



K. Kumarasivam Endowment Fund (KKEF) Young Environmentalist Internship Award 2013

Report on the Abroad Environmental Internship Program
at Green Technology Consortium (GTC),
Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China
from 23rd April till 9th May 2014

Reported by:

Name: Mr. Ng Chuck Chuan E-mail: chuckz89@gmail.com



Certificate of completion by Mr. James and Mr. Eddie



Mr. Eddie Chan and I with GTC logo as backdrop

Green Technology Consortium

No. 12, Kam Chui Road, Kam Tsin Tsuen, Sheung Shui, New Territories,
Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China.

Tel.: (+852) 2671 8411 Fax: (+852) 2671 8772

E-mail: info@green-tech-consortium.org Website: <http://www.green-tech-consortium.org>

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Abstract

My abroad environmental internship program started from 24th April till 9th May 2014 where I was truly honored to be hosted under the direct supervision of Mr. Eddie Chan, the co-founder and President of the Global Technology Consortium (GTC), Hong Kong SAR of People's Republic of China. Throughout the entire 16-day in Hong Kong, I was given the opportunity to travel to a numerous place together with Mr. Eddie in the mission to understand the development of green technology in Hong Kong. At the same time, I was able to observe the role of Green Technology Consortium and its services as a local non-for-profit and non-governmental environmental based organization working towards the promotion of sustainable application of green technology and environmental protection in Hong Kong. Moreover, I was being introduced to many of the GTC council members and visited their diverse environmental related business companies. The GTC internship program in Hong Kong has provided me countless platforms for self-exploration of green technology and environmental protection as I was affiliated with assorted operational management, environmentally-link social engagement as well as on-site real experience. Nonetheless, I also managed to gather many new insights, ideas and information about different aspects of environmental management and technology practices during my entire internship training here. And despite the vast economic and sociological differences between Hong Kong and Malaysia, both countries are still facing many environmental challenges. Hence, I strongly believe that the application of viable green technology and sustainable livelihood would be the ultimate solutions for environmental degradation problems.

1.0 Introduction

1.1 Hong Kong SAR of People's Republic of China

The metropolitan city of Hong Kong is strategically located at the mouth of the Pearl River Delta in Southern China that bordered by the Shenzhen Special Economic Zone on the north and with a total land area size of 1,100 square kilometers. The abuzz city of Hong Kong is believed to occupy more than 6.8 million peoples where the Chinese ethnicity is the major group of people and it makes up to the largest population in the entire city. Despite that, the sizeable presence of expatriates and other groups of different ethnicity also allow the old traditional Chinese cultures blended perfectly with the Western and post-modern trends for years in the heart of the Hong Kong region.

Generally, Hong Kong is a Special Administrative Region (SAR) of the People's Republic of China, where it enjoys a high degree of autonomy as enshrined in the Basic Law (constitutional document governing the political, judicial and economic framework of Hong Kong) but the Central People's Government of the People's Republic of China is responsible for the foreign affairs and defense protection in Hong Kong.

As the history explained, Hong Kong has been part of China since ancient times as it was surrendered to the United Kingdom after a series of wars in the 19th century. On 19 December 1984, the Chinese and British Governments agreed upon in the Joint Declaration on the Question of Hong Kong, affirming that the Government of the People's Republic of China would resume the exercise of sovereignty over Hong Kong with effect starting from 1st July 1997. And since then, a Special Administrative Region was established on 1st July 1997 under the principle of "one country, two systems" that allow Hong Kong's capitalist system to remain unchanged for another 50 years.

In short, Hong Kong is a fast growing and prosperous society with an annual gross domestic product (GDP) per capita of US\$36,750 in 2013 that renowned as one of the most developed economies in Asia. Besides that, Hong Kong is also believed to be one of the most visited cities in the world where both English and Chinese (Cantonese and Mandarin) are the official written and spoken languages.

1.2 Green Technology Consortium (GTC)

Green Technology Consortium (GTC) is a non-profitable and non-governmental organization that formally established in Hong Kong SAR of the People's Republic of China on the 5th June 2012 in conjunction with the annual World Environment Day.

GTC aims to promote sustainable green technology transfer as well as to enhance environmental education awareness to the public. The vision of the organization is to promote green technology to the community in order to protect the environment and set its mission to promote environmental education by incorporating sustainable green technology to the public community in Hong Kong.

