

**School Outreach Programme  
Review Report**

**1. Introduction**

- 1.1 After a review of the first phase of the School Outreach Programme, which took place from October 2002 to January 2003 (visiting 22 schools), it was concluded that the programme should be extended to raise awareness of sustainable development in schools in two further phases from March – June 2003 and September 2003 - January 2004 respectively.
- 1.2 The second phase of the programme was originally organized to include visits to 13 secondary schools from March to June 2003, where SDU staff would meet Form 4 to Form 6 secondary school students. These schools were those among the 40 “suitable” schools recommended by the Education Department that gave a positive response to our visit proposal. However, as explained below, the school closure (from 29 March to 11 May) that followed the SARS outbreak affected the implementation of the programme. The schools that eventually took part in the programme are set out at the Annex.
- 1.3 This paper informs Members of our evaluation of the programme and the improvements that we will make in continuing the programme in September 2003 - January 2004.

**2. The Programme**

- 2.1 The programme contains two parts, namely exhibit display and school talks. The objectives of the programme are -
- To introduce the broad concept of sustainable development (SD) to students;
  - To raise students’ awareness on the importance of SD; and
  - To encourage students to contribute to sustainability in their daily life.
- 2.2 Further to the first phase review, we have shortened the school talk

element of the programme (which is delivered through means such as interactive games, a short video show, a Powerpoint presentation and a Q&A session) to 40 minutes. The talk format is as follows -

- (a) Introduction to SD and related world problems (10 min);
- (b) World examples & HK achievements on SD (10 min);
- (c) Interactive game (Sustainable/unsustainable lifestyles) (5 min);
- (d) What individuals could do to contribute to SD (10 min)
- (e) Questions and answers (5 min)

### 3. **Implementation of Phase 2 Programme**

- 3.1 The closure of secondary schools in March and April 2003 led to 7 schools withdrawing from the programme and left only 6 schools taking part. By the end of June 2003, a total of 770 students and 40 teachers had participated in this phase of the programme, as compared to 7660 students in phase 1.

### 4. **Observations at Schools**

#### **Feedback from the schools**

- 4.1 We generally received positive responses from school teachers and principals. Further, most of the schools that withdrew from the Phase 2 programme indicated an interest in taking part in the programme in the next school term.

#### **Students' participation**

- 4.2 The interactive Q&A and games sessions were well received with active participation from students. The interactive games showed that students could differentiate between sustainable and unsustainable lifestyles. Students were somewhat reticent during the Q and A sessions, although the "set" questions at the end of the talk allowed them to show their understanding of the subject matter.

#### **Exhibit display**

- 4.4 UV-resistant exhibit materials produced for Phase 2 are durable and serve their purpose well. They will be reused in September 2003 - January 2004.

## **5. Proposed improvements**

- 5.1 40 invitation letters were sent out in January 2003 but only 13 schools accepted our invitation. According to feedback from schools, the low response rate is due to two reasons -
- (1) Schools usually started to plan their activities for the coming year as early as in mid-August, making it difficult to accommodate other activities like the outreach programme when invitations were sent in the middle of the school term.
  - (2) The period of Phase 2 of the programme coincided with public examinations, when most of the school halls were used as examination centres. Moreover, most Form 5 and Form 7 students left schools in April to prepare for the examinations.
- 5.2 With the above in mind, we will reschedule and send invitations to schools in early August for future school activities.
- 5.4 By September 2003, some of the display material would be outdated (particularly on the SD Fund and the Council for SD) and some updating would be necessary.

## **6. Way Forward**

- 6.1 In view of the good response from schools and to extend education on the concept of SD to more students, we consider it worthwhile to continue the programme on an ongoing basis. The programme could hence remain as an integral part of our long-term education and publicity programme.
- 6.2 We will continue to run the programme from September 2003 to January 2004. The mode of presentation and exhibition would remain similar to the second phase in March-June 2003. We will also invite the schools which were affected by school closure during March - May 2003. To facilitate schools' planning, we will issue letters of invitation in early August.

## **Second Information Booklet on Sustainable Development**

In 2002, the Sustainable Development Unit (SDU) published an introductory booklet on sustainable development with the general public and primary and junior secondary school students as the target readers. The SDU plans to publish a second booklet on sustainable development, to be aimed primarily at senior secondary and junior tertiary level students.

### ***Purpose of Booklet***

The booklet aims to touch on global issues including those arising out of the Johannesburg Summit, and to familiarize readers with key concepts of Agenda 21.

It aims to provide factual information and identify key sustainable development issues, such as nature conservation, the quality of our living environment, corporate social responsibility, and social cohesion and inclusiveness.

Hong Kong is inextricably socially, economically and environmentally linked to the Pearl River Delta. The booklet will also look at sustainable development issues for the Delta region, with particular reference to Hong Kong's future needs and direction.

In the light of this background, the booklet will attempt to stimulate thinking about an SD strategy for Hong Kong.

### ***Framework of Booklet***

The proposed framework of the booklet is at [Appendix 1](#). We hope to make the booklet representative of a range of concerns, as well as to enhance creativity and stimulate interest in this issue. An important point that we would stress throughout the booklet is that sustainable development is not a matter for the government alone. Participation from NGO's, business and the wider community is essential, and we should all aim to work in partnership towards building a sustainable Hong Kong.

***Outline of content***

1. The 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development and an introduction to some important elements of Agenda 21
2. Trends in issues related to sustainable development in Hong Kong. (statistics and data over a certain timeframe, say from 1980 to 2000)
3. Setting Hong Kong in its wider regional context within the PRD, and looking at trans-boundary sustainable development issues
  - (a) The relationship of Hong Kong with the rest of the Pearl River Delta
  - (b) The quality of our living environment
4. How individuals and the various sectors of the community can contribute to sustainable development
5. Thoughts on an SD agenda for Hong Kong
6. Summary of key terms and concepts and suggestions for further reading and research

### Web-based Resource Centre on Sustainable Development

	Content
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To provide easily accessible information and reference relating to SD to the general public.</li> <li>- To provide information on local and international developments in the field of SD</li> </ul>
Content and focus: Categories and Headings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Lesson plan on SD for teachers</li> <li>- Update developments in SD field</li> <li>- Book list related to SD</li> <li>- Information on Agenda 21</li> <li>- SD related research and statistics</li> <li>- General information on SD</li> </ul>
Format	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- From the CSD/susdev web site link to web-based resource centre's sub-sites</li> <li>- Hyperlink to other resource centres or websites related to SD at local and international level</li> <li>- Select and categorize and constantly review and update the web sites under the various headings</li> <li>-</li> </ul>
Overall production time	<p>August – Dec 2003</p> <p>August 03 - Liaison with stakeholders</p> <p>Sept – Nov 03 - Collate information, data and references relating to SD</p> <p>Dec 03 - Setting up of resource centre</p>
Target	General Public
Involve Stakeholders	Tertiary Institutes/ Education Department / HKCSS / “green groups” / Government Bureau / Professional Institutes/ Government libraries in HK / International institutes

