

SIK SIK YUEN'S PROPOSAL TO MOVE TOWARDS A GREEN ORGANIZATION

1. Background

Sik Sik Yuen (the Yuen) was first founded in 1921. We are a religious charitable organization, which practices Taoism, Buddhism and Confucianism. Following the guiding principles of Master Wong Tai Sin, “to Act Benevolently and to Teach Benevolence”, the Yuen provides community services: education, social and medical services. Taoism is a religion which advocates “harmony with our nature” and “kind to the earth”. In the Wong Tai Sin (WTS) Temple, the Yuen has promulgated its environmental policy and practices since the 80s. We forbid the burning of paper artifacts in the temple. We tried to dissuade worshippers from bringing environmental unfriendly offerings such as oil and candle. In recent years, we encouraged them to use more environmental friendly offerings such as flowers.

For years the Yuen has been pursuing to become a “Green Temple”. We also continuously promulgate the environmental concept to our subsidiary service units in education, medical services and social services by building green roof, renewable energy study centre, developing green campus at schools, setting up green kitchens with electric power cooking, adopting more energy-saving equipment such as ozone washing machine at elderly homes etc.

To further enhance our environmental projects, in 2010 the Board of Directors of the Yuen initiated and formed an “Environmental Projects Steering Committee”. The Green Pledge (see Appendix A) we made sketches our vision to the future, i.e. to move towards a “Green Organization”

2. Our Clients: the worshippers, visitors and the people we serve

Being one of the most popular tourist attractions in Hong Kong, the WTS Temple records over 5 million visitors every year; many of them are tourists from Mainland China. We believe that we are ready to become a “Green Temple” and to demonstrate publicly as a “green role model” in the community.

Standing at the foot of Lion Rock for over 90 years, the WTS Temple is not only one of the most famous architectural landmarks, but is also an important cultural icon for traditional Chinese religions in Hong Kong. The Temple attracts nearly 800,000 local worshippers every Chinese New Year to make their new year wishes. With this unique position, we could serve as an educational platform to bring home the Taoist concept of “harmony with the natural environment” so as to enhance public awareness to environmental conservation.

Sik Sik Yuen, the charitable organization behind the WTS Temple, provides education, social and medical services to all walks of life in Hong Kong: from those aged below 3 to over 60; from people who are underprivileged to those who need care and attention; from pupils who need basic education to their parents. Our services net is widely spread and it is estimated that at least 145,000 people are benefited in one way or another. The whole community will be able to understand our pursuance to benevolence, and appreciate our commitment to environmental protection.

3. Our Commitment and Target

In July 2010, the Board of Directors of the Yuen resolved, inter alia, that a Steering Committee be formed to take overall charge of the Yuen’s total commitments in becoming a Green Organization and to bring about green initiatives in the WTS Temple as well as all the Yuen’s subsidiary units and schools. Our Green Pledge was formally adopted by the Board in September 2010 (see Appendix A). Our target is to make our temple a Green Temple and to allow the Yuen to evolve into a Green Organization in about three years.

A working group will be formed under the Steering Committee to bring about changes in the organization and to monitor the implementation of various environmental initiatives and projects. This working group, led by the Yuen’s Chief Executive Officer, comprises representatives from all major departments/units. It will become the executive arm of the Steering Committee.

The Yuen is thus committed –

- (a) to promote environmental consciousness and conservation in the community;
- (b) to pursue an environmental concept in operating our education, medical and social services;
- (c) to improve the environmental quality in the WTS Temple as well as all the schools and services units of the Yuen; and
- (d) to introduce the concept of Low Carbon to all visitors, clients, students and their parents.

4. Our Green Strategies

To take our first step forward towards a Green Organization, we have formulated the following strategies:-

(a) **Reduction of Carbon Emission**

Burning incense is a traditional practice for most temples. As one of the most popular temples in Hong Kong, the WTS Temple receives thousands of visitors everyday, with a huge amount of incense to be brought in and burnt. Burning incense causes several major types of environmental concerns: smoke causes air pollution, health hazard, facility contamination; incense ash leads to solid waste problem; odour brings with unpleasant smell and discomfort to visitors, temple staff and residents nearby.

There are existing techniques to move the smoke and dust originated from joss and incense burning in large furnaces, e.g. the technique of simple filtering and the electrostatic participation techniques. We propose to minimize the pollution problems originated from incense burning through the installation of an advanced Incense Smoke & Odour Reduction System in the WTS Temple. The system includes modification to incense burner internal ventilation, smoke & odour collection and filtering, ash regeneration and utilization. Our plan is to liaise with a local institute to provide technical support to the development and operation of an advanced incense smoke reduction system. The reduction of carbon emission mentioned above may be evaluated by carbon footprint analysis.

