LegCo Panel on Environmental Affairs and Panel on Development held on 14 December 2009. Experiences of Singapore and Tokyo regarding progressive green building roadmap and green features incentives were presented in the meeting. A written submission on the same was sent to LegCo.

## Continuing Professional Development

PGBC had been organizing technical seminars and visits for continuing professional development of our members. The following seminars were held in 2009 :

- **Seminar on The Next Generation and LEED Refurbishment delivered by Mr Simon Wild, Managing Director of Cundall Asia Pacific, and Mr Julian Bott, Principal Cundall Hong Kong on 9 March 2009**

The presentation provided an overview of sustainable building design over the last decade and looked at where the future of sustainable building could go beyond energy efficiency & building regulation and moved to a model of long term sustainability. A case study on the refurbishment of a vacant building into a low energy green office building in Shenzhen was shared in the seminar.

- **Seminar on Urban Climatology Application in Japan delivered by Dr Yasunobu Ashie, Head of Environmental and Equipment, Division of National Institute for Land and Infrastructure Management, Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism, Japan on 24 April 2009**

In the seminar, urban redevelopment plans which could contribute to the creation of open spaces in the centre of Tokyo were discussed from the viewpoint of heat island mitigation. Thermal environmental map by the Tokyo government was also introduced at the seminar. The seminar was well received as reflected in the full house attendance.

- **Seminar on NABERS, Australia delivered by Mr Stephen Hennessy, Accredited Greenstar Professional and Accredited NABERS Assessor on 29 May 2009**

His talk covered the 'NABERS' sustainability ratings processes, and the implications for building owners.

- **One-day Green Tour to Shenzhen on 27 June 2009**

PGBC held a one-day green tour to Shenzhen jointly with HKIA on 27 June 2009. In the tour, PGBC met Shenzhen Green Building Council to share experience on green building development and visited three green buildings in Shenzhen, including the tower of Shenzhen Institute of Building Research, serviced apartment Fraser Place Shekou, and the renovation of the old factory building into the headquarters of China Merchants Property Development Co. Ltd.

- **Seminar on Carbon Audit delivered by Ir Dr F C Chan on 22 July 2009 and 23 September 2009**

The presentation covered the major elements of carbon audit, including steps in carbon audit, carbon audit guidelines and protocols, post audit, example of Carbon Audit, reference standard – ISO14064 and ISO14065, and the current Development of Energy Audit and Building Energy Code. Due to overwhelming response, the seminar was encored.

- **Workshop on Forestry Stewardship Council - Responsible Management of Building Material (Timber) delivered by Mr Alistair Monument, Technical Director, Forest Stewardship Council (China), and Dr Andy Cornish, Director, Conservation, WWF Hong Kong on 7 October 2009**

The workshop was organized by WWF Hong Kong and co-organized by HKIA and HKILA. The event covered presentation on FSC as a certification system that provided internationally recognized standard-setting, trademark assurance and accreditation services to companies, organizations and communities interested in responsible forestry, and the FSC label in providing a credible link between responsible production and consumption of forest products, enabling consumers and business to make purchasing decisions that benefit people, the environment and ongoing business value.

## **Liaison with Local Organizations and Overseas Counterparts**

PGBC had been liaising with our counterparts to have exchanges on professional experience and knowhow on green building development :

- Meeting Professionals Liaison Sub-Committee of Political Affairs Standing Committee of The Chinese Manufacturers' Association of Hong Kong on 24 March 2009.
- Participation in the 5th International Conference on Intelligent, Green, Energy Efficient Buildings and New Technologies and Product Expo organized by MOHURD between 27-29 March 2009.
- Courtesy Visit to PGBC by Prof John Beddington, British Chief Scientific Advisor, and his delegates on 3 April 2009.
- Courtesy Visit to PGBC by Ms Romilly Maddew, Chief Executive, Green Building Council of Australia on 15 May 2009.
- Meeting with Shenzhen Green Building Council on 27 June 2009.
- Presentation by Chairman in Building Surveyors Conference - Building a Green and Sustainable Future organized by HKIS Building Surveying Division on 5 September 2009.
- Presentations by Council Members in Sustainable Integrated Design Process (SIDP) Conference organized by the Hong Kong Institute of Facility Management and co-organised by HKU and HKIS on 29-30 September 2009.
- Presentation as keynote speakers by Chairman Sino French Seminar on Housing and Building Energy Efficiency in China organized by French Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Hong Kong in Eco Expo Asia 2009 on 29 October 2009.

## **Way Forward**

Thanks again to members of PGBC from allied professional institutes of HKIA, HKIE, HKILA, HKIP and HKIS for making the success of PGBC in the joint-hand delivery of her various roles in 2009. In 2010, PGBC will certainly continue to contribute herself in the promotion of better sustainable built environment both locally and internationally.

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