









**MAY 2023** 

# BEC E-NEWSLETTER

Connecting · Nurturing · Creating for a Sustainable Environment



## **BEC ENVIROSERIES CONFERENCE** PROVOKES BUSINESS DISCUSSION ON **ACCELERATING NET-ZERO ACTION**

BEC held its flagship event BEC EnviroSeries Conference with the theme "Accelerating Net-zero Action through Carbon Pricing, Digitalisation and Closing the Resource Loop" at Cordis Hotel, Hong Kong on 25 May. The Conference was held in hybrid mode, attracting over 1,000 in-person and online participants including government representatives, business leaders, entrepreneurs, industry experts, academics and other interested participants from Hong Kong and abroad.

Making his opening address, Mr Kevin O'Brien, Chairman of BEC, remarked, "The world is facing a climate crisis, and Hong Kong is no exception. The effects of climate change are evident in our city. It is imperative that we take immediate action now to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions and build a more sustainable future for the benefit of not only ourselves but also our future generations.

"As a leading organisation in promoting environmental excellence, BEC is committed to providing our members and the wider community with a platform that brings together experts from diverse fields to share their experiences and best practices for formulating business strategies to accelerate net-zero action towards the carbon neutrality goal," added Mr O'Brien.



Keynote speaker Mr C.F. Wong, Commissioner for Climate Change, Environment and Ecology Bureau, said, "To achieve Hong Kong's 2050 carbon neutrality target, the collective resolve of all members of society is required. The newly established Office of Climate Change and Carbon Neutrality is committed to coordinating the Government's strategies, policies, and action plans for mitigating climate change. I hope the business sector would take more proactive actions and join hands with the Government to co-create a net-zero Hong Kong."









The Conference were divided into four inspiring sessions, namely, "Carbon Market and Internal Carbon Pricing", "Building Energy Efficiency through Digitalisation", "Circular Ecosystem and Opportunities of Electric Vehicle Batteries", and "Business Preparation towards Regulation of Single-use Plastics". The programme brought audience to the latest development of several decarbonisation areas with specific relevance to Hong Kong.

Mr Simon Ng, Chief Executive Officer of BEC, extended his gratitude to all the guests, "I would like to thank our speakers, panellists, moderators, sponsors and supporting organisations for their significant contributions, not just to this Conference, but also to the net-zero journey. Looking forward, BEC will continue to partner with our members and the business sector in turning ambition into climate action."

**Click here for more photos** 

Watch the Conference again:

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#### **BEC Net-zero Carbon Charter**





#### **BEC Net-zero Carbon Charter**

Join us for collective action for long-term decarbonisation journey

As a continued effort to support business action on climate change, BEC is pleased to announce the re-branding of BEC Low Carbon Charter to BEC Net-zero Carbon Charter.

Under BEC Net-zero Carbon Charter, companies or organisations would decide to commit as an Action Signatory or the Science-aligned Signatory, according to their progress in decarbonisation and level of climate ambition.

Signatories are expected to set and commit to decarbonisation targets supported by a comprehensive action plan, and report progress through a streamlined tracking and disclosure process.

BEC Net-zero Carbon Charter will arrange events and capacity building programmes to support the signatories on their decarbonisation journey.

Join the Charter now Click here to learn more

## Sustainable Urban Development and Biodiversity Conservation - Northern Metropolis Field Trip

"Sustainable Urban Development and Biodiversity Conservation - Northern Metropolis Field Trip" took place on 28 April. The group visited several locations including Long Valley, Kwu Tung North, Ma Tso Lung, Hoo Hok Wai and the Mai Po Nature Reserve. Representatives of WWF-Hong Kong shared the challenges and opportunities throughout the development of Northern Metropolis and pointed out the importance of nature in urban infrastructure planning and development.

Click here for more photos



#### **BEC Carbon Disclosure Programme Workshop 2023**



BEC Carbon Disclosure Programme Workshop attracted more than 60 participants from different companies on 5 May. This was the first-ever CDP workshop conducted in Cantonese, and representative from CDP introduced the CDP questionnaire 2023 and the latest trends related to climate-related disclosure.