(b) **Energy Efficiency**

We have already started establishing and maintaining greening facilities, e.g. green roof and green campus in Ho Fung and Ho Dao Colleges. More greening facilities for our schools are under consideration, such as green lunch facilities, food waste composter and dish washing facilities etc. Each school is handling a large scale of food and beverage services daily and a small step of improvement in facilities will result in a significant reduction in waste and carbon footprint. Renewable energy facilities such as solar panels, small wind turbine, solar water heating units will also be brought in for our schools. Greening facilities and renewable energy facilities will also be implemented in our subsidiary social services units.

Energy saving measures will be introduced in the WTS Temple: replacing the existing fluorescence lamps with T5 type, re-arranging lighting zones, using

grade I cooler and scale control technology in air cooling system, building a Green Kitchen, etc.

Tracking carbon emission in the entire organization will be a difficult task. Nonetheless, we believe that carbon footprint and audit will help evaluate the outcome of our measures and quantify the environmental benefits of the energy efficiency facilities.

(c) Green Construction and Building Management

We address the environmental concerns in construction and building management. For the future building and establishment, a green construction standard will be incorporated. As far as possible, construction will seek to be environmentally responsible and resource-efficient throughout a building's life-cycle: from siting to design, construction, operation and maintenance. Design of natural lighting and ventilation will be adopted. The construction team will pay more attention to the type of building materials to be used, carbon footprint to be made, construction waste management etc. Green concepts will be adopted in new construction, e.g. Green Kitchen in the WTS Temple. Further more, similar concepts will be adopted for renovation works, facilities management and maintenance of existing buildings, such as the 6-storey Social Services Complex.

(d) Green Education

Within the WTS Temple, there is a large garden, the Goodwish Garden, with an area of about 8,000 square meters. With a great variety of plants, birds, bees, butterflies, fishes and carps, the garden has great potential to become an educational platform for the public, where they may learn more from a natural environment about the balance of ecology and green concept.

An ecological path in the Goodwish Garden will be developed with the support from one of our subsidiary education units, the Ho Koon Nature Education cum Astronomical Centre. Ho Koon has long been working on promoting ecology, and is experienced in organizing field studies, life wide learning and liberal studies courses for many secondary and primary school students, as well as kindergarten children in Hong Kong.

There will be several major educational components in the ecological path, including a learning focus to plants and butterflies, a demonstration to the balance of water system, and a practicing example in renewable energy and recycling of resources. The learning focus to plants and butterflies will allow

the public to understand more the features of many common plants and butterflies species in Hong Kong and their ecological value. A rain harvesting system will demonstrate the recycling of water in the Garden. Rainwater and wastewater will be collected from the fishpond and the water collected will be treated and reused in the irrigation system. Another demonstration of waste management will be done by recycling deadwood and rotten leaves and reused as manure for the planting. Renewable energy will be practiced through wind & solar energy equipment. The effectiveness of the educational components stated above will be evaluated by collecting survey questionnaires or other interactive participation from the public.

(e) Environmental Reporting System and Publicity

We aim to become a role model in Hong Kong. It is therefore significant to adopt an Environmental Reporting System to let the public know our achievements and where improvements could be made. Our approach is three-fold: -

- (i) We shall make full use of our website to publicize our Green Pledge, Green Objectives, governance structure, carbon audit results, carbon reduction targets, etc. Our overall performance results will be summarized in our annual reports and our newsletter(園訊);
- (ii) Exhibition tours will be conducted in our schools and services units to serve educational as well as reporting purposes. We hope to bring a clear green message, not only to our students and service recipients but also to their families;
- (iii) To arouse public awareness to our green avocation and to encourage the worshippers to accept the concept of Green Temple, the Yuen will continue to promote the use of environmental friendly offerings in the Temple.

It is also our intention to gain public recognition as a “green role model”. In this connection, the Yuen will, in due course, participate in the Awards for Environmental Excellence (HKAEE) CarbonLESS certificate scheme.

