

Speech on environmental protection

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Science and technology are being developed for humans' convenience. Everybody thinks it's a good thing. However, under this seemingly beneficial interface, our environment really gets harmed. It is no exaggeration to say that the environment satisfies our needs, but never satisfies our greed.

We, human beings, have long used our natural resources in the wrong directions. We have heard enough cases of human activities that damage our lovely home. Global warming melts polar ice and causes flooding of coastal areas. Urbanization and deforestation deprive animals of peaceful homes. Over-exploitation of illegal trade in wildlife and plants are in most cases severely threatening the survival of many species, especially the endangered ones. Last but not least, toxic chemicals from industries enter the food chain and put natural organisms at risk. These are what we keep doing every single day...

It's completely unfair to our environment which contributes to our development so much. Bear in mind, if there are no resources, how do science and technologies come from? So, it's a must to get involved in environmental protection.

Actions are guided by policies. At present, environmental protection and nature conservation in Hong Kong relies on a series of land use control, planning legislation, as well as control against pollution. Unfortunately, the Hong Kong SAR Government still has no active conservation policies. So, the Government should legislate a regulatory framework that facilitates sustainable conservation and environmental management. It is hoped that the world's biodiversity can be conserved, use of renewable natural resources can be made sustainable, and the reduction of pollution and wasteful consumption can be promoted.

Schools and environmental education organizations should make compulsory for students to take part in a wide variety of education programmes which, in general, aim at enhancing students' understanding and eco-awareness of our natural habitats, emphasizing the importance of conservation for both wildlife and mankind.

As a student, if we can make small simple changes in the way we live, that will make a big difference to our environment. For example, turn off lights and air-conditioners when leaving a room, and switch off all electrical appliances, such as, televisions and computers, when not in use. Buy products made from recycled materials whenever you can. Avoid buying disposable items, such as, paper cups or plates. Bring your own shopping bag when you go shopping. Persuade your family members to do so.

Finally, according to a popular movie called 'The Day After Tomorrow' about environmental awareness, we should bear the responsibility of protecting our environment instead of destroying it. Everyone in Hong Kong has a role to play in saving our natural habitats. So the action begins with you! Please think about what you can do to save Hong Kong's threatened natural habitats so as to leave a greener world for our future generations. I recommend all of you do it hand-in-hand.

I hope my sharing can help you to understand the importance of being environmentally friendly.