

## General Post-secondary Education in Support of Sustainable Development in Hong Kong

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The historical evolution and current status of sustainability and environmental education in Hong Kong is reviewed. The need for including the general concepts of sustainability for all undergraduate students in Hong Kong is also critically reviewed. The developmental efforts based on Fink's Taxonomy (Fink, 2003) initially focused on specialized engineering disciplines such as environmental/civil/chemical engineering programmes and extended to general undergraduate courses suitable for all undergraduate students are described. The development is based on the following six elements of significant learning as defined by Fink (2003), which includes:

- 1) Foundational Knowledge: understanding and remembering information and ideas;
- 2) Applications: skills, thinking (including critical, creative and practical), and managing projects
- 3) Integration: connecting ideas, people and realms of life
- 4) Human Dimension: learning about oneself and others
- 5) Caring: developing new feeling, interests and values
- 6) Learning how to Learn: becoming a better student, inquiring about a subject and being a self-directed learner.

The importance of introducing the concepts of sustainability and environmental awareness for all disciplines across various undergraduate programmes and faculties are evaluated, and the importance of including the learning outcomes of caring and a human dimension if sustainability is to become inherent to the fundamental value of post-secondary education in Hong Kong. As a result of this study, the general direction of sustainability for post-secondary education in Hong Kong is proposed and a Sustainable Future Model modified from the original concepts proposed by Michelcic and Hokanson (2005), Fink (2003), and Downey et al (2006) is developed. This new model aimed at providing a general educational framework to our students to create sustainable thinking and working attitude in the consideration of: humanity, economic sustainability, societal sustainability, and environmental sustainability. The objective of the model is to train our students to develop the skills and capacity to consider the evolving relationships between the environment, industry, citizens, government, and future development. At the same time, it also provides a working model for higher education institutions to develop programmes and courses to train our students to increase their awareness, knowledge, skills, and values needed to create a more sustainable future in Hong Kong and in the region.

### References :

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