



Carbon Neutrality Series Reviewing the Outcome of COP29 & Climate Actions: From Urban Forestry, Building Structures, to 1.5°C Pathway

14.12.2024 (Sat)
10:00am - 12:30pm



Registration: Physical



Registration: Zoom

Language English supplemented with Cantonese	CPD Hours 2.5	Admission Free	Delivery Hybrid (Pre-registration required)	Quota Virtual: 1000 persons Physical: 50 persons (First-come-first-served)
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Synopsis

Dr. Billy C.H. HAU: The Integration of Carbon Sequestration & Biodiversity in Urban Forestry in HK

Urban forestry provides numerous benefits to contemporary society. In the face of challenges posed by climate change and biodiversity loss, creating a planting design that incorporates both carbon sequestration and biodiversity enhancement is increasingly crucial. This presentation will introduce the scientific principles behind calculating tree carbon storage. It will also explore strategies for selecting suitable tree and shrub species, as well as planting designs, to optimize carbon capture and biodiversity promotion while meeting landscape and recreational needs.

Dr. Goman HO: Green Design Thinking – A Structural Engineer’s Perspective

In the quest for sustainable development, green design thinking has become a key approach in structural engineering. This presentation delves into strategies to reduce the embodied (or upfront) carbon in building structures, and will discuss methods to extend the lifespan of buildings, emphasizing the importance of repurposing and retrofitting existing structures to minimize the need for new materials. It will explore the selection of the most efficient and innovative structural systems that meet functional requirements, including optimizing column grids, headroom, and cantilever lengths to reduce material usage. Additionally, it will cover the use of off-site fabrication technology to minimize waste and improve quality control.

Mr. Lawrence LU & Bon CHEUNG: No More Hot Air ... Please! Reviewing the COP29 Outcome

The UN Climate Change Conference (COP29) just completed in November 2024 marked a pivotal moment in global climate action, convening as the first COP since global temperatures had exceeded the 1.5°C threshold. This milestone signals an urgent need for transformative policy shifts and accelerated mitigation efforts. COP29 is expected to be a "turning point," catalyzing significant commitments across emissions reduction, climate finance, adaptation, and technological innovation. Central to these efforts is the mandated update of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), with countries urged to adopt more ambitious emissions reduction targets in alignment with a 2°C warming limit. Additionally, COP29 emphasizes the essential role of multilateral cooperation in financing and technology transfer to avert future climate crises. This presentation will review the outcomes of COP29 alongside key findings from the UNEP Emissions Gap Report 2024, which underscores that remaining on a 1.5°C pathway is still technically feasible.

Speakers



Dr. Billy C.H. HAU
Principal Lecturer, School of Biological
Science
The University of Hong Kong



Dr. Goman HO
Arup Fellow, Director of Innovation



Mr. Lawrence LU
Executive Director of Civic Exchange



Mr. Bon CHEUNG
Assistant Manager of Civic Exchange

Respondent



Ar. Prof. KS WONG, GBS, JP
Chair of Wu Zhi Qiao (Bridge to China)
Charitable Foundation
Former Secretary for the Environment,
HKSARG

Moderator



Ar. Yvonne IEONG
Chair of HKIA BLA Environment &
Sustainable Development Committee

Supporting organisations

