

## Project Clean Air Moves Across the Border



“Every effort to improve air quality counts – from a single energy saving measure, to a comprehensive emissions reduction plan.” This is the key message from the Chamber’s environmental training seminar held in Guangzhou on June 5, World Environment Day, to encourage companies in the Pearl River Delta to take the first step in air quality management.

Over 200 representatives of Hong Kong and Guangdong enterprises attended the event, jointly organized by the Hong Kong Business Coalition on the Environment (BCE), Sustainable Development Subgroup of the Greater Pearl River Delta Business Council (GPRDBC), Guangdong Subcouncil of the China Promotional of International Trade, and Guangdong Association of Environmental Protection Industry.

Speakers at the seminar stressed that environmental challenges must be tackled head on with more energy and determination.

The Honourable Cheng Yu-Tong, Convenor of the GPRDBC Sustainable Development Hong Kong Subgroup, stressed that a quality environment is an issue close to the hearts of the people in the Greater Pearl River Delta and that the entire population is eager to support efforts to reduce air pollution.

Chen Ying, Director, Pollution Control Department, Guangdong Environmental Protection Bureau (GDEPB), said “Twenty-one cities in Guangdong have reached the second-grade standard for air quality, but eight cities’ sulphur dioxide emissions are beyond the national level and no measures are in place to bring them down.”

To further rein in pollution, Mr Chen said this year the focus of GDEPB’s work will be on requesting enterprises to reduce their sulphur and nitrogen emissions, developing rail and transportation networks, outsourcing electricity from the western region, as well as developing renewable and

## 「清新空氣計劃」推展至內地

clean energy. The bureau will also set up Integrated Prevention on Atmospheric Multiple Pollution across cities, and continue to cooperate with the HKSAR to enhance air quality monitoring.

“Energy conservation and emissions reduction are key themes of the 11th Five Year Plan,” Ou Jun, Director, Corporate Development of Guangdong Association of Environmental Protection Industry, said at the conference. “Industries should expect a more rigorous environmental standard from the government when seeking approval for their operations.” He emphasized that polluting enterprises will no longer be able to hide.

The Council for Sustainable Development’s ongoing “Clean Air-Clear Choices” initiative should hopefully garner practical and effective proposals that will really make a difference in improving air pollution along with the Chamber’s Clean Air Charter.

“Every person has a role to play in reducing pollution, so naturally every stakeholder should also have a say in how they think that should be achieved,” HKGCC Chairman Dr Lily Chiang said.

The “Clean Air-Clear Choices” public engagement process ([www.susdev.org.hk](http://www.susdev.org.hk)) gives people such a platform, and at the same time the results will show the government to what extent the stakeholders are willing to go to, or willing to pay, in order to improve the quality of our air.

“We trust the results of the exercise will form an initial blueprint for the government to drive forward clean air initiatives. We have some difficult decisions to make, but if the ‘Clean Air-Clear Choices’ programme clearly shows what the public wants and are willing to do to make a difference, then that will

make the decisions all the easier to make,” she added.

Dr Jeanne Ng, Vice Chairman of the Air and Waste Management Association – Hong Kong Section, an Expert Group member who helped produce the Chamber’s “*Clean Air Charter – Business Guidebook*,” gave attendees at the conference a step-by-step overview on how companies can implement an air quality management programme.

“The key element is to get the support from the top management,” she said. “Some companies can do more, some may not be able to do as much, but every step counts.”

To prove that air quality management helps companies’ bottom line, Ir Cary Chan, Head of Technical Services of Swire Properties, and Feng Guoxiang, Deputy General Manager of Zhong Cheng Chemicals, showcased their experiences in energy conservation and clean production.

Over 600 organisations and companies have so far signed the Clean Air Charter, a business sector-wide environmental initiative being driven by HKGCC and BCE under Project Clean Air. The GPRDBC is the strategic partner of the project, and the joint seminar was part of an ongoing outreach programme to spread the clean air message across the border.

