

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2008**  
**Environment Committee**  
**Report by Mr Oscar Chow, Chairman**

Mr Chairman, members, ladies and gentlemen,

It is my privilege to present to you the work of the Environment Committee for 2007. As we all know, business can have a significant footprint on our environment, while at the same time the environment can have a significant impact on our competitiveness. So although it makes sense to protect our environment, sometimes we tend to forget this fact.

The most pressing environmental issue facing Hong Kong today is air pollution. The Chamber has long championed the call for cleaner air through our Project CLEAN AIR. But to make real improvements, a concerted effort is required by all sectors of the community. To this end, the Environment Committee has developed a report listing 43 action-oriented ideas and recommendations which call for a collective effort to tackle climate change, smog and emissions. Some of these suggestions are as simple as saving electricity, while others will require government to take the lead with legislation, such as the mandatory implementation of the building energy codes, and a ban on idling vehicles.

The Chamber has already started cooperating with various sectors of the community to work towards this objective. For example, we partnered with the Hong Kong Business Coalition on the Environment to conduct environmental visits in the Mainland under Project CLEAN AIR, which were widely covered by the media. The committee also organized a joint seminar to promote clean production to 300 Mainland businessmen in Guangzhou, supported the Council for Sustainable Development's public engagement exercise, and also partnered with the Business Environment Council to conduct a pilot Clean Air Certification Scheme. I am very happy to tell you that the Certification Scheme is now open for applications.

As the Chairman of the Environment Committee, I am personally involved in the organizing committees of two government environmental projects, respectively the \$93 million Cleaner Production Partnership Scheme, and the Hong Kong Awards for Environmental Excellence. On top of all these projects, the committee also organized regular roundtable luncheons, as well as discussions on developing Hong Kong into a carbon trading platform, and how we can build a tripartite partnership between the government, business and the community to address climate change through promoting green buildings, a green lifestyle and green business practices.

Waste management is another challenge that we face, which is why the Chamber supports the polluter-pays principle, and the Green Purchasing Charter initiated by the Green Council. Despite our best efforts to reduce and recycle waste, the reality is that enormous volumes of domestic waste will still require proper treatment and disposal, which will tax our waste disposal facilities and resources. Now that the government is working towards Integrated Waste Management Facilities, our committee is very interested in the green thermal technologies being developed under the project.

Personally, my involvement with the Environment Committee has been highly rewarding, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank our committee members and the Chamber Secretariat for their excellent support. To end, I would like to call on you all for your support to improve our environment, and to quote Al Gore: “each and every one of us must make changes in the way we live our lives and become part of the solution.”

Thank you.