The workshop is part of the BEC Carbon Disclosure Programme, which is in partnership with CDP and supported by HSBC. The Programme aims to promote climate-related disclosure of companies and enhance the overall disclosure level and capacity in Hong Kong.



#### The Asia Summit on Green Economy

BEC Chairman Mr Kevin O'Brien was invited to deliver the opening remarks for The Asia Summit on Green Economy on 12 May. Co-organised by BEC and Arup, the summit gathered senior government officials and business leaders to exchange insights on green infrastructure and investment, while exploring green and sustainability related business and investment opportunities in the region.

Our gratitude to Mr Christopher Hui, Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury; Ms Bernadette Linn, Secretary for Development; and Mr Andy Chan, Acting Deputy Director of Environmental Protection, Environmental Protection Department; and other renowned speakers for their insightful speeches and sharing during the event.



#### **BEC Industry Visit: Cultivating a Sustainable Future – The Harbour School**

"BEC Industry Visit: Cultivating a Sustainable Future - The Harbour School" took place on 19 May. The group visited the two campuses of the school and the wooden ketch "The Black Dolphin". Dr Jadis Blurton, Head of School & Co-Founder; Mr Rafi Cristobal, Director of Social Impact and Sustainability Program; and other representatives from The Harbour School introduced the Marine Science Center and their latest seaweed project, as well as the purpose-built makerspace "The Foundry" which encourages students to build, experiment and prototype inventions as they engage deeply in science, arts and mathematics.



Click here for more photos

## RECENT PUBLICATIONS



### Materials Recovery Facilities (MRFs): Exploring Recyclables Sorting Options in Hong Kong

Hong Kong has been facing a waste crisis for decades, with a growing rate of waste disposal and a consistently low resource recovery rate. In February 2021, the Hong Kong government announced the Waste Blueprint for Hong Kong 2035, which sets a medium-term target to reduce per capita municipal solid waste ("MSW") disposal by 40-45% and increase the recovery rate to approximately 55%.

BEC's new research report, "Materials Recovery Facilities (MRFs): Exploring Recyclables Sorting Options in Hong Kong," focuses on exploring the feasibility of using MRFs for downstream recyclable separation and recovery. The report summarises the types of MRFs, explains current waste separation practices in Hong Kong, and provides recommendations on establishing MRFs operations, supported by local and international case studies. Accelerating recovery rate of recyclables remains a long journey and requires diverse solutions, and this MRFs report drills into one of the major solutions in other jurisdictions but less discussed in Hong Kong.

Click here for the full report



## **UPCOMING EVENTS** \_\_\_\_/\_

Siemens Innovation Forum 2023 - Accelerating Digital and Net-Zero Transformations

27 June



Digitalisation and climate change continue to have an enormous impact on Hong Kong's development. To remain competitive, businesses must be able to respond quickly to the challenges of achieving net-zero emissions by deploying digital technologies and transforming their business models – that's why Siemens Innovation Forum 2023 will focus on accelerating "digital" and "net-zero" transformations as the dual engines for creating a more sustainable and greener future.

Register for this forum and share your valuable opinions, as well as exchange ideas with our digital experts. Co-organised by BEC and Siemens Limited, the half-day forum will bring together distinguished speakers who will explore ways to unlock digital potential and revolutionise the path towards a net-zero future.

Click here for details & registration

### **UPCOMING COURSES: BEC IEE TRAINING**

The BEC Institute of Environmental Education ("BEC IEE") provides structured and tailor-made courses under our focus areas, including Climate Change and Carbon Management, Circular Economy and Resource Management, Green and Healthy Buildings, and Corporate Sustainability. Click the course titles below for more details about upcoming structured courses:

ESG for Property Management Professionals

15 June

Carbon Audit Step by Step

29 June

Intensive Training on Indoor Mould
Inspection and Management





Click here for more courses

## **ESG CORNER**

#### **Farm Animal Welfare and Sustainable Development**

Carbon footprint, plastic pollution, and food waste are the three most critical environmental issues faced by Hong Kong's food and beverage sector, according to the paper "A Critical Analysis of the Restaurant Industry's Effect on Environment Sustainability" published in 2022. In terms of social issues, food safety and quality, occupational health and safety, and labour practices are top three material issues as identified by different ESG rating standards.