And among a few of the GTC goals are included as of the following:

- a. Provide better opportunities to all green technology practitioners;
- b. Provide platforms to access, share, dissemination the application and knowledge of the latest environmental technology;
- c. Promote and strengthen the good relations among local government, relevant departments and/or agencies that demonstrate sustainable green technologies; and
- d. Promote, organize and participate in all kinds of green technology activities.



Besides, GTC also has its own logo that consists of three different colors of leaf pieces combine to form the basic shape of a plant which symbolizes the birth and the growth of photosynthesis process in the plants.

Indeed, the GTC logo also simply highlights all of the core values of the organization where the yellow represents the land and the sun while the blue represents the clean water and blue sky as well as the technology and human conscience; and finally the green color represents the healthy growth of nature in the organization.

And generally, GTC provides many types of services which include the following:-

a) **Green Education**

GTC occasionally carries out environmental education events, green expos and exhibitions, technical seminars/lectures on the topic which are related to environmental conservation of technology.

b) **Environmental Training and Consultation**

GTC perform carbon emissions assessment, environmental auditing, assisting for eco-certification and other green consulting services.

c) **Sustainable Environmental Improvement Program**

GTC offers various eco-friendly activities ranging from urban organic farming, LED lighting, food and e-waste recycling, electric car and many more.

d) **Green Technology Project Management**

GTC also provides the latest environmental friendly, cost-effective and sustainable green technology solutions to corporations/industries.

1.3 Green Technology and Overview of Green Technology in Hong Kong

There was no specific note on the emergence of green technology, but it was believed to gain public attention way back in the end of 1990s resulted by the controversial Silent Spring book wrote by the popular marine biologist, Rachel Carson. And since then, the global movements of environmental protection and conservation have led to the development of a series of many eco-sustainable policies such as Agenda 21 (Sustainable Development) and Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) that incorporate various approaches like green economy, green technology and many more.

The terminology of green technology is also sometimes referred as environmental technology and clean technology. Typically, green technology involved the application of one and/or more fields of environmental sciences, green chemistry and environmental engineering to provide sustainable solutions in creating a new invention in minimizing the negative impacts towards human and the Mother Nature.

On the other hand, the rapid economic development over the past decades in both mainland China and Hong Kong has indirectly contributed to a rise of many environmental challenges in the country. These environmental challenges include the critical deterioration of air and water quality that led to severe environmental damage in the urban and industrial areas of Hong Kong.

And among the major cause of drawbacks are the rampant regulations and insufficient technologies to tackle and reduce various forms of pollution created from both households and industries in the city of Hong Kong. As a result of that, since the early 2000s; the Hong Kong SAR government has established the Hong Kong Science and Technology Parks Corporation (HKSTPC) that enables the progressive development of future science and technology in order to overcome the environmental problems in the society.

The HKSTPC supported various research and development facilities, infrastructure and programs including the establishment of Hong Kong Science Park, which attracts a myriad group of individuals, organizations and companies to nurture new ideas, innovate and grow in the field of green technology businesses in Hong Kong. It has created many new business opportunities for both local and international companies in a numerous field of green labels and auditing; energy efficiency; waste disposal and recycling; alternative raw materials; electric vehicles; green electronics and many more. And since then, the need for green technology solutions has never been greater where Hong Kong SAR government continuously emphasizes the sustainable growth of environmental protection in the city.

2.0 Major Involvement and Contribution to the Green Technology Consortium (GTC)

Throughout the 16 days in Hong Kong, I was hosted under the direct supervision of Mr. Eddie Chan, the co-founder and President of the GTC. I am truly blessed as I was given the golden opportunity to learn and engage into a diverse group of individuals, organizations and companies that actively involved in the environmental initiatives of green technology businesses in Hong Kong. In brief, I have divided my involvement in three different categories of the following:

- a. Operational contribution;
- b. Active engagement and association; and
- c. Fieldtrips and on-site visits participation.

