

# Planning for Locally Unwanted Land Uses in Hong Kong — Role of Local NGOs

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# LULU Facilities

- Facilities with potential environmental impacts: landfills, hazardous waste disposal sites, incinerators, energy facilities, certain types of industrial facilities, such as power plants, etc.
- Facilities associated with negative images: drug treatment facilities, half-way home, homeless shelters, prisons, etc.



SENT Landfill



Old Lunatic Asylum (now a Methadone Clinic)



## What are the concerns

- associated health risk,
- safety and security,
- environmental impact and quality of living,
- decline in property value
- adverse impact on the image of the community

## Some Local Incidents in Hong Kong

- Chemical Waste Treatment Plant on Tsing Yi Island 1987
- HIV Clinic in Kowloon Bay 1996
- Aviation Fuel Storage Depot in Tuen Mun 2002
- the community remains conservative about the siting of LULUs and that the government has not taken adequate steps to alleviate local people's speculation and mistrust.

## What should be Done: Engagement Process

- A bottom- up approach with engagement of local stakeholders, such as district councilors, neighbourhood representatives, interested NGOs and other local leaders, etc.
- The process should go beyond providing the costs and benefits and the details of the proposal
- may take various forms with the ultimate goal to provide an informed discussion opportunity for building consensus.

## Why NGOs Have a Role to Play?

- *The community has a general distrust in the Government*

NGOs are:

- Neutral-standing
- Policy Advocacy
- Watch dog
- A bridge of TRUST between the Government and the community
- Education
- enhance public awareness on the need to accommodate the LULUs



# The Conservancy Association's Initiatives

- Learn from Japanese Experience in Waste Separation and waste Treatment
- Conduct Sustainable Waste Management Course
- Experience Sharing - Lessons Learnt from Taiwan

# Learning Japanese Experience in Waste Management

- visited Japan in January 2005 to study their waste treatment technologies and local recycling policies.
- invited District Council members or their assistants to participate in the study trip





# Learning Japanese Experience in Waste Management

- Became positive towards the gasification and incineration facilities after the visit
- Never thought of such standard for waste management facilities.
- No relevant information was available from the Government
- Suggested the similar trips should be organized for legislators and community leaders.





## Knowledge Dissemination: Sustainable Waste Management Course

- Two certificate courses for DC members or their assistants were organized.
- About 70 participants attended the two courses in 2005.
- The course effectively dispelled irrational fear of dioxin from the participants.

# Sustainable Waste Management Course

- The original worry about Dioxin was cleared
- Realized that there were various ways of dioxin intake and inhalation was only one of them.
- Would take various factors into account when discussing waste management in the future
- Would not reject incineration as a means of waste management for its own sake.



# Experience Sharing – Lessons Learnt from Taiwan

- CA sent staff to Taiwan to gather experience on the planning and implementation of a comprehensive waste management strategy.
- Charges on wastes were implemented in stages.
- Taipei government organized 17 training courses for over 2100 people as the “seed” trainers who would be responsible to train other citizens.
- A total of 349 briefings were held with 435 local neighbourhood organizations (lei) and 36518 people attended.

# Experience Sharing – Lessons Learnt from Taiwan

- the Government also organized over 400 briefings for the management officers and cleaners.
- Incinerators are also well accepted by local residents. One of the incinerators is provided with a revolving restaurant on the top and becomes a tourist attraction.





## Way Forward: Role of NGOs

- NGOs has an important role to play in the engagement process.
- Being politically neutral, NGOs have the necessary legitimacy to act as agent in bridging the mistrust between the general public and the government over the planning for LULUs.



## Way Forward :

### Establishing a Comprehensive Strategy in Planning for LULUs

1. Knowledge Dissemination
2. Early Engagement of the Public in an Open and Transparent Manner
3. Empowerment of the Impact Bearers
4. Planning Gain or Compensation
5. City Branding



Thank You