To mitigate these issues, landlords of shopping arcades in Hong Kong paid a huge effort in encouraging their tenant restaurants to operate in a green way through incentives and recognition schemes. Meanwhile, in the global level, the Michelin Guide introduced its Green Star in 2020, awarding it to restaurants that champion sustainable practices by holding themselves accountable for ethical and environmental standards; work with sustainable producers and suppliers to avoid waste; as well as reduce or even remove plastic and other non-recyclable materials from supply chain.



Among a bundle of issues faced by Hong Kong's food and beverage industry, farm animal welfare is an issue rarely addressed. Farm animal welfare is indeed closely related to sustainable development – farm animal welfare practices can impact human health through antibiotic use, and intensive farming has significant impacts on climate change and biodiversity through land use decisions and greenhouse gas emissions.

In terms of ESG disclosure, the newly updated GRI 13 Standard about Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fishing Sector covers animal health and welfare, and UNSDG 12 about responsible consumption and production may be considered as the goal closely relevant to animal welfare.



From the TCFD perspective, any non-compliance on farm animal welfare may constitute policy and legal risk as well as reputational risk.

Dubbed as the world-class culinary capital, Hong Kong has around 16,000 restaurants and 2,200 food retailers with a sky-scraping ratio of one food and beverage outlet for 300 people; and, due to land scarcity, about 95% of Hong Kong's food supply is imported. With a world-class Stock Exchange with sophisticated ESG disclosure practices introduced, Hong Kong is an ideal and unique place in raising concerns about farm animal welfare in tertiary sector level. Since profit margin of the food and beverage sector is thin, restaurant owners may find difficulties in adopting 100% animal welfare ingredients in their recipes; however, if restaurants can offer an option in their menu on paying additional charge for animal welfare ingredients, pressures on cost can be reduced. Meanwhile, landlords may consider including farm animal welfare in their incentive or recognition scheme to raise the awareness and attract restaurant owners to adopt animal welfare ingredients. Financial institutions, on the other hand, may consider including farm animal welfare in credit risk assessment and due diligence process of sustainability-linked loans.

June, the pride month, is a month about dignity and equal opportunity, and farm animal welfare is a means to safeguard dignity and respect of farm animals that we human beings cannot ignore.



Contributed by
Ms Vivian Yeung,
BEC Head – ESG Strategy

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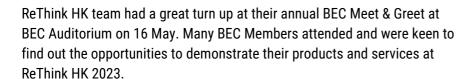
#### Saving Energy and Building "Green" for the World

In Hong Kong, an international financial and commercial centre, our citizens' daily activities mostly take place in skyscrapers. The use of airconditioners, lifts, lighting, computers and various electrical appliances consumes a large amount of energy. In response, energy saving and green buildings have grown in popularity and become crucial to the development of modern society.

BEC Members are actively supporting the business community in energy saving and green building solutions. Click here to learn more



## RETHINK HK CORNER (1/2)



Entering its fourth edition, this year's ReThink HK is anticipated to be an even bigger business conference, with a comprehensive two-day programme, 8 theatres and stages. Participants will be deep diving into the latest and significant topics and challenges on sustainability development faced by all industries and sectors.



Exclusive Co-organiser BEC will host the BEC Circular Transition Theatre, covering topics including "Regenerate & Reduce: Our Waste-free Future", "Replan: Circular Logistics and Distribution", "Reuse, Repair & Repurpose: Circular Journey with Consumers", and "Sustainable Retail".

Don't miss your chance to join ReThink HK 2023 and book a booth at the BEC Pavilion to showcase your business.

Click here to learn more

## MEMBERS CORNER ~~~

#### **Council Members**

Airport Authority Hong Kong ("AAHK") held the 11th Professional Liaison Group ("PLG") meeting on 27 April. The PLG comprises relevant professionals and experts to facilitate communications of all environmental issues related to the Three-Runway System ("3RS"). The group received the latest developments of the 3RS project, including the construction progress of core infrastructure such as the new Terminal 2 Concourse and the new Air Traffic Control Tower. The meeting also touched upon other aspects of AAHK's sustainability performance, for example, its Hong Kong International Airport ("HKIA") 2050 Net Zero Carbon Pledge and the Green Airport Design and Construction Strategy. The event concluded with a visit to new facilities at HKIA, including Sky Bridge and the food waste management solution Food TranSmarter.

