

Project Title : Nurturing Global Environmental Leadership

Leading University : Hong Kong Baptist University

Participating UGC-funded University(ies) : City University of Hong Kong, The Chinese University of Hong Kong, The University of Hong Kong

Project Leader(s) : Dr Jill M Y Chiu, Department of Biology, Hong Kong Baptist University

Layman Summary of Proposal

Despite that environmental issues are typically multi-facet by nature, environmental education programs currently being offered by the local tertiary institutions are predominately mono-disciplinary with primary emphasis on classroom learning. Our Project Team, which encompasses 12 world renowned environmental, anthropology and cultural experts from Hong Kong Baptist University (the lead institution), City University of Hong Kong, The University of Hong Kong, The Chinese University of Hong Kong and Baylor University in the United States, here proposes a brand new inter-institutional program. Our vision is to use a multi-disciplinary approach, incorporating science, socio-economic and cultural dimensions, coupled with a diverse suite of teaching and learning activities (e.g. guided self-learning, experiential and service learning, role-play and brainstorming exercises and public engagement) to nurture students as global environmental leaders to meet with the challenges presented to Hong Kong and the region in coming decades. The proposed program will enable our students to progressively acquire the multi-disciplinary skill-sets, consider and tackle environmental problems from different perspectives, acquire a global perspective and hands-on experience on real-world environmental problems, and develop their own ideas and effectively communicate them to stakeholders and the general public. We envision that this project will not only set a precedent model of shared common education program among local institutions, but also help us to position Hong Kong as a leader in multi-disciplinary environmental education in China and the region.

Layman Summary of Final Report

A multi-disciplinary and inter-institutional program to nurture global environmental

leaders has been developed and launched successfully. The teaching and learning activities have included the instillation of multi-disciplinary approach and basic skill-sets, guided self-learning, experiential learning, service learning and public forum. The project objectives have been fully addressed as clearly demonstrated not only by the commendations from our students and significant improvements in student holistic competencies, but also by the authoritative endorsement from various stakeholders, including non-government organisations, Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, industries and global organisations (e.g. AFCD, Ocean Park Hong Kong and the Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia (PEMSEA) of the United Nations). Remarkably, in recognition of our novel approach to train global environmental leaders, PEMSEA of the United Nations has fully sponsored two fellows from the Philippines and Vietnam to participate in our training program in Hong Kong, with a view to introduce this new approach in Southeast Asia.