

Tree Management in Hong Kong – Issues and Challenges

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- *Vision : To have more beautiful, healthy and safe trees in Hong Kong for the public to enjoy*

Contents

- Background
- Present policy and planning
- Administration and management
- Technical, professional aspects
- Resources and capacity building
- Community involvement

Urban Development – TST, Central c. 1970s



Source:
internet

Mongkok – 1960s



Source:
internet





Brisbane, Australia



K F B G
Kadoorie Farm & Botanic Garden
康翠園農場暨植物園

Overall planning for urban greening in PRD cities

Shenzhen

Zhongshan

「四板五帶」

K F B G
Kadoorie Farm & Botanic Garden
康翠園農場暨植物園

Sheungshui

Tin Shui Wai

Planning – overall landscape planning, choice of spp,
e.g. Lacking of space for the trees to grow properly, utilities



Poor maintenance – no proper structural pruning





K F B G
Kodourie Farm & Botanic Garden
高脚樹園及植物園

Aging Effect

Aging of fast-growing tropical trees: natural life span 30-50 years, then health decline
 E.g. *Delonix*, *Cassia* spp., *Lagerstroemia* spp. *Bauhinia* spp., *Erythrina* spp., *Acacia mangium*, *Acacia auriculiformis*

Structural weakness

- timber brittle – (above spp.)
- Included bark – e.g. *Celtis sinensis*

Bottle neck effect of aging and weakening
 e.g. *Acacia confusa* planted in the 1950s or before





• photos



放大

編輯推薦

- 陳振聰兄弟1.1億平賣山頂屋 (星島) (05:30)
- 空缺席千 明年三月可受訓 警隊招轉快經 周一啓動 (星島)

南昌邨30樹遭去頂 專家：過度修剪 恐染菌枯死

(明報)1月10日 星期四 05:05

【明報專訊】入伙近20年的深水埗南昌邨，車路旁原種了約50棵樹綠化社區，多年來為街坊遮蔭，詎料卻因長得太茂盛，惹來「削冠之災」。管理公司回應居民投訴，指樹木遮擋陽光及引來雀鳥排糞，遂聘承辦商逐一鋸去樹冠，只留下光禿禿的樹枝。樹木專家昨午到場視察，發現至少已有30多棵樹遭過度修剪，致命傷是「落鋸」手法不當，有機會令樹木死亡。地政總署表示會跟進事件。



Ngau Tau Kok Estate, Sept 2006
 Leung King Estate, Nov 2006,
 Wu Kai Sha Youth Camp, 2006
 Nam Choeng Estate, Jan 2007
 Wong Tai Sin Temple, June 2008,
 Bonham Road Church, 2008
 Stanley *Erythrina* case, Aug 2008



Management should begin with a preventive, proactive approach

- Species selection – the first step
 - right tree for the right place
- Individual selection, Installation, transplantation...








Present approach:

- transplanting a topped big tree for instant effect



Better alternative:

- plant a good young sapling, which will take over in a few years

Professional maintenance



Present policy & planning

- Conservation - preservation vs development
- urbanization
- Planning – e.g. old CDBs, new town development, redevelopment priority
- GMP, overall planning, future 2-3 decades, choice of the right spp. for the right places
- Environment Bureau vs Development Bureau [Env., Transport & Works Bureau July 2007]

Ordinance

UK, Singapore – Tree Protection Ordinance

HK needs new Legislation

Tree protection clause [not in old land lease];

ETWB -- Technical memorandum – vegetation management, pruning, maintenance, monitoring, supervision etc.

Building Dept -- Practice Notes on Felling and Transplanting of trees

Lands Dept – Application for tree felling

Administration & management

Management of Trees by Government Depts. in Hong Kong





One Tree Preservation Ordinance

&

One Management Department

e.g. Singapore – National Parks Board



Two Management Authorities

Urban Trees, for
landscaping

Countryside Trees, for
ecological conservation



康樂及文化事務署
Leisure and Cultural
Services Department



漁農自然護理署
Agriculture, Fisheries and
Conservation Department



- Private sector –
- Gardening contractors -
- Arborists / Horticulturist / Landscape Architects
- Or a tree butcher ?




