

CSDE Newsletter

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ABOUT CSDE

The “Centre for Sustainable Design and Environment (CSDE)” was established in 2017 under the Faculty of Design and Environment (FDE), which is financially supported by the Research Grants Council (UGC/IDS25/16). The mission is to promote research and development, knowledge exchange, and education in the areas of sustainable design and environment.

WHAT'S NEW

CSDE Opening Ceremony cum Student Awards Presentation

The Centre for Sustainable Design and Environment (CSDE) held its official opening ceremony cum student awards presentation at the THEi Chai Wan Room 311A on 24 April 2019.

Professor Christina Hong, President of THEi and Professor Daniel Ho, Associate Dean of the Faculty of Design and Environment gave opening remarks in the ceremony, and expressed their wishes to strengthen the collaborations with stakeholders from different fields to support and develop more research and educational programmes in future.

In addition, 21 THEi students have been bestowed with the accolades through tremendous flair and creativity. These award recipients included 5 students for the CSDE Logo Design Competition, 12 students for the AETI 2019 Student Applied Research Poster Presentation, and 4 students for the Green House Design Competition. Congratulations to all the awardees and wish them every success in their future endeavours!



IDS ACTIVITIES

Presentation at the 7th Teaching & Education Conference, ISES, London

The International Institute of Social and Economic Sciences organized the 7th Teaching & Education Conference, which was held on May 21 - 24, 2019 at the University of London, United Kingdom. The conference was co-organized by the University of West Bohemia - Faculty of Economics, and hosted by the University of London. Tris Kee, unit manager of DEEU and programme leader of Product Design at THEi presented a conference paper on “Sustainable Development and Education in Hong Kong” at the conference and promoted the latest collaborative projects with HK industries and the research capability of THEi and CSDE.



CSDE Seminar Series on China:

Sustainable Urban Development and Conservation Issues

Seminar 1: Institutional obstacles and opportunities for policy entrepreneurship in cross-border environmental management: a case study in China's Greater Pearl River Delta region

The Centre for Sustainable Design and Environment (CSDE) invited Dr. Lee Ka-yin Anna to give a seminar presentation of our new CSDE Seminar Series: "China: Sustainable Urban Development and Conservation Issues" in THEi Chai Wan campus on 17 April 2019. Dr. Lee Ka-yin Anna, Dean of Arts and Assistant Professor at Department of Social Sciences of Centennial College, shared her research findings on the topic "Institutional obstacles and opportunities for policy entrepreneurship in cross-border environmental management: a case study in China's Greater Pearl River Delta region".

During the seminar, Dr. Lee offered an explanatory study for the implementation of a trans-boundary air quality monitoring network, Pearl River Delta Regional Air Quality Monitoring Network, in 2005. Building upon the concept of "policy entrepreneurship", she discovered that the policy entrepreneur's political rank endowed him with direct access to the formal cross-border institution, through which he was able to build a close professional relationship with his mainland counterparts and enabled him to be a transfer agent. Nonetheless, she cautioned that effective cross-border collaboration is still largely dependent upon the contextual framework of the authoritarian governance regime whereby the interactions between policymakers and implementers are fundamentally shaped by institutional design and incentives. This provoking seminar attracted attentive participation by staff and students from THEi and community members.



Seminar 2: Exploring emergent soft spaces of planning in urban China: A case study of Shanghai

The Centre for Sustainable Design and Environment (CSDE) invited Dr. Lee Pui-yi Angela to give a seminar presentation of our new CSDE Seminar Series: "China: Sustainable Urban Development and Conservation Issues" in THEi Chai Wan campus on 29 April 2019. Dr. Lee Pui-yi Angela, Post-doctoral Fellow in the Centre for Water Technology and Policy at The University of Hong Kong, shared her research findings on the topic "Exploring emergent soft spaces of planning in urban China: A case study of Shanghai".

During the seminar, Dr. Lee explored the emergent soft spaces of planning in urban China through the case study of Modern Heritage Conservation in Shanghai. The use of soft spaces of planning, which means the functional planning initiatives that emerged between formal planning structures, is regarded as pragmatic solutions to achieve specific planning outcomes that would be rather difficult or time-consuming in the hard planning space, i.e. formal planning processes. First, Dr. Lee defined the concept of Modern Heritage and

outlined the increasingly expansive and convoluted conservation framework at the national and sub-national levels in China. She then gave an explanation on how conflicting priorities between the district and the city governments of Shanghai have resulted in policy deadlocks. Dr. Lee concluded her findings by arguing that soft space of planning, at the mercy of political whim and discretions of top-level officials, is necessary for achieving heritage conservation outcomes in China. This inspirational seminar attracted active discussion and participation by staff and students from THEi and community members.