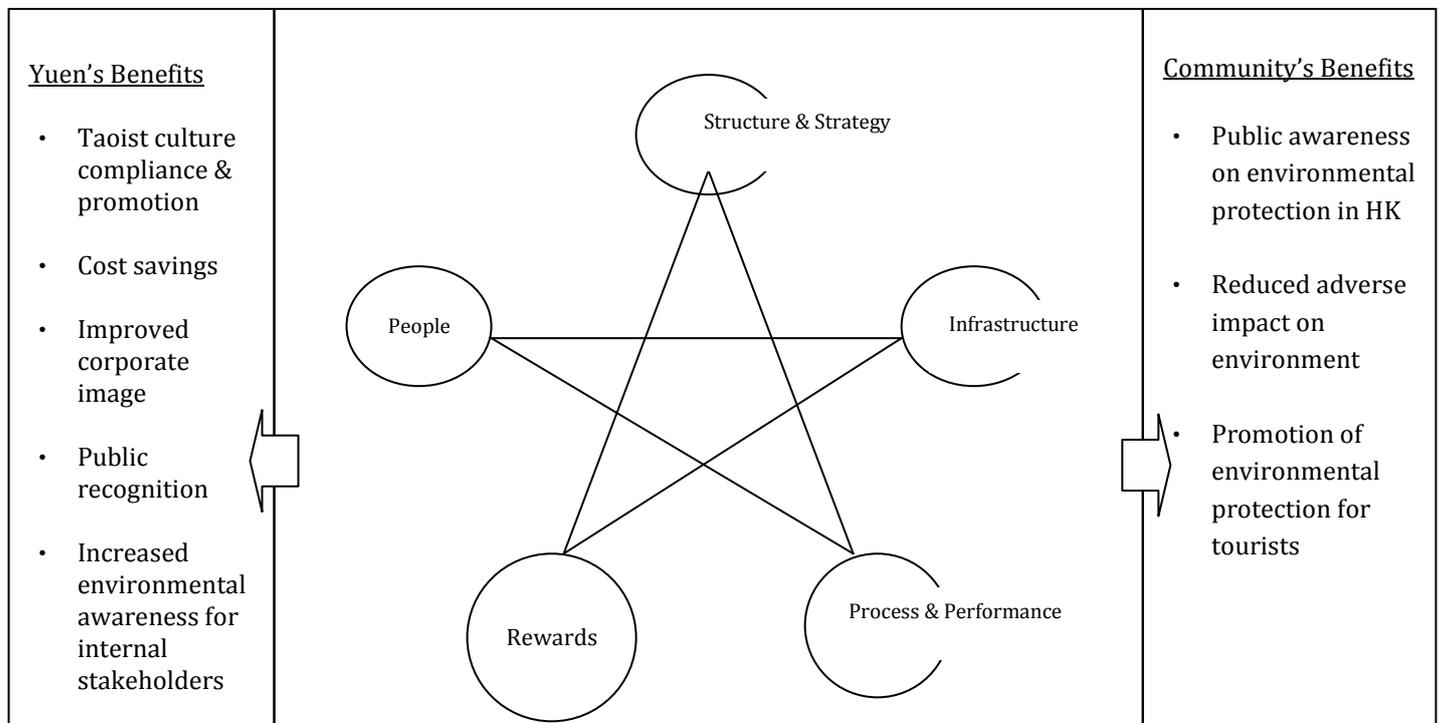
(f) Governance Structure

The Yuen's top management is aiming to evolve a scheme to become a Green Organization, comprising a Green Temple, in three years. The Environmental Projects Steering Committee is tasked to achieve the Yuen's objectives. The Chief Executive Officer of the Yuen will set up an Environmental Working Group under the Steering Committee with representatives from the Yuen's major services. The working group will assist the Steering Committee in implementation of various projects and to help monitor progress of individual projects and schemes. It will also liaise with other organizations and share with them experience in the establishment of green facilities and energy saving practices.

We are confident that this management system and structure will help achieve satisfactory results in the Yuen's Green Governance.

5. Green Model

In order to achieve our green commitments and implement our green initiatives effectively, we have built up the following Green Model :



6. Benefit to the Community

Over the years, the Yuen has developed into a well-known charitable institution. Apart from the Yuen's religious affairs in the WTS Temple, we serve the community in three major areas. In the education sector, we are operating 4 secondary schools, 3 primary schools, 1 through-train primary & secondary school, 7 kindergartens / child care centres and 1 nature education cum astronomical centre, with totally over 8,000 students and more than 800 staff. In respect of social services, we are now running 5 Homes for the Elderly, 8 Neighbourhood Centres for Senior Citizens, 1 Social Centre for Senior Citizens, 1 Health Care Services Centre, and 2 District Community Centres for Senior Citizens, providing diversified services for the aged in the community. On the medical services front, the Herbal Clinic provides free herbal medicament for the public, the General Clinic, Dental Clinic, Physiotherapy Centre and Optometry Centre render high-quality medical services at subsidized prices, benefiting over 100,000 service recipients per year.

In addition, we have directly or indirectly benefited the following people in the community: -

- (a) parents of our students;
- (b) family members of service recipients of medical and social services.