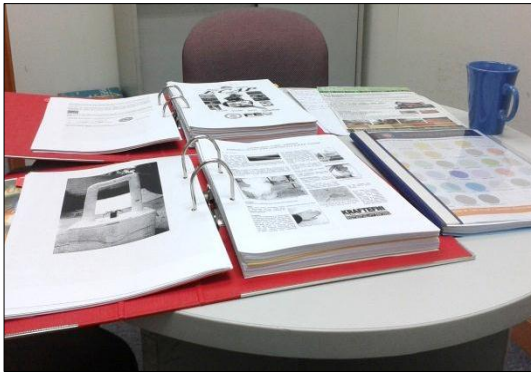
2.1 Operational Contribution

2.1.1 G-Link Development Ltd. (<http://www.g-link.com.hk/index.php>)

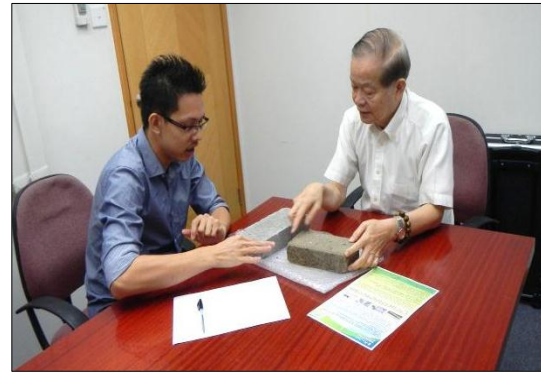
G-Link Development Ltd. was established in 2001 which committed to develop and promote environmentally sustainable products and services to the people of Hong Kong. The company gathers a group of dedicated professionals working to minimize pollution production and prevent damage to the environment.

I spent almost one whole evening in the company to understand the company's products and services. And among many of them, their business scope includes:

1. Environmental friendly energy engineering;
2. Basic insulation, thermal insulation and anti-corrosion ceramic coatings;
3. Ultraviolet and infrared thermal protective coatings;
4. Environmental remediation of rivers and lakes;
5. Energy saving products and facilities; and
6. Environmental friendly bamboo flooring.



Going through the G-Link products and services



Discussing the G-Link's eco-bricks with Mr. Lee



Group photo with Mr. Joe Lun, G-Link Manager (left); Mr. Lee WC, G-Link CEO; myself and Mr. Eddie Chan, GTC President (right)

2.1.2 Column Write-up for Journal of IFM

Mr. Eddie and I spent time together to draft a short column write-up for the Journal of IFM with “Cross border of Circular Economy in Hong Kong” as the title of the write-up. It is a bi-lingual write-up where the content of the article commented on the existing limitation of waste management system (municipal solid waste, waste minimization and recycling problems) in Hong Kong. The write-up also covered GTC’s recommendations as it emphasizes the importance of implementing green economy and introduction of circular economy in Hong Kong.

2.1.3 Presentation of Research Studies

On the 3rd of May 2014, I was given an opportunity to share my on-going Ph.D. research studies to some of the GTC members and the general public. The presentation last for 30 minutes, followed by a short Q&A session which took place at GTC office in Sheung Sui.



Sharing and explaining my Ph.D. research study projects to the audiences



A group photo taken together with part of the audiences

2.2 Active Engagement and Association

2.2.1 Sha Tin District Glass Bottles Recycling Program

I was honored that on the 27th of April 2014, Mr. Eddie Chan and I were invited as special guests to attend the launching ceremony for the Second Phase of Sha Tin District Glass Bottles Recycling Program for Housing Estates. The event took place on the Sunday's afternoon in an alfresco public auditorium hall near to the Sha Tin Marriage Registry building. The program attracted a big crowd as there were various activities including, information booths, artistic recycled glass bottles decoration exhibition and interactive games for both adults and children.



Sha Tin glass bottles recycling brochure



Official launching ceremony of the program



Launching gimmick using recycled glass bottles



Artistic decoration using recycled glass bottles

2.2.2 GTC Bi-monthly Council Members' Meeting

During my entire stay with Mr. Eddie Chan, I also managed to attend the GTC bi-monthly council members' meeting as an observer which was held on the 29th of April 2014 at Wan Chai. I was then officially introduced and get to know each and every one of the GTC's council members.

