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CLP Sky Woodland Finally Launched First of Its Kind in HK, Materialises Sustainable Development

After around two-year preparation, design and construction, the Hong Kong's first Sky Woodland project has recently been completed in the equipment building of CLP's Sham Mong Substation at Lai Chi Kok and is open to the media today.

CLP's Sky Woodland brings both tangible and intangible benefits. In addition to the interlocking crowns, the 1-metre soil layer acts as a barrier to sunlight falling directly on the roof, meaning less need for air-conditioning. It is estimated that the Sky Woodland will save 50% of the air conditioning energy in summer and about 30% saving per annum for an equivalent 24-hour air-conditioned building. This 100 square metre woodland will not just establish a native ecosystem in urban settings, but also help improve air quality.

Mr Paul Poon, CLP Power Director, Power Systems, pointed out at the press briefing, "In CLP Sky Woodland, native trees are being planted deliberately to create a native micro-ecosystem. We expect that Sky Woodland not only provides an aesthetically pleasing environment, but also purifies the air, and absorbs solar heat and rain water. In this way, it provides an improved living environment for the local community."

There are 18 trees of 13 species planted in CLP Sky Woodland. All of them are native tree species and have special meaning to Hong Kong. Aquilegia sinensis, for example, explains the origin of Hong Kong's name. Small and medium-sized native trees are the main types of vegetation in the Woodland, with maximum height lower than 10m. To reduce the need for frequent inspection and maintenance, trees with high pest and wind resistance are chosen. For aesthetics, flowering trees with seasonal colour changes and attractive tree forms are preferred. Trees are closely clustered so that some parts of their crowns interlock to create a woodland ambience.

Being the first of its kind in Hong Kong, the CLP Sky Woodland enables unique study of the feasibility and effectiveness of this type of project. Professor Jim Chi-yung, JP, Chair Professor of Geography of the University of Hong Kong and advisor to the pilot programme, said that, "We will examine the effectiveness of the Sky Woodland micro-climate from different aspects, including air quality, temperature change as well as rainfall absorption. Other data, including wind speed, humidity and soil moisture

content, are monitored continuously. We aim to establish a comprehensive and detailed database for successive scientific research on Sky Woodland."

CLP Sky Woodland is one of the key programmes of "Go Greening" initiatives launched in 2006. It aims to look into the feasibility of the green rooftop concept in Hong Kong. With its establishment, CLP hopes that the Sky Woodland showcases the realisation – as well as the promotion of the Green Rooftop in Hong Kong.

All the trees planted in the CLP Sky Woodland are of native species with maximum height lower than 10m.

Mr Paul Poon, CLP Power Director, Power Systems shares CLP experience of design and construction of the Sky Woodland in the past two years.

Featured are Mr Paul Poon, CLP Power Director, Power Systems (right) and Professor Jim Chi-yung, JP, Chair Professor of Geography of the University of Hong Kong and advisor to the pilot programme in the CLP Sky Woodland.

(From right) Mr Paul Poon, CLP Power Director, Power Systems; Mr Choi Yiu Hung, CLP Project Manager – West; Professor Jim Chi-yung, JP, Chair Professor of Geography of the University of Hong Kong and Mr. Chow Lap Man, CLP Regional Manager-West plant a seedling on the Sky Woodland model to symbolise that the Sky Woodland is the fruit of concerted efforts by different parties.

Featured is the aerial view of CLP Sky Woodland.

Featured on the right is the aerial view of CLP Sky Woodland while the building on the left is the CLP Sham Mong Road Substation.

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