

Dr Stephen Wong

Senior Vice President & Executive Director of Public Policy Institute
Our Hong Kong Foundation Limited



Dr Stephen Wong is currently Senior Vice President & Executive Director of Public Policy Institute. In public service, Dr Wong sits on multiple statutory and advisory bodies including as Member of the Financial Services Development Council; Member of the Urban Renewal Authority; Member of the Town Planning Board, Co-opted Member of Commission on Poverty’s Social Innovation & Entrepreneurship Development Fund (SIE Fund) Task Force; Member of the Housing Authority’s Investment Sub-Committee; Member of the Task Force for the Study on Tenancy Control of Subdivided Units; Member of the “Innovation and Technology Fund for Application in Elderly and Rehabilitation Care” Assessment Panel; and former Member of the Task Force on Land Supply.

Abstract:

Actualising the concept of ‘carbon neutrality’ in Hong Kong takes a whole society approach with integrated efforts among all sectors. There have been good efforts in strengthening Hong Kong into a green and sustainable financial hub by leveraging Hong Kong as an international financial centre, and at the same time, there have been good initiatives in various industry sectors such as building and construction industry. Yet, how we mobilise green capital to major carbon-generating sectors in Hong Kong’s local context remains a missing link. As a result, bridging the financial world and the real economy is a key area of investigation as we work towards carbon neutrality.

Professor Christine LOH

Chief Development Strategist

The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST)



Professor Christine Loh is the Chief Development Strategist, Institute for the Environment at HKUST. She was the former undersecretary for the environment in the HKSAR Government, and a former legislator. She has taught an MBA course on nonmarket risks at the Anderson School of Management at UCLA. Currently, she sits on the board of New Forests Pty, CDP Worldwide, and Global Maritime Forum. She has also recently joined the board of Towngas Smart Energy Co Ltd. Professor Loh is Senior Advisor to Teneo, Advisor on Sustainability to Hong Kong Science and Technology Park, and a member of the Stakeholder Advisory Council of BASF.

Abstract:

Governments have the primary role to decarbonize. Policies must focus on internalizing externalities. While the current aim is focused on accessing non-fossil fuels from the mainland and explore hydrogen in electricity generation locally, that is insufficient. To keep cost affordable and to maximize decarbonization, reducing energy use is critical. This requires a revolution in energy use in buildings. Policy needs to stimulate industry and societal engagement to innovate and solve problems. Decarbonization requires hard infrastructure, technology, soft skills, and considerable leadership in government and business. It also requires consistent messaging for the long-term. Universities have a special role too.

Ms Karen HO

Head of Corporate and Community Sustainability
World Wide Fund For Nature Hong Kong (WWF-Hong Kong)

Ms Karen Ho is the Head of Corporate and Community Sustainability for WWF-Hong Kong. She works with stakeholders across public and private sectors as well as civil society to make Hong Kong a sustainable city, including advocacy on net-zero circular economy, science-based target setting, tackling climate and energy issues, mainstreaming sustainability best practices, fostering low-carbon business transformation through Low Carbon Manufacturing Programme (LCMP), Low-carbon Office Operation Programme (LOOP) and Making Zero Impact Fashionable project, and promoting nature-based solutions. An accomplished senior executive, Karen held senior management positions in several Fortune 500 companies prior to joining WWF.



Abstract:

The Hong Kong Government announced the vision of "Zero-carbon Emissions · Liveable City · Sustainable Development", and achieving carbon neutrality by 2050. China's State Council also issued the country's action plan to ensure carbon emissions peak by 2030 and achieve carbon neutrality by 2060.

People have high expectations from the government and corporate leaders to walk the talk on sustainability and take impactful actions. In the Research Salon, Karen would explore the role corporations play to accelerate the achievement of net-zero vision, what actions they need to take, when and where actions are implemented, how impacts are measured, what capabilities are required, how much investment and return they may gain during the course.