Item	Action	Champion	Target Date	Status
14041501	EC and all confirmed last minutes discussion items.	HR	140415	C
13120302	Issue GTC Museum Booth rental proposal and agreement to all members.	AY	140515	F
13120303	Application as Charity Organisation update - By Lawyer Tang Siu Wan.	EC	140515	F
14021101	Discussion of Honorary GTC Chairman Thomas Tam - \$50k Suk - 98k (50% discount to GTC members, come up with 20k).	EC	140429	F
14021102	Union Bank of Switzerland staffs visited GTC on 20 Mar, they are willing to sponsor GTC activities, Eddie will draft the action plan to discuss.	MC	140429	F
14021103	The training executive from Kadoorie Farm, Mr Yip Tai Lam proposed to visit GTC Kam Tsun Tsuen Office in Apr 2014, exact date to be confirmed by end Apr. EC and all concluded to use attached standard form to register visit purpose, expectation and results.	EC	140429	F
14021801	EC updated 2014 CLHK internship program - Construction of Green Technology Museum.	All	140429	F

Agenda for the GTC bi-monthly meeting



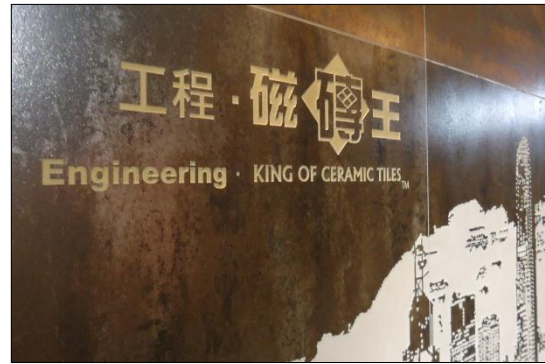
GTC council members during the bi-monthly meeting

2.2.3 BNI Energy Chapter and King of Ceramic Tiles Holdings Ltd.

I felt that I was privileged enough as I was sponsored by Mr. Eddie Chan to attend one of the largest and globally renowned business networking and referral platform events of BNI Hong Kong Energy Chapter in Cityview Hotel, Yau Ma Tei. I managed to get in touch with a myriad group of businessmen and entrepreneurs throughout the whole session of the event. And most importantly, I got to meet a well-known corporate figure due to his successful leadership and entrepreneurship in Hong Kong's ceramic tile industry; Mr. Binson Li, the CEO of King of Ceramic Tiles.



Attending BNI Energy chapter in Cityview Hotel



One of the many tiles by King of Ceramic Tiles



Mr. Binson Li in a local HK magazine cover page



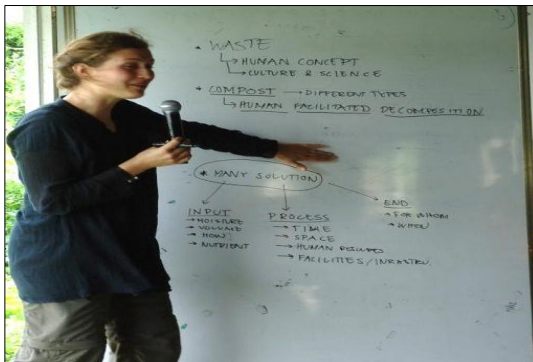
A gigantic HK scenery made by large-sized tiles

2.2.4 Knowledge Sharing with Ms. Liza Bjerke

It was truly an amazing experience that coincidentally Ms. Liza Bjerke, one of the few 2013-2014 Thomas J. Watson's Fellows was visiting to Asia (People's Republic of China) during my internship study period here in Hong Kong.

Ms. Liza was graciously invited by a local environmental organization in Hong Kong to give a short presentation on her global study of waste composting. Ms. Liza has travelled to many countries before arriving in Hong Kong as one of her pit stops to understand the adaptation of different types of locally practice waste composting methods.

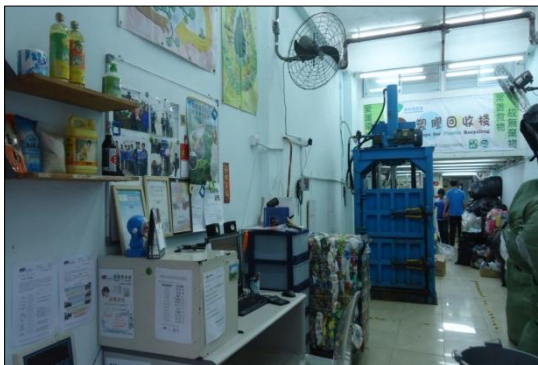
Both of us share our thoughts and ideas on the subject of integrated waste management as well as other global environmental issues. In fact, Ms. Liza and I also tagged along with Mr. Eddie Chan to visit to the Yan Oi Tong Ecopark Plastic Resources Recycling Centre in Tai Po.