Click here to learn more



### MEMBERS CORNER ~~~

China State Construction Engineering (Hong Kong) Limited ("CSHK") has recently won three awards for its achievement in building technologies and sustainable development. CSHK's smart construction management platform "C-SMART" and its collaborative venture to create the C-S Hyper Construction Site Robot received two bronze awards at the International Exhibition of Inventions Geneva 2023.

Meanwhile, CSHK's first national carbon-neutral construction pilot project, O-PARK2, was listed among the top 40 Chinese projects in Fortune magazine's China 2023 ESG Impact List. In addition, North Lantau Hospital Hong Kong Infection Control Centre was awarded Grand Award in the Quality Building Award 2022's Hong Kong Non-Residential (New Building – Government, Institution of Community) category.



Click here to learn more

The Climate Drive, a new digital knowledge hub for businesses to stay up to date with the latest best practices on decarbonisation, has been launched. **CLP** contributed to the development of this initiative, led by the World Business Council for Sustainable Development ("WBCSD") and Oxford Net Zero. The new online platform features a case study showing how an AI solution provided by CLP helped a shopping mall in Hong Kong achieve energy saving and carbon reduction for its chiller plants. Businesses can also assess their readiness for net zero using online tools of The Climate Drive, and obtain practical guidance for designing and executing their decarbonisation plans.



Hang Lung Properties collaborates with two partners in mainland China to reduce embodied carbon at Westlake 66, Hangzhou. By utilising low carbon recycled concrete aggregates ("RCA") and low carbon concrete bricks, the strategic partnership aims to advance and accelerate progress in combating the building and construction sector's major challenge. Westlake 66 is the first commercial development project to use low carbon concrete bricks in mainland China and Hong Kong. The embodied carbon associated with buildings contributes 11% of global carbon emissions, and these low carbon bricks are expected to produce 87.5% less embodied carbon emissions than conventional shale bricks. This partnership will enable exciting innovations to decarbonise real estate.



Henderson Land, in collaboration with an NGO and the Yau Tsim Mong District Office, has recently set a new Sustainable Development Goals ("SDGs") world record at a large-scale outdoor event called "YTM Wellness Gala", where 800 participants came together and did partner yoga wheels simultaneously. A total of 184 members from Henderson Land's Property Management Department, including employees and their families, took part in the event. Not only does the "Y" shape formed by the participants represent the initials of Yau Tsim Mong and the NGO, it also symbolises "You" and "Youth", which highlights the importance of active participation in sports, especially among the younger generation, for a harmonious society.



## MEMBERS CORNER ~~~

**Kum Shing** places great importance on the new energy business as part of its future strategies. Recently, the group completed the Rooftop Solar Panel Project for fellow BEC member Hong Kong Baptist University. Kum Shing was responsible for designing, building, and installing large-scale solar panels on the rooftops of six buildings on the campus. In contrast to the traditional method, the company applied the 22% high efficiency monocrystalline PV module, in which the energy yield would be extended with a long-term performance warranty of 30 years. The success of the project undoubtedly relied much on the professionalism and proficiency of Kum Shing's team.



Link Sustainability Lab, the latest testimony to how **Link** walks its talk, is open to the public since 23 April. Located in Lok Fu Place at the heart of central Kowloon, the 6,800-square-feet space is Hong Kong's first education and collaboration platform in local community striving to make sustainability "Accessible, Actionable, and Achievable". The Lab consists of multiple zones with an array of edutaining exhibits. The inaugural thematic exhibition "Take Eat Seriously: How to eat to save the climate?" takes visitors on a journey of sustainable food systems and explores ways to make positive change in daily lives.

Click here to learn more



In supporting Hong Kong's re-industrialisation initiative, **Siemens** co-led a delegation of 30 industry experts to experience innovative technologies within the German industry. In particular, the delegation was provided with a first-hand experience of latest industry innovations at Hannover Messe 2023, one of the most important and highly anticipated trade fairs of the year. Spanning from 12-19 April, the week-long delegation to Germany also featured on-site learning sessions and workshops at various locations and factories, touching on areas such as digitalisation and the industrial metaverse for more efficient and sustainable manufacturing processes.



