CONSTRUCTION WASTE CHALLENGES IN HONG KONG AND PEARL RIVER DELTA REGION

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Abstract
Construction waste is the main waste generator in the Hong Kong and Pearl River Delta Regions. Its impacts on the environment in these two regions have become a serious problem to society. To minimize resource consumption and in accordance with worldwide environmental protection, construction waste management is urgently needed. Therefore, this paper conducts analysis in construction waste problems and challenges in the Hong Kong and Pearl River Delta Regions. Structured interviews were conducted. Suggestions to improve construction waste management in these two regions are given in this study.

Keywords
Construction industry, waste management, challenges, suggestions, Hong Kong, Pearl River Delta Region

INTRODUCTION

While environmental problems arising from construction waste are not unique to the Hong Kong and Pearl River Delta Regions (PRDR), there is an urgent need to reduce their construction waste as there is only limited space for new landfills (Yau, 2010). Environmental protection has the promoted imperative of demand for awareness, knowledge and effective solutions to protect the environment across all industries especially construction. Construction by nature is not an environment-friendly action and construction waste is one of the main solid waste sources in Hong Kong and PRDR (Tam et al., 2010). Although construction waste has increasingly received attention from stakeholders and researchers since the early 1980s, methods to efficiently and effectively manage construction waste are still in the early development stages (Lam et al., 2010; Shen et al., 2010; Wang et al., 2010). Due to population growth and the rapid pace of urbanization in Mainland China, environmental protection is a hot issue as well as a pressing problem. According to previous studies (Wang et al., 2004), China’s construction industry consumes 40 percent of total natural resources and about 40 percent of the available energy. At present, construction waste accounts for about 40 percent of all municipal solid waste.