Ms. Liza Bjerke giving her presentation



Q&A session with Ms. Liza Bjerke



Yan Oi Tong Ecopark Plastic Resources Recycling Centre



Group photo together taken at the recycling centre

2.3 Fieldtrips and On-site Visits Participation

2.3.1 Site Visit to Tai Po District

On the 1st of May 2014, I accompanied Mr. Eddie Chan together with few other GTC council members to have a morning visit tour to Tai Po District. Among the highlights of the site visit were meeting and having a breakfast discussion with Dr. Lau Chee Sing, the elected Tai Poi District Councilor. We walked around the popular tourist sites of Tai Mei Tuk at Tai Po and surveying the environmental conditions of the area. Besides, we also take the chance to have a friendly discussion about future environmental development plans at Tai Mei Tuk with Dr. Lau.



Touring around Tai Mei Tuk area



Walkabout around Tai Mei Tuk area



Visiting to the Tai Mei Tuk refuse collection point



Group photo together with Dr. Lau (third from left)

2.3.2 Visit to Hong Kong Organic Waste Recycling Centre Ltd. (HKOWRC)

I went to visit Mr. Henry Ngai, CEO of Hong Kong Organic Waste Recycling Centre (HKOWRC) on the 3rd of May 2014. Mr. Henry Ngai gave me a tour around his Centre as well as explaining the services that HKOWRC provides. Generally, HKOWRC provides daily food waste recycling service; agricultural and auxiliary products from FoodCycle series; sales and/or rental of waste management equipments; carbon reduction consultancy; and environmental education to the public.

HKOWRC was initiated in 2012, and since then the company has adopted many advanced environmental initiatives in providing a one-stop recycling solutions to organic wastes such as sustainable organic waste collection, composting, organic farming and etc.



Organic waste bins in HKOWRC



Compost processed from organic wastes



HKOWRC composts ready to be use as fertilizers



Mr. Henry Ngai and his organic farm in HKOWRC

2.3.3 Site Visit to EASY Organic Farming Ltd. (<http://www.easyorganicfarming.com/>)

I went to Tuen Mun alone on the 5th of May 2014 and visited EASY Organic Farming company. I managed to talk to the CEO of EASY Organic Farming, Mr. Mawin Cheung. There is something unique about the company as it aims to provide a new platform for modern peoples to enjoy the excitement of hands-on experience by cultivating their very own edible vegetables. EASY Organic Farming offers various innovative products and services in order to ensure everyone able to enjoy a fruitful farming experience regardless of their location either back at homes and/or working offices. All of the organic farming products are fun and simple to be used. The company also specializes in building all-kind of feasible and mobile organic farming products including farming in the rooftop, balcony, garden, indoor, fencing wall and many more. As many may not know that there are a numerous benefit of growing organic vegetables and that includes to ensure food freshness and safety; cost saving; release personal pressure; better interpersonal relationship; as well as it is environmentally and aesthetically pleasing.



EASY Organic Farming signboard



Examples of EASY Organic Farming products



Visited to the company's rooftop farming site



Mr. Mawin Cheung and his rooftop garden

2.3.4 Visit to Geb Impact Technology Co. Ltd. (<http://www.gebimpact.com/>)

Mr. Eddie and I made a short visit to Geb Impact Technology company in Tseun Wan and we managed to meet the company's Managing Director, Mr. James Chang. The establishment of Geb Impact Technology is still very new where the company focuses on the influence study of different light pathways for the most ideal and optimum growth of vegetables. The company conducted pilot research studies with the illumination of LED lights and tested using lettuce plants. It will definitely be a great discovery breakthrough if Mr. James and his company manage to design a principle model that absorbs the most suitable light wavelength to provide the maximum growth of plant vegetables.



