香港浸會大學
HONG KONG BAPTIST UNIVERSITY

SUSTAINABILITY REPORT

2024-2025

Founded in 1956, Hong Kong Baptist University (HKBU) aims to be a leading research-led liberal arts University in Asia for the world delivering academic excellence in a caring, creative and global culture. HKBU is dedicated to nurturing the future generations of civically engaged community members, and shouldering the responsibility to foster them with humanity and care for the natural world through a broad range of undergraduate and postgraduate programmes up to the doctoral level. As one of Asia's finest institutions of higher education, the University prides itself on the attraction for talents from all around the world, as well as having a vibrant and active alumni network.

HKBU is committed to integrating sustainability into every aspect of our education, research, day-to-day operations, and continuous development. This report provides an overview of our current academic and research endeavours that are aligned with the United Nations' 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Additionally, it showcases our operational initiatives and engagement activities aimed at fostering a greater integration of the SDGs into the fabric of university life.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Contents

SDG MAPPING APPROACHES

HKBU's contributions to the SDGs have been mapped through a diverse range of methodologies. This approach ensures a comprehensive mapping of our efforts, allowing us to effectively measure and evaluate our progress in achieving the SDGs. This report covers the period from 2024 to 2025.

Course mapping

HKBU has implemented a comprehensive mapping exercise to evaluate the integration of the SDGs within our curriculum. Through a systematic review of our courses, this mapping exercise showcases our commitment to equipping students with the necessary skills and knowledge to address global challenges and complex societal issues both now and in the future.

To conduct this mapping exercise, HKBU has adopted an SDG keyword mapping approach. Leveraging text-mining techniques and methods, we have expanded upon SDG-related keywords sourced from the Elsevier's Scopus database, as well as documentation provided by the Sustainable Development Solutions Network and the United Nations. By analysing course titles, aims, objectives, and course outlines, we have identified a total of 673 courses at HKBU that incorporate SDG-related elements.

Research mapping

HKBU has implemented a structured approach to mapping research contributions to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for the year 2025. This process involves leveraging both SciVal and the Integrated Research Information and Management Systems (IRIMS) to identify scholars and their publications that align with specific SDGs. SciVal, an integral tool within the Elsevier Research Intelligence ecosystem, uses a machine learning model to link publications to the corresponding SDGs. Conversely, within IRIMS, research outputs are tagged with relevant SDGs using an algorithm tested and validated by Elsevier. This algorithm uses a targeted keyword search mechanism to determine the alignment of research outputs with individual SDGs.

1 NO POVERTY

SDG 01:

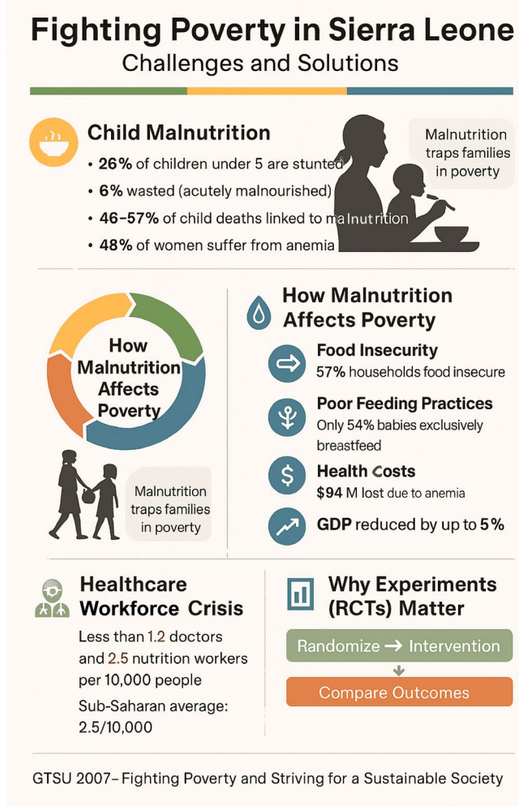
NO POVERTY

End poverty in all its forms everywhere.

Teaching and Learning, Outreach and Engagement

Alleviating poverty: Multidimensional measurement and pro-poor policy design

The General Education course, "Fighting Poverty and Striving for a Sustainable Society", taught by Dr Nnetu-Okolieuwa Vivian Ikwuoma, developed students' capacity to analyse income inequality and multidimensional poverty in both developing and developed countries, equipping them to design effective poverty-reduction policies. The 149 students of the course learned core poverty-measurement methods, such as setting poverty lines and calculating poverty rates. They examined the lived experiences of the poor and investigated the micro and macro causes of poverty as a global challenge. Through interactive case studies and collaborative group projects, students collected and analysed data, compared international experiences, and formulated evidence-based, pro-poor policy recommendations to alleviate poverty. Integrating transdisciplinary perspectives into poverty issues, the course enabled students to connect poverty-reduction efforts to broader sustainable development goals of sustainable development, including eradicating extreme poverty and inequality, expanding access to basic services and economic resources, and strengthening the resilience of vulnerable groups to shocks.



GTSU 2007– Fighting Poverty and Striving for a Sustainable Society

Addressing poverty and inequality through services in Chiang Mai

University YMCA (HKBU) organised the "Come Play With Us" Chiang Mai Cultural Exchange and Service Trip, an initiative to address poverty and reduce inequality in developing countries. Over the course of the journey, 13 student participants engaged in immersive experiences designed to deepen their understanding of poverty and various social challenges in Chiang Mai, Thailand. A highlight of the trip was partnering with a local school to