Swire Properties began to set out a "Net-zero Roadmap" to guide its strategic investment and actions to support its net-zero commitments. The roadmap outlines key areas where the company will focus its efforts and resources across its global portfolio to deliver a near-term 1.5°C-aligned Science-based Targets and transitioning to net zero before 2050. Building whole-lifecycle carbon management is an important strategy to accelerate Swire Properties' transition to net-zero. The company's latest development, Two Taikoo Place, showcases its most recent low-carbon building development strategies, identifying opportunities to reduce emissions spanning the demolition, design, construction and operation stages.



Swire properties

Click here to learn more

Want to share your company's latest green news with over 6,000 BEC e-Newsletter subscribers from various industries? BEC Council, Corporate and General Members are welcomed to submit their recent environmental and sustainability accomplishments to us. Selected submissions will be published in the upcoming edition of BEC's e-Newsletter completely free-of-charge. Please contact **Mr Tomas Li (E. tomasli@bec.org.hk)** for enquiries.

### MEMBERS CORNER ~~~

#### **Corporate Members**

In early May, **FUJIFILM BI HK** participated in a tree-planting activity under the Country Parks Plantation Enrichment Programme of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department at Pak Tam Au, Sai Kung. Managing Director, Tatsuya Nakamura, joined the Corporate Volunteer Team to plant 120 native tree seedlings and perform post-planting weeding together. Apart from committing to reducing carbon emissions to address climate change, Fujifilm Group's top environmental concern, FUJIFILM BI HK endeavours to enhance the ecological value of the vegetation cover and the biodiversity of the country parks to pursue the development of our community.



Hong Kong Air Cargo Terminals Limited ("Hactl") has rolled out its new staff uniform for frontline staff for the first time in 20 years. In keeping with the company's commitment to sustainability, Hactl was determined to use eco-friendly fabrics when producing the new uniforms. The fabric was specially sourced from a Japanese factory, which made use of discarded plastic bottles to create ultra-soft, elastic and breathable fabrics suitable for indoor and outdoor activities. To minimise waste, the team also encouraged its staff to return their old uniforms, which were then given away to NGOs and charitable organisations for upcycling. The end results are useful, durable and stylish holdalls, and toy bears made with smaller off-cuts. This creative upcycling project was a collaboration between Hactl and an NGO to provide work opportunities for people with disabilities, while contributing to a more inclusive society.



Click here for the "New lives for old uniforms" video
Click here for the "New uniform with thought woven in" video

**Arup** has contributed to a total of 11 projects honoured at the Quality Building Award 2022. InnoCell, where Arup's team ensured construction productivity and sustainability by using digital technologies, won the Quality Excellence Award and Grand Award in the Hong Kong residential (Single building) category. In addition, Central Market was awarded the Grand Award in the Hong Kong building (Renovation/revitalisation) category and the Sustainable Development Award, while Taikoo Li Qiantan in Shanghai topped the Building outside Hong Kong category.



Click here to learn more

**SGS Hong Kong Limited** and a local bank signed an MoU to promote sustainable finance and contribute to sustainable development. The joint initiative brings synergy between the two organisations and companies that are looking for ways to make their business greener and advance towards a net-zero future. The collaboration sees the provision of services including professional sustainable finance certification, evaluation and accreditation as well as sustainable financial solutions. It also helps facilitate the development of sustainable financing in the Greater Bay Area and reinforce the leading position of Hong Kong as an international sustainable financial hub.

Click here to learn more



### MEMBERS CORNER ~~~

**WSP** recently hosted a webinar to share its insight on greenhouse gas ("GHG") accounting and scope 3 emissions with over 130 participants from different sectors. The webinar touched on why GHG accounting serves as a key starting point to manage ESG needs, the key frameworks and protocols involved, and how firms could assess scope 3 emissions with an aim to improve the accuracy throughout the journey. Guided by its Future Ready approach and hands-on experience, WSP is uniquely positioned to advise and implement sustainability into projects in line with global ESG and decarbonisation ambitions.



