

## FREE – 1-day Environmental Training Workshop for Journalists

*Organised by Kadoorie Institute, HKU & Funded by The Hongkong Bank Foundation*

### *Date & Venue:*

- 18 June 2011 (Sat) at The Kadoorie Institute Shek Kong Centre (KISK)

### *Maximum capacity:*

- 30 participants

### *Objectives:*

- To provide journalists with the basic (and inter-connected) concepts of biodiversity conservation, forest science, ecological restoration, climate change and sustainable development.
- To demonstrate the crux of today's controversial issues between environmental conservation and development locally in Hong Kong and around the world from a holistic perspective.

### *Workshop Rundown:*

Time	Activity
8:30am	Gather at Kowloon Tong MTR Station for coach pick up
9:30am-11:15am	<i>Lectures:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Concepts of Sustainable Development in the Context of Urbanisation</li> <li>• Introduction on biodiversity, forest science, ecological restoration and climate change</li> </ul>
11:15am-12:15pm	<i>Discussion:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Common difficulties encountered in reporting environment related news: some myths and misconceptions</li> </ul>
12:15pm-1:00pm	<i>Lunch</i>
1:00pm-4:30pm	<i>Field Trip:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Briefing: Long Valley-the battle field of conservation vs development</li> <li>• Field visit: Long Valley-wetland management for biodiversity conservation</li> </ul>
4:30pm-5:00pm	Green game: Environmental Titanic (on some green living facts)
5:00pm-6:30pm	<i>Workshop:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development VS Conservation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Discussion on public policies' effectiveness, pressure for private development and growing public awareness</li> <li>- Review of controversial issues for Hong Kong and the way forward</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
6:30pm-7:00pm	<i>Dinner</i>
7:00pm-9:30pm	<i>Field Trip:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Briefing: Hong Kong Amphibians and Reptiles</li> <li>• Field visit: Night Safari at Tai Po Kau Nature Reserve</li> </ul>

*Note: Language: Cantonese with training materials in English (English Interpretation if required)*

### **Programme Details:**

#### **Lecture: The Concepts of Sustainable Development in the Context of Urbanisation (by Dr. Winnie Law)**

This will be a short introductory lecture on what sustainable development is and how it may affect people's perception on the inter-connectedness between social, economic and environmental well-being. Key contents of the lecture include:

- Introduction to sustainable development
- Sustainability challenges for urban areas
- Case examples of policies and practical measures

#### **Lecture: An Introduction to Ecology, Biodiversity, Forest and Climate Change (by Dr. Billy Hau)**

In this 90-min lecture, Dr. Billy Hau provides participants with some basic concepts of ecology, biodiversity, forest science and climate change. The lecture will illustrate how human beings rely on nature and natural resources for survival and how human activities have posted impacts on biodiversity. The lecture will conclude with some way forward on how to better manage and conserve our natural environmental and resources, and the role of Hong Kong in global biodiversity conservation.

#### **Discussion: Myths and misconceptions in reporting environment related issues news**

This session will be an interactive discussion among the participants and trainers regarding some common issues and problems faced by the journalists in reporting environmental related news. Examples on some common misconceptions will be illustrated.

#### **Field Trip: Long Valley**



Long Valley became famous because of the conflicts between development (the Sheung Shui to Lok Ma Chau Spurline) and conservation. It is a classical case of its kind in Hong Kong. Yet, green groups, who are seen by many landowners and indigenous villagers of the New Territories as enemies, have managed to run sustainable development and wetland management projects in Long Valley for a number of years. In this field trip, participants will have the chance to appreciate the rich biodiversity in Long Valley and understand the challenges as well as achievements in running sustainable development and nature conservation projects in indigenous villages in Hong Kong.

#### **Green game: Environmental Titanic**

Participants will be able to learn the facts of low carbon and green living through the game.

Workshop: Development vs Conservation - Review of controversial issues for Hong Kong and the way forward

The workshop focuses on the conflicts between development and conservation, especially in the case of Hong Kong. Topics such as waste management, nature conservation, tree management, urban planning, etc will be discussed. Some factual information and different stakeholders' perspectives on these topics will be provided to participants to facilitating the discussion/debate.

Field Trip: Night Safari – Tai Po Kau

Have you ever encountered snakes and frogs in the wild in Hong Kong? Despite its small size and a long history of intensive human disturbances, Hong Kong is rich in biodiversity. Amphibians and reptiles are good examples to illustrate the rich biodiversity treasures of Hong Kong. In this night safari, you will learn about the diversity of amphibians and reptiles in Hong Kong and the threats they are facing due to human activities. You will be able to see a number of different frog and snake species in Tai Po Kau Nature Reserve. If you are lucky enough, you may be able to observe how snakes predate on frogs.



***The Trainers:***

*Dr. Billy Hau- Assistant Professor, School of Biological Sciences, HKU*

Dr. Hau acquired all of his university degrees from the University of Hong Kong (HKU). He places conservation as his ultimate goal both in teaching and research at HKU. His primary research interest is ecological restoration of terrestrial habitats. One of his recent research areas is the investigation of the most cost-effective strategy to restore the extensive degraded hillside habitats in Hong Kong. In recent years, he has extended his work on ecological restoration to slope greening and has been contributing to various contract research projects of the Civil Engineering and Development Department. As for teaching, he is a passionate teacher who is keen to develop students' real-life conservation experiences both inside and outside classrooms, hoping that this will raise the students' interest and commitment in biodiversity conservation.

Dr. Hau has made significant contributions to training the new generation of conservationists and promoting biodiversity conservation and wildlife protection in Hong Kong and Asia. Many of his former students are working in different environmental NGOs in Hong Kong and overseas as well as relevant government departments. Over the years, he has served in

Organiser:



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various committees in government departments and environmental NGOs including the newly established Hong Kong Countryside Foundation. He often takes media interviews on biodiversity conservation issues.

*Dr. Winnie Law – Teaching Consultant, Kadoorie Institute, HKU*

Dr. Winnie Law is one of the very few professionals in Hong Kong that specializes in social impact assessment, sustainable development as well as community engagement. Over the past 8 years, Dr. Law has been involved in over 20 major applied research and consultancy studies in the role of project manager and/or expert in sustainable development, public awareness building and community engagement. Dr. Law is currently the Teaching Consultant of the Kadoorie Institute of The University of Hong Kong where she co-ordinates and teaches the course, Principles of Sustainable Development of Master of Science (Environmental Management) Programme. She also manages the Lung Fu Shan Environmental Education Centre for The University of Hong Kong and Environmental Protection Department of HKSAR Government. Dr. Law was engaged as an Urban Planning Expert in a European Commission funded capacity building and environmental improvement programme in Vietnam between 2005-09 and is currently a social monitoring expert in a UNDP funded project for public administration reform for Ho Chi Minh City. Since 2005 Dr. Law has served on the Board of Directors of the Conservancy Association.