南昌邨30樹遭去頂 專家：過度修剪 恐染菌枯死

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安全帶綁20米高 樹幹不勝負荷折斷 何世柱寓所修樹工 墮下命危

【本報訊】前全國政協委員何世柱位於跑馬地藍塘道的花園洋房寓所，昨午發生工傷意外，一名工人爬上屋外一棵白蘭樹上修剪樹枝時，疑安全帶綁的一條樹幹不勝負荷載斷，工人連同安全帶及鋸樹裝備從20米高處跌下，幸好樹身枝葉及地面泥地卸去不少下墜力，不致當場喪命，但事主經送院急救後情況危殆。 記者：胡恩宏

Source: Apple Daily 20081020

Technical & professional requirements

- Tree Biology (& Arboriculture) is a complex discipline, needs professional knowledge.
- Tree work is highly dangerous and technical, needs professional training.



- **What does it mean by Professional?**
- Extensive academic education and formalized training (degree level &/or above)
- Maintain a high level of output (product/service)
- Self regulating, assessment and control of standard / performance by the industry
- E.g. Accountant, doctor, engineer, lawyer, landscape architect, ... , ...

- **Professional recognition**
- Make arboriculture a profession (at all levels) tree assessment, pruning, maintenance
- Arborist = accountant, doctor, engineer, Landscape Architect...
- E.g.
 - Fees: Leung King Est. ~ \$140,000 for 250 trees (@\$560) => all cut by topping
 - 2 Coral trees in Tune Wan - \$48,000 (@\$24,000)

Resources & capacity building

- Need to formalize industry standard, protocols etc; provide/encourage training; incentives
- Cf. Chinese Medicinal Practitioners, Property Agency, Automobile industry (voluntary registration).
- Legislation, incentives
- Grace period, e.g. 3-5 years etc.



Training for Construction Industry – by CICTA (with certification)

Supervision of Tree Works Course [12 hrs. course for work site supervisor, no assessment! 600 people completed] since Dec 2006.

⇒intermediate => advanced courses?

Basic Landscape Theory Course for Landscape Works [6 hrs course including exam.] Started, monthly course since Oct 2008.

Technical training

Proposed by VTC – Skill Upgrade Scheme,

Basic Arboriculture

Tree Climbing and Working Technique

Workshops, Seminars on various arboriculture subjects organized locally and overseas

e.g. ATP organized a 2-day workshop on Tree Assessment by Dr. John Ball, professor of South Dakota State Univ. Nov. 28-29, 2008 Hong Kong.

- **Training in tree works: more professional**

- HKU SPACE

- CA preparation course – 30 hrs.

- In UK, using chainsaw, must received training and passed assessment, as required by law (NPTC Level 2 Cert.).



– ISA CA – 1 to 3 years in the industry; 200 MC (overall > 70%; each and very domain > 60%); real practical experience needed!!

118 CA; 16 CTW

c.f. Houseman in a ward!



- UK – NPTC (National Proficiency Test Council); BTEC
- National Certificate on Horticulture / Arboriculture – Level 2 (ISA CA)
- National Higher Certificate / Diploma on Arboriculture – Level 3 (A-level)
- National Higher Diploma on Arboriculture – Level 4
- Univ. Degree – Level 5
- New Zealand – proper on the job training, Level 2 to Level 4 Cert.; Level 5 – Diploma

Role of Community

- Need more attention and support from both public and private sectors
- Put much more resources in the community



- NGOs and Volunteers
 - Conservancy Association – spotting of trees, training of 1+ 2 days, need follow up by staff.
 - LCSD – green volunteers.



<http://www.treelovers.org.hk/index.php?tn=news&ncid=1&nid=626%E2%8C%A9=tw>

Summary

Formalize and regulate the arboriculture industry

Professional Training

Best Practices in the industry

Care and support from the community

- ***Vision : To have more beautiful, healthy and safe trees in Hong Kong for the public to enjoy***

THANK YOU !

