

Seminar on Carbon Neutrality in accordance with PAS 2060

The seminar on 'Carbon Neutrality in accordance with Publicly Available Specification (PAS) 2060' jointly organized by HKAEE and HKIE-Environmental Division was successfully held at the HKIE Headquarters on **Friday, 30th July 2010** from 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm. Ir Dr Shelley Zhou, Director of HKAEE was the Speaker.

PAS 2060 builds on existing environmental standards such as the ISO 14,000 series and PAS 2050 - the assessment of the life cycle greenhouse gas emissions of goods and services. This specification can be applicable to activities, products, services, buildings, projects, towns, cities and events such as wedding parties. In the past, organizations wishing to enhance their environmental reputation made claims of carbon neutrality. However, without common definition or recognized method of achieving carbon-neutral status, there have been inconsistencies in the term's use. This specification aims to restore integrity to the concept by establishing requirements for demonstrating carbon neutrality. Carbon neutrality means that – through a transparent process of calculating emissions, reducing those emissions and offsetting residual emissions – net carbon emissions equal zero. The specification outlines a number of steps starting with full measurement of a product or firm's carbon emissions using the standards for establishing the baseline emission data. It then requires that steps are taken to reduce the carbon emissions through a carbon management plan before approved carbon credits are purchased to offset unavoidable greenhouse gas emissions so as to achieve carbon neutrality. Mandatory reduction in carbon emission is regarded as the minimum target whereas outsourcing cannot be regarded as a form of reduction. This standard can generate accurate and verifiable declarations of carbon neutrality for the organizations.

At the end of presentation, a very fruitful view exchange among audiences and the speaker. What value can PAS 2060 add to the environment if the achievement of carbon neutrality is made solely through carbon offsetting? Would the estimation of GHG emission for a project become very demanding if based on the PAS 2050? Nevertheless, it is expected that PAS 2060 would encourage increased action on climate change and improvements in carbon reduction management, particularly when the government announce a carbon reduction target for Hong Kong later.



Ir CF Lam, Chairman of the session and
Ir Dr Shelley Zhou (the speaker)