The Centre for Sustainable Design and Environment (CSDE) Seminar Series on "China: Sustainable Urban Development and Conservation Issues 2019-2020" aims to enrich the knowledge of the students and staff of the Technological and Higher Education Institute of Hong Kong and the members of the public with the thematic focus on the latest urban development and conservation issues from the sustainability perspective in contemporary China. The seminar series will also be able to promote intellectual exchange and facilitate inter-institutional research collaboration for academic staff and students, as well as to enhance overall professional knowledge and practice of practitioners in the arboriculture and horticulture industry.

Master Lecture on New Learning Paradigm in Product Design: How to Manage Institution and Industry Collaboration Projects

A master lecture "New Learning Paradigm in Product Design: How to Manage Institution and Industry Collaboration Projects" by Professor Blair Kuys, Director of Centre for Design Innovation at the Swinburne University of Technology was delivered to the Product Design students on 16 April 2019.

During the lecture, Professor Kuys emphasized the importance of institution-industry collaboration and explained the working relationship required to satisfy both the institutions and manufacturers detailedly. More importantly, his lecture demonstrated how such strong alliance can result in diversified and profitable industrial-led innovations which bring real benefits to the end-users.

Professor Blair Kuys has extensive experience in product development and has a strong track-record in converting 'good ideas' into commercial outcomes. He has been instrumental in helping numerous manufacturers diversify into new markets which has recently expanded to Hong Kong, China and Malaysia.



Computer Numerical Control (CNC) Training

Technical training of principles and application of Computer Numerical Control (CNC) router was arranged for THEi students from both the Product Design and Fashion Design Programme on 28 March 2019. A total of 4 training session were conducted.

The training included the following components: 1) Introduction of Principles of CNC, 2) Applications of CNC router in product design and/or fashion design, and 3) demonstration of leather and PVC sheet cutting.

CSDE welcomes all THEi staff and students to utilize our resources in their research projects, and more training workshops on our equipment will be arranged in the near future.



Laser Cutting Technical Training

Technical training of principles and application of Laser Cutting was arranged for the year 3 THEi students from Fashion Design Programme on 28 March 2019. A total of 2 training session were conducted.

The training included the following components: 1) Introduction of Principles of Laser Cutting, 2) Applications of laser cutting in fashion design, 3) demonstration of cutting and engraving functions on cotton textile. CSDE welcomes all THEi staff and students to utilize our quipment in their research projects and our staff are looking forward to meeting you in our lab!



Field Survey Software & Hardware Sets for Tree Inventory (Field-Map System) Training

Student-centred and industry-oriented training of principles and diverse applications of Field-Map System was arranged for 7 THEi students and 2 staff from Horticulture and Landscape Management Programme on 28 May 2019 in two differential half-day training sessions.

Training 1 : Field-Map System, GIS and GPS Theories and Mechanisms

The training session titled “Field survey software and hardware sets for tree inventory (Field-Map System) Training 1: Field-Map System, GIS and GPS Theories and Mechanisms” offered by the Centre for Sustainable Design and Environment (CSDE) was held on 28 May 2019 morning at THEi Chai Wan Campus.

During this 3-hour training session, the students and staff gained the comprehensive and systematic understanding of the theories and mechanisms of the field survey software and hardware sets for tree inventory. They gained a good knowledge about the operating mechanisms and theories of the Field-Map System. Field-Map System is a very powerful forestry survey tool which converged many advanced forestry survey technologies together into one set of field mapping system. The GPS, GIS and infra-red laser range finder technologies and diverse arboricultural research applications were utilized to effectively and efficiently collect tree data and monitor changes in trees and landscape. Participants learnt to map, visualize and analyze individual trees and a plot of woodland situations for green space planning and management.



Training 2 : Practicum and Field Study

In the afternoon training session, it involved a series of experiential learning elements to demonstrate and apply the use of Field-Map System on tree surveys within THEi Chai Wan campus. Participants took turn to use the field mapping devices to map trees independently, measure and store corresponding tree attributes (e.g. tree height and diameter at breast height) into the digital maps of the Field-Map System in a collaborative approach. The demonstrations and application sessions then further developed into a chain of regular tree survey tasks in the form of learning projects at nearby public urban parks in Eastern District to support and enrich students' learning experience. The training session concluded by welcoming and encouraging THEi staff and students to utilize our research resources in the teaching, learning, community engagement and research projects.