Geb Impact Technology signboard



Past research outcome of lettuce plants



Research laboratory in Geb Impact Technology



A photo together with Mr. James Cheung (most left)

2.3.5 Baku Baku King and Hong Kong Hydroponic Plantation

Mr. Joe Lun, one of the GTC council members brought me to visit a food waste composter machine which located not too far from the Olympic MTR station. The Baku Baku King food waste composter machine that incorporates the technology from Japan was bought by the Sino Green (a subsidiary company of Hong Kong Sino Group) and place in operation at the Olympian City Shopping Mall. Besides that, Mr. Joe also brought me to visit a large-scaled hydroponic organic vegetables farming by the Hong Kong Hydroponics Plantation Group Ltd. in Yuen Long.



Checking the food waste composter machine



A Baku Baku King poster found in the mall



Visit to HK Hydroponics Plantation in Yuen Long



A variety of salad vegetables planted in the farm

2.3.6 Fieldtrip to Macau SAR of the People's Republic of China

On the early morning of 7th May 2014, together with a group of GTC council members; we went across the Hong Kong ocean to Macau via a turbojet ferry. It takes about an hour to reach Macau and subsequently, we proceeded the journey to Galaxy Macau via the free shuttle bus at the Macau Maritime Ferry Terminal. The purpose to Galaxy Macau was to have a regular inspection check on the Global Eco Resources (GER)'s food waste decomposer machine. The South Korean built-in technology of food waste decomposer was bought by the management of Galaxy Macau Hotel, a five-star world class Asian resort hotel in Macau not long ago. We have a random look at the food waste decomposer which placed at the kitchen of the hotel to ensure that it functions well.



Taking the turbojet ferry to Macau



Food waste decomposer at Galaxy Macau

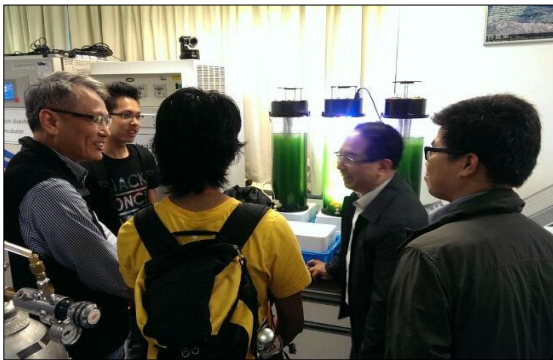
And subsequently, we continued our journey to Rio Hotel, Macau to meet and have an early lunch with Dr. Ho Wai Tim, the Chairman of Macau Ecological Society. There were also Mr. Sam Wong, Managing Director of EIA Consultancy Ltd. Co. Macao and his colleague, Mr. Chong Leong that joined us for the luncheon. All of us have an interactive discussion about the development and future partnership programs of sustainable green technologies in both Hong Kong and Macau regions.



A group photo taken after the luncheon Mr. Franklin Zee (left), Mr. Michael Wong, myself, Mr. Sam Wong, Mr. Billy Lee, Mr. Chong Leong (right), Mr. Joe Lun (seated left), Mr. Eddie Chan and Dr. Ho (seated right)

2.3.7 Study trip to the Open University of Hong Kong (OUHK)

On my second last day in Hong Kong, I also take the opportunity together with Mr. Eddie Chan and Mr. James Chang to visit to the Open University of Hong Kong (OUHK). I very glad as we managed to meet Prof. Dr. Ho Kin Chung, the Dean for School of Science and Technology in OUHK. Prof. Dr. Ho is an environmental scientist where he actively researches on algae biomass production in treating and remediating contaminated wastewater. Besides that, we were also given an explanation tour around Lee Hysan Science Laboratories in OUHK led by Dr. Wong Yee Keung, a senior lecturer in OUHK where he works collaboratively with Prof. Dr. Ho on the algae research projects.



Touring around the algae research laboratories



Group photo together with Mr. Wong (third from left)

3.0 Green Technology in Malaysia

And as we look into the development trend of green technology in Malaysia, we have started GreenTech Malaysia and formerly known as Pusat Tenaga Malaysia since the early May 1998 by the Ministry of Energy, Telecommunication and Post (and now known as KeTTHA). The Pusat Tenaga Malaysia was initially set up as a driving force in accelerating the national economy and promoting sustainable development.