#### **General Members**

Cathay Pacific ("CX") has signed an MoU with a major power company in China involving four Sustainable Aviation Fuel ("SAF") plants. The plants will use a pathway similar to "Power-to-Liquids" to generate SAF, converting renewable electricity into liquid fuels. The partnership aims to build and strengthen China's supply chain of SAF, which can reduce carbon emissions on a lifecycle basis by around 80%. CX has also committed to using 10% of jet fuel from SAF by 2030. Through this cooperation, CX will share international experience, SAF certification process, value chain and overall market know-how to the state-owned power company. Once these plants start to operate expectedly by 2026, each of them can produce 50-100 thousand tonnes annually.



Mayer Brown and a brand and sustainability consultancy recently launched twin reports focused on sustainable investment in Asia. The first report "Sustainable Private Equity in Asia: Through the Lenses of Compliance, Strategy and Branding" provides crucial insights into the evolving landscape of ESG and sustainability-related regulations, practices and challenges in the Asian private equity industry. Meanwhile, the second report "Sustainable Asset Management in Asia: 2023 Sustainability Pulse Check" turns the spotlight on how the broader asset management industry in Asia is responding to global trends towards sustainability.

Click here for the first report

**Click here for the second report** 



Nano and Advanced Materials Institute ("NAMI") has got fruitful results in the 2023 International Exhibition of Inventions Geneva, winning 8 Gold, 8 Silver and 3 Bronze medals. Amongst the Gold-winning technologies, "Eco-Friendly Materials for Garment Heat-Transfer Printing" is a bio-based elastic polymer with heat resistance. Derived chemically from plants, the polymers are deployed as eco-friendly materials for garment heat-transfer printing with strong adhesion on garments, replacing conventional petroleum-based materials. Meanwhile, "Plastic Bottles Based on Micro-Foaming Pellet" are mechanically strong and food contact safe plastic bottles produced at lower cost by NAMI's closed pore micro-foaming pellets, which can reduce plastic use by 16-25%.



## MEMBERS CORNER ~~~

The GREEN-UP series event has returned for its third year, providing a platform for individuals of diverse backgrounds and perspectives to explore environmental sustainability ideas and innovations. On 21 April, **Sustainable Office Solutions** coorganised the GREEN-UP event featuring two keynote presentations and an insightful discussion about "Innovating to a Sustainable Future: How Circularity and Technology are Shaping our Future".



Pamela Hinton, General Manager of SOS was speaking at the GREEN-UP

**TÜV Rheinland**'s survey on sustainable development for enterprises in mainland China and Hong Kong reveals that over 90% of respondents have established sustainable development goals, but they face challenges in achieving net-zero emissions and managing daily operations. It is also found that 70% of companies have dedicated sustainability departments or personnel. The survey shows that companies need innovation, policy support, financial resources, and a clear strategic plan to navigate the sustainability journey. Compliance leads as the first sustainability goal companies aim to achieve, followed by business ethics, service quality, and data integrity.



#### **Recently Published Sustainability Reports**

ATAL Engineering Group



Chinachem Group



Shanghai Commercial Bank



WSP



#### **WELCOME NEW BEC MEMBERS**

#### **Council Member**

• China State Construction Engineering (Hong Kong) Limited



## 中國建禁工程(香港)有限公司

CHINA STATE CONSTRUCTION ENGINEERING (HONG KONG) LIMITED

#### **Corporate Member**

• Maxim's Caterers Limited





Join us now to enjoy member exclusive rights and benefits! We welcome organisations of all sizes across diverse sectors to facilitate environmental sustainability together. For more information about our membership programme, please visit <a href="https://example.com/hembership">HERE</a> or contact <a href="https://example.com/hembership">Membership</a> Team (T. 2784 3924 | E. membership@bec.org.hk).

## **BEC SUPPORTED EVENTS**



- HKGBC Climate Change Framework for Built Environment Launching Ceremony | Hong Kong Green Building Council | 5 June
- BOCHK Corporate Low-Carbon Environmental Leadership Awards 2022 | Federation of Hong Kong Industries | Now till August
- "My Green Space" Student Competition 2022-23 | Hong Kong Green Building Council | Now till August
- Climate Action Recognition Scheme (CARS) 2022-23 | Wofoo Social Enterprises, Hong Kong SDG Hub | Now till September
- Green Building Award 2023 | Hong Kong Green Building Council, Professional Green Building Council | Now till November

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