

Concluding Declarations

This following section was drafted by Dr. Edward C. Y. YIU (Department of Real Estate and Construction, The Hong Kong University) and the contents were discussed and refined by all participants.

The scholars from the United Kingdom and Hong Kong held a discussion workshop in the morning after the INYS conference 2007. They have reviewed and discussed the issues of sustainable built environment raised by the conference speakers. The following concluding declarations on sustainable built environment were developed after a draft version from the discussion workshop was circulated to all participants for comment.

A. Prelude

“Sustainability” has been widely used in all disciplines. The participants focus on the contribution of the built environment towards sustainable development by lessening the damage caused.

B. Scope of the Conference

This piece of declarations is the joint results of the discussions and experience sharing among the scholars from the United Kingdom and Hong Kong on the sustainability issues of the built environment in the context of Pearl River Delta Region.

There are 4 sessions with different focuses of the issues, namely:

1. Sustainable Urban Development and Renewal/Regeneration;
2. Urban Space Planning, Building Performance and Life Cycle;
3. Sustainability Assessment of Development Scheme and Legislative Control over Sustainable Urban Design; and
4. Urban Policy of Hong Kong in the Context of Pearl River Delta Region and in the United Kingdom.

C. Concluding Remarks

Key Concluding Remarks (see also Figure 1)	Issues Discussed in the Conference and Needed Further Considerations
<p>1. Sustainability can only be achieved by a truly multi-disciplinary cooperation and integration of all disciplines' efforts and stakeholders' concerns. For Hong Kong, it has to work not only on an intra-city scale, but also requires inter-city and cross-border co-operation with Mainland China.</p> <p>2. It is not enough just to support, but it is more important to take action. It is high time to retain what is still sustainable at present and to save what is depleting now.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Global warming 2. Greenhouse gas and waste 3. Community participation 4. Social benefits and externalities 5. Natural renewable energy and recycling 6. Compactness urban system & high density urban development 7. Stakeholders' values of good urban design

Key Concluding Remarks (see also Figure 1)	Issues Discussed in the Conference and Needed Further Considerations
<p>3. One of the current problems is the lack of common agreed principles and indicators for the assessment of sustainability in the built environment. Different metrics, costing models, and value systems need to be integrated and linked for practical use.</p> <p>4. Quality living space is critical, and actual performance of buildings shall be concerned, instead of just relying on design calculations. Post-occupancy Evaluation (POE), and building performance assessment shall be carried out and the involvement of facilities management in the design and maintenance of buildings is relevant.</p>	<p>8. Building performance measurement</p> <p>9. Diverse metrics of value assessment</p> <p>10. Support without taking action</p> <p>11. Transportation & infrastructure development in cross-border cooperation</p> <p>12. Save the harbour and blue sky</p> <p>13. Collective discourse</p> <p>14. Diverse views of professionals on sustainability</p>

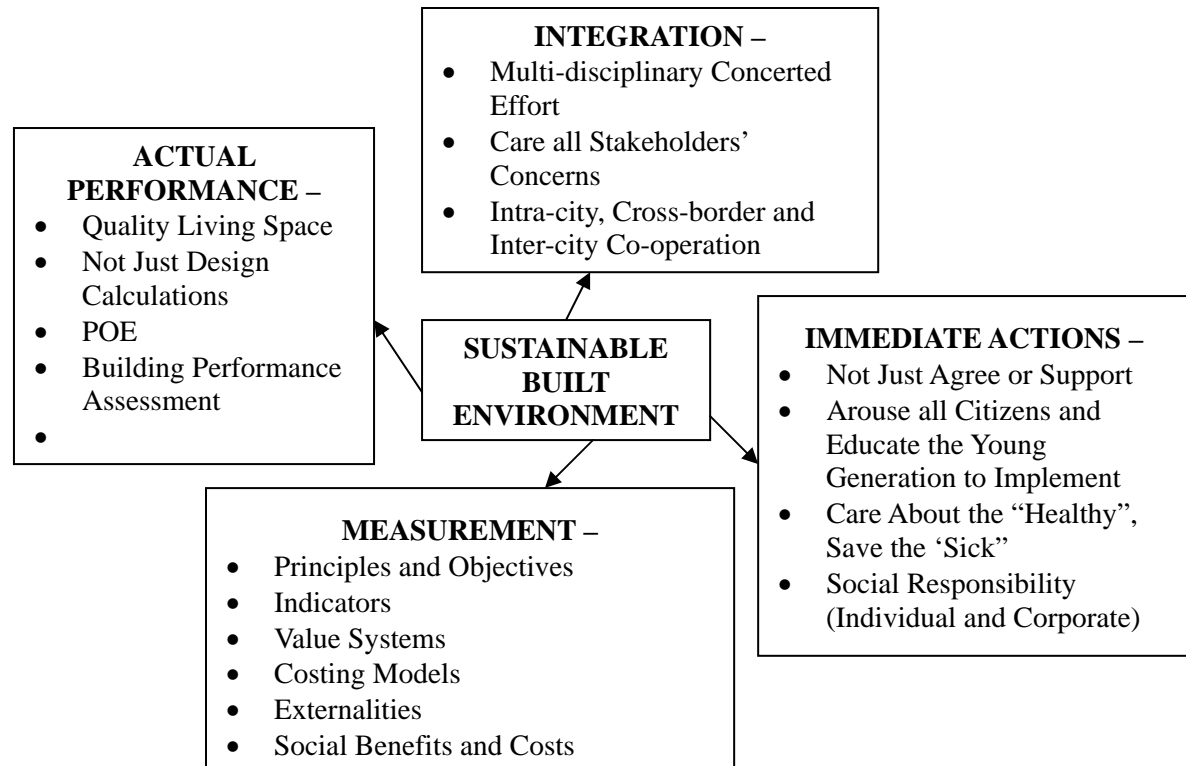


Figure 1 The Framework

D. Recommendations

- 1. To identify common agreed principles, strategic aims, indicators and actions of sustainable built environment that can be implemented;**
- 2. To build a platform to integrate stakeholders efforts and concerns, strengthen intra-city, cross-border and inter-city cooperation between Hong Kong and Mainland China;**
- 3. To explore how to achieve a better synergy among stakeholders and cities.**
- 4. To encourage more in-depth studies of all different disciplines and to stock-take the current situations preparing for future integration (e.g. technology, sociology, and economy); and to provide a platform for the in-depth studies to refine their research direction to meet the big picture of sustainability;**
- 5. To review (and to continue the current review) current policies, development and building control systems, and cross-border co-operation mechanisms, to achieve sustainable built environment by a dense urban development approach in Hong Kong.**
- 6. To have collective discourse to arouse the participation of the general public, particularly to educate the young generation and let them realize the contributions of small effort towards the overall aim of sustainable development.**

“Hong Kong is used as an example of a dense city to explore the best practices required of the built environment for the endeavour of sustainable development in the INYS 2007. The framework summarized in these declarations can be equally applicable to other dense cities all over the world.”