“We decided to organize the training seminar on the World Environment Day to showcase best practices of clean production, encourage companies to learn from each other and enable the community to understand more what businesses are doing,” Alex Fong, CEO, HKGCC, said. “We have also initiated an audit and certification scheme to give recognition to Charter-compliant companies.” ✿



LANA BAUM / KET



在今年的世界環境日(6月5日)上,香港總商會於廣州舉辦「節能減排培訓研討會」,以鼓勵珠三角企業落實推行空氣質素管理。「無論是節約能源措施,或是全面的減排計劃,都能為清新空氣出一分力。」這是會議所帶出的重要訊息。

研討會由香港商界環保大聯盟、大珠三角商務委員會可持續發展工作小組、中國國際貿易促進委員會廣東省分會及廣東省環境保護產業協會合辦,吸引逾200位香港和廣東的企業代表出席。

會議的講者強調,我們必須以更大的決心和力量,去面對環境的挑戰。

大珠三角商務委員會可持續發展工作小組港方召集人鄭耀棠認為,優質的環境是大珠三角市民所關注的議題,兩地社會均積極支持減少空氣污染。

廣東省環保局污控處處長陳英博士說:「按照目前國家標準評級,粵省21個城市的空氣質素已達國家二級標準,但有8個城市的二氧化硫濃度超標,而且也沒有推出減排措施。」

陳博士表示,為進一步治理污染問題,粵省環保局今年的重點,是要求企業減少硫和氮的排放、建設鐵路及交通網絡、引入西電工程,以及發展清潔及可再生能源。當局亦會建立大氣複合污染綜合防治的跨市協調機制,並與香港繼續合作,完善兩地空氣監控。

廣東省環境保護產業協會產業發展部部长區軍於會上指出:「節能和減排是『十一五』規劃

的主要目標。業界應預期政府在審批業務時,將採用更嚴格的環保標準。」他強調,污染企業再也逃不過監管。

最近,可持續發展委員會亦展開「未來空氣 今日靠你」計劃,旨在徵集實際可行的建議,以有效改善空氣污染問題,與總商會發動的《清新空氣約章》共同作出努力。

香港總商會主席蔣麗莉博士說:「既然各持份者都有責任減少污染,他們自然亦有權就如何改善空氣質素而發表意見。」

「未來空氣 今日靠你」社會參與過程(網上問卷:[www.susdev.org.hk](http://www.susdev.org.hk))為公眾提供一個討論平台,而透過有關結果,政府亦可瞭解市民願意投入多少努力或付出多少金錢,以改善我們的空氣質素。

她補充:「我相信,有關結果能為政府提供初步的政策藍圖,以推動清新空氣計劃。對於某些建議應否實施,我們實在難以定論,但若『未來空氣 今日靠你』計劃明確顯示公眾的意願,我們便能易於作出決定。」

空氣及廢物管理協會香港區副主席吳芷茵博士亦應邀出席會議,並向與會者講解企業如何能逐步實施空氣質素管理計劃。吳博士是總商會的專家小組成員,曾協助編製本會出版的「清新空氣約章—商界指南」。

她說:「最重要是得到管理層的支持。有些公司可以多加努力,有些則能力有限,但它們付出的每一分力,都能為環保帶來貢獻。」

為證明空氣質素管理有助企業達致環保目標,太古地產技術統籌總監陳永康工程師及中成化工股份有限公司副總經理馮國祥亦為大會作演說,以分享和交流他們在推動節約能源和清潔生產方面的經驗。

「清新空氣計劃」是香港總商會與香港商界環保大聯盟發動的商界環保運動,《清新空氣約章》乃計劃的重點之一,迄今逾600家機構和企業已簽署了《約章》。大珠三角商務委員會是計劃的策略夥伴。是次的聯席會議是拓展計劃的一部份,旨在把清新空氣的訊息宣揚至內地。

總商會總裁方志偉表示:「我們決定在世界環境日舉辦培訓研討會,以展示清潔生產的最佳典範,鼓勵企業互相學習,並讓大眾能深入瞭解商界的環保措施。我們亦已推出審核認證計劃,以認同《約章》簽署機構所作出的努力。」