And today, the Malaysian Green Technology Corporation (GreenTech Malaysia) was rebranded from Pusat Tenaga Malaysia on April 2010. GreenTech Malaysia is now a not-for-profit organization under the purview of the Ministry of Energy, Green Technology and Water of Malaysia (KeTTHA) which serves the purpose to catalyze green technology deployment as Malaysia's strategic engine for socio-economic growth.

For the past 15 years, there have been a number of successful local and international collaboration projects executed by GreenTech Malaysia. And the most significant one was the launched of National Green Technology Policy (NGTP) on July 2009 by the Prime Minister Dato' Sri Najib Razak. Under the NGTP policy, various initiatives such as the National Green Technology and Climate Change Council (MTHPI), ASEAN Energy Manager Accreditation

Scheme (AEMAS), Green Technology Roadmap, Green Technology Financing Scheme (GTFS), Green Township and Green Labeling (GreenTAG), Green Malaysia Plan 2030, green procurement, sustainable living and many other initiatives were implemented to generate more awareness of green technology applications in the country.

Even though GreenTech Malaysia has developed many initiatives over the years, yet there are still many rooms for further improvement that Malaysia can look into. For example, the discovery and application of green chemistry and eco-design of sustainable material management might be key precursors that we may need for the future growth and advancement of green technology in Malaysia.

4.0 Leisure and Time-out in Hong Kong and Macau

All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy, that was the saying I told myself when I was running my abroad environmental internship training program with GTC. Hence, I searched for my personal free time and I have gone to many local and tourist attraction places throughout my whole 16-day stay in Hong Kong. And among many of them, the most significant include of homestay at Mr. Eddie Chan's house and visited his innovative self-made environmental gadgets; having BBQ with Mr. Eddie's neighbors; went kayaking and dragon boat riding with Mr. Eddie at Tai Po; visited Lan Kwai Fong and other famous street places like Temple' street and Ladies' market; solo trip to Lantau island and Tai O village; went to Sik Sik Yuen Wong Tai Sin Temple, hopping around at Avenue of Stars and Sky100; went to Macau casinos and the list keep goes on.



Kayaking with Mr. Eddie at Tai Po



At Lan Kwai Fong with Mr. Joe



Together with Mr. Eddie at Macau



Solo picture taken at MGM casino, Macau



Walkabout at the street of Macau

5.0 Conclusion

A total of 16-day internship training in Hong Kong was indeed a unique experience for me as I was afforded the opportunity to meet many distinguished people as well as traveling to various parts in Hong Kong and Macau regions. This international environmental based internship program has opened my eyes to a different aspect of understanding the development of green technology in Hong Kong.

In fact, the internship program also has sharpened my knowledge and exposed me to a different perspective of green technology and environmental protection. And from the very short period of time in Hong Kong, I have managed to enhance global linkages among various professional networks in the field of green technologies in Hong Kong and Macau as well as created a mutual partnership and potential collaboration opportunities in the near future. Moreover, the GTC internship program has indirectly increased my social-cultural understanding and enriched my self-travelling experiences in the abuzz yet exciting and lively city of Hong Kong.

The invaluable knowledge and site-exposure experience that I gained from GTC in Hong Kong would be insignificant if there is no dissemination of learning information back to the people and the communities in Malaysia. It is certainly utmost important that Malaysia regardless of the individuals, organizations and/or governments should have a continual effort in evaluating all of the possible best management practices (BMP) of green technology application in the nation.

In a nutshell, all of us need to recall that the pioneer application and development of green technologies are the caused and mending actions of what we have done in our past human intervention towards the environment.

“The Mother Earth is just enough for everyone’s need but not everyone’s greed” – Mahatma Gandhi

6.0 Acknowledgement

I would like to thank ENSEARCH and the K. Kumarasivam Endowment Fund (KKEF) Board of Directors for giving me this international environmental based internship opportunity to Hong Kong and specifically Ms. Audrey Percival for all of the documentation and logistics arrangement.

Nevertheless, a special appreciation to Mr. Eddie Chan and the other Green Technology Consortium (GTC) council members for all of the boundless guidance and warm hospitality that I have received during my entire internship period in Hong Kong.



2013 KKEF Young Environmentalist Internship Award Ceremony

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