(For details, see table below.)

| | | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------|---|------------------|---|----------------|
| Number of staff (Temple) | 130 | Number of members/ Visitors p.a. | 4,500,000 | -- | -- |
| Number of staff (Education Services) | 800 | Number of service recipients (Students) | 8,000 | Number of parents | 16,000 |
| | | Number of Visitors to Ho Koon Nature Education cum Astronomical Centre p.a. | 27,000 | / | / |
| Number of staff (Social Services) | 450 | Number of service recipients | 10,000 | Number of family member of service recipients | 30,000 |
| Number of staff (Medical Services) | 40 | Number of service recipients | 100,000 | Number of family member of service recipients | 300,000 |
| Total number of staff | 1,420 | Total number of service recipients | 4,645,000 | Total number of parents/ family member of service recipients | 346,000 |

7. Consultancy support

This proposal involves a wide spectrum of aspects and it requires extensive technical and professional know-how to launch and implement the projects. We will have to look for consultants to assist us in the following areas: -

1. To advise on formulating the Yuen's environmental policy and on drawing up a management plan towards a green organization;
2. To propose and monitor the action plan for implementation the projects;
3. To assess the feasibility and effectiveness of the Yuen's green initiatives;
4. To perform an environmental audit for calibration and performance assessment;
5. To assist in assessment of tenders and vendor selection;
6. To seek advice from and to communicate with the relevant government bodies, professional bodies, the tertiary education sector for better implementation of the project;
7. To assist in promoting the Yuen's green education programmes through seminars and publication

It is proposed to reserve 7.5% of the project sum, i.e. \$1.5M to engage suitable consultants.

8. The Way Forward

We wish to become a green partner of the Environment and Conservation Fund (ECF). We are therefore seeking ECF's support to our proposal as summarized above and the estimated project sum is \$21,292,000 in total (See details in Appendix B).

9. Other Green Partners

The Chinese Manufacturers' Association of HK and the China Light & Power Co. Ltd will become our green partners to support our Environmental Project in one way or another. We would also like to enlist the support of local green organizations such as Green Power who could share their valuable experience with us on environmental improvement measures.

Sik Sik Yuen
May 2011

Sik Sik Yuen's Green Pledge

嗇色園環保約章

背景

嗇色園乃一所宗教慈善團體，恭奉赤松黃大仙師，尊崇道、釋、儒三教，自 1921 年成立以來，一直以黃大仙師寶訓「普濟勸善」為宗旨，除宣法弘道外，亦於本港致力推動公益善業，包括贈醫送藥、興學育才、安老護耆。

道家以老子的「道法自然」為中心思想，故嗇色園黃大仙祠自八十年代開始逐步推行環保政策，於祠內實施「禁燒元寶」，倡議減少燃燒紙張及蠟燭，又勸籲善信不帶備生油入祠，鼓勵珍惜資源避免浪費。數年前起黃大仙祠推出「供花祝願卡」，讓善信透過以鮮花作供品祈福祝願，避免將金錢浪費於不利生態環境之供品上。

嗇色園一直致力讓黃大仙祠成為一座「環保廟宇」，並持續將愛護環境的理念推展至轄屬的醫療、教育及社會服務單位，包括於學校興建綠化天台、於安老院改建綠色廚房、更換節能照明裝置等。

嗇色園董事會於 2010 年正式成立「環保項目專責委員會」，負責制訂及推動環境保護項目，並訂立下述環保約章，致力將嗇色園發展成為一所「綠色機構」。

約章內容

我們認為：

- 道家思想崇尚自然，認為萬物始終回歸大自然，因此世人應愛惜天地自然，與之保持和諧平衡。
- 保護環境包括指減少不必要的能源及資源消耗、減少溫室氣體及碳排放、盡可能減少對生態平衡的影響。
- 實踐環保的生活模式，有助保持人與自然之間的平衡，維持人類良好的生活環境。
- 愛護環境，人人有責，每一個人都可以積極參與，為保護環境減少建築物的溫室氣體排放。

我們承諾將會：

- 鼓勵和協助本園及屬下單位進行碳審計，並按審計結果提出的建議，制訂可量度目標的實施方案，改善其溫室氣體及碳排放表現。
- 鼓勵及促進減少溫室氣體排放，支持可抵消溫室氣體及碳排放的活動，例如於黃大仙祠花園內建立生態徑以推廣生態平衡的環境。
- 在可行情況下，盡量引入更環保的設備、產品和作業方法，包括改建祠內廚房成為綠色廚房、支持日後更換節能交通工具如電動車或混合動力車等。
- 與社會上各持份者攜手合作，推廣最佳做法及促使行為習慣改變，以減少溫室氣體排放。
- 緊密與自然保育基金委員會及環境局聯繫，支持一切有助保護環境的政策措施，積極回應及善用政府提供的資源，致力實踐及協助推廣環保。