

YMC Overseas Delegation 2015 to the Netherlands Local Series - Technical Seminar on the Development of Cycle Track in New Territories

YOUNG MEMBERS COMMITTEE

By Mr. Alex LOK

Cycling is widely regarded as an effective and efficient mode of transportation. Comparing the bicycles to the motorized vehicles, bike consumes no fossil fuel, hence, less air or noise pollution, and it provides a mean of physical exercises for cyclists. Mentioned in Policy Address in 2007-08, Hong Kong Government is developing comprehensive cycle tracks in the New Territories

Recently, sustainable transport in Hong Kong has been a hot top topic. On 3 December 2014, we were grateful to invite Ir Thomas Chu, Senior Engineer of the Civil Engineering and Development Department (CEDD), to deliver us a seminar on the development of cycle track in New Territories.

Ir Chu first introduced us the current cycling track conditions in Hong Kong and what facilities would be added under this development such that the tracks are more user-friendly. He then shared with us the development progress and design/construction constrains/challenges, where the main objective is to provide the minimum standard to protect cyclist's safety and environment protection. In addition, Ir Chu spoke of the design considerations of such cycling tracks, namely, (1) enjoyment in beautiful nature; (2) continuous cycle track for long trip; (3) minimizing impact to local residents and (4) prevention of land resumption.

In details, Ir Chu then shared with us some real cases that the challenges CEDD face in designing and constructing the tracks, particularly the Hop Shing Wai section. The original track at there was passed through the Mai Po Zone which was opposed by green groups. An alternative track was proposed by CEDD but constrains were found. Firstly, the gradient of the alternative track were higher than 8% which is not complied with the design guide. Secondly, there are lots of traffic junctions which will endanger the cyclists. Thirdly, the alternative track were passed through a cargo area which heavy vehicles will access would impose safety hazard to cyclists. Therefore, a second alternative track which is along San Tin Highway was proposed. The second alternative track will be built on the existing drainage pipe which the existing trees nearby could be reserved.

Ir Chu delivered the seminar in an interactive way, where discussions have been done during and after the section. Our members expressed their interests by sharing their own views on the development.

Photo caption



Full house of participants



Ir Thomas Chu with delegates