School Talk & Taster Programme: How do arborists help trees?

「樹醫生」工作坊

A school talk and a series of visits with taster programme components to the Sustainable Living and Environment Lab (SLEL) and Greenhouse were arranged for 13 secondary school teachers on 9 May 2019.

From the school talk, the guests gained rich information about the THEi Horticulture and Landscape Management Programme and career prospects of THEi graduates. During the guided tour to SLEL, our teaching staff introduced various tree protection work equipment, as well as demonstrated and tried out the virtual tree pruning in virtual reality using latest AR/VR technology to increase guest's sustainability education capability, environmental conservation sensitivity and urban greening awareness.

Whilst visiting to the THEi Greenhouse, these guests appreciated different features of exotic and native species of plants commonly found in Hong Kong inside the THEi Greenhouse. They actively participated in the discussion with our teaching staff on the topic of sustainable development of ecosystem services in Hong Kong's compact urban areas.



School Talk & Taster Programme : Computer-Aided Sustainable Design

CSDE organized a school talk for a group of Secondary 4 & 5 students from the Jockey Club Ti-I College on 19 March 2019. The school talk introduced the current trends and innovations of product design as well as some basic concepts of sustainability as a starter for the taster programme about computer-aided sustainable product design.

A group of students from Jockey Club Ti-I College attended the taster programme about computer-aided sustainable design, which consists of 8 weekly sessions starting from March to May 2019. The taster programme covered a range of topics including product design concepts, user behaviours, applications of 2D and 3D design software, and how to generate design with higher sustainability by selection of suitable materials and way of conducting design.



School Talk for the Po Leung Kuk Vicwood K.T. Chong Sixth Form College

Three sections of school talk followed by short visits to Sustainable Living and Environment Lab (SLEL) were organized to receive a total of 102 students and teachers from the Po Leung Kuk Vicwood K.T. Chong Sixth Form College on 10 May 2019.

The school talk was a great way to introduce innovative and technology-driven horticulture and landscape management education and career prospects of THEi graduates. During the SLEL visit, students gained a brief understanding of the modern tree risk assessment machines for conducting tree health inspection and earned a new knowledge about leave features, root development patterns and Hong Kong's urban greening and sustainability challenges. All participating students recognized well that Hong Kong will need more tech-savvy arborists for professionalizing arboriculture industry and upgrading Hong Kong's urban forestry management.



School Talk for the Federations of Parent-Teacher Associations

A school talk and visit were held for 26 committee members and presidents from the Federations of Parent-Teacher Associations (including Central and Western, Wan Chai, Islands, Eastern, Southern, Kowloon City, Wong Tai Sin and Sai Kung) on 8 April 2019. In the school talk and guided tour to our THEi Greenhouse and Exhibition Gallery, the guests gained rich information about the THEi Horticulture and Landscape Management Programme. The teaching and research teams also shared with them the latest horticultural management practices, vegetation identification knowledge and daily vegetation care skills to promote sustainable urban environment.



School talk for the Principals, teachers & PTA members

A school talk and a visit to the Sustainable Living and Environment Lab (SLEL) were arranged for 17 guests, including principals, teachers and PTA members from mainly Eastern District on 9 April 2019. In the school talk and guided tour to SLEL, the guests gained rich information about the THEi Horticulture and Landscape Management Programme. Our teaching and research team members demonstrated virtual tree pruning in virtual reality using latest AR/VR technology and equipment to arouse learning interests and raise their tree care skills and knowledge.



Book Publication

Sustainable Revitalization - Adaptive Reuse of Industrial Buildings



Sustainable Revitalization – Adaptive Reuse of Industrial Buildings, edited by Tris Kee, unit manager of DEEU, associate professor and programme leader of Product Design at THEi, was recently published by The Commercial Press (H.K.). The book begins with some basic concepts and historical context of some conservation practices, followed by a series of local and overseas case studies on adaptive reuse. The book suggested a holistic approach should be taken when considering the conservation of a heritage and best endeavours should be attempted to incorporate the old with the new, with the urban context neighbourhood, citizens and potential economic impact taken into account. Other than environmental sustainability, adaptive reuse puts

emphasis on social sustainability by encouraging more local stakeholders to engage in the process of building adaptation to foster sustainable use of the built heritage.

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