



Waste management and recycling: Visit to EcoPark and its Tenants

Joe Wu, QSD Convenor of the event

The QSD CPD Sub-Committee organized an event on 5 May 2012 to EcoPark. As introduced in EcoPark's website:



EcoPark, one of the waste management facilities of the Environmental Protection Department, is located in Lung Mun Road, Tuen Mun with a site area of 20 ha. It is developed in two phases and provides a total of 14 ha of land for occupation by the recycling industry (<http://www.ecopark.com.hk/files/ecopark/EcoPark-leaflet.pdf>)...EcoPark provides affordable and long term land for use by the recycling and environmental industry to encourage investment in advanced and cost-effective technologies (<http://www.ecopark.com.hk/tc/index.aspx>).



This CPD event included a visit to EcoPark's Visitor Centre and two of its tenants, St. James' Settlement "WEEE GO GREEN" and YOT EcoPark Plastic Resources Recycling Centre.

The Visitor Centre boasts some interesting exhibits such as a life-size model of a landfill and a virtual three-dimensional multimedia exhibition with interactive games. EcoPark's volunteer guide, Polly, introduced to our members the primary objective of the Centre, which is to increase public awareness of environmental ethics and to promote a long term solution to environmental problems by following the 3Rs – "Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle". Our members learned a lot about municipal solid waste management and disposal in Hong Kong, as well as how to reduce waste in their daily lives.



After leaving the Visitor Center, we visited one of the tenants, St. James' Settlement "WEEE GO GREEN," which is one of Hong Kong's waste electrical and electronic equipment recycling centres. Their senior promotion officer, Ms Lai, highlighted to our members how discarded electronics and appliances (such as televisions, washing machines, and refrigerators) can be collected and restored by

employing systematic recycling procedures including point-to-point collections, a registration barcode system, the repair of usable appliances and then donating them to the needy or to charities for re-sale, and the removal of recyclable components from non-useable appliances for recycling.



Another tenant our members visited was YOT EcoPark Plastic Resources Recycling Centre. Their representative, Ms Wong, presented to us different types of plastics with codes numbered 1 to 7, their characteristics, and usage. Our members learned about the entire recycling procedure – from sorting, cleaning, and manufacturing to plastic particles and selling plastic particles to qualified recyclers. Plastic particles can be fabricated into various products, such as floor finishes and clothes. This can reduce the amount of waste being sent to landfills and create a better living environment.



As a result of this CPD visit and the exchange of views with the tenants' docents, our members have enhanced their waste reduction awareness and understanding of Hong Kong's waste management problem. Since the members were attacked by mosquitoes during the visit, they also learned the importance of pest control of running a Plastic Resources Recycling Centre. 





Visit to Construction Industry Resource Centre

Paul Wong, Chairman of QSD CPD Sub-committee

The QSD of our institute organized an event on 14 April 2012 at the Construction Industry Resource Centre, Kowloon Bay. Over 45 members took part in this event. The Resource Centre's area is around 10,000 sq. ft., and it is divided into nine zones, including a reception area, multimedia zone, hall of fame, green construction zone, discovery zone, and gallery.

Last, but not least, we would like to thank Mr Yuk-Lung Cheung, Senior Manager of Development & Support Services of the Construction Industry Council, and Mr Perry Lo, Senior Project Manager of the main contractor, for sharing with us the fast track construction of this design-and-build project.



By integrating up-to-date information technology and multimedia simulation systems, this resource centre allowed our members to enjoyably keep abreast of the latest construction information. The Resource Centre introduces famous buildings in Hong Kong. From the media in the green construction zone, our members were able to gain a better understanding of green buildings. From the simulation, they had a chance to experience the operation of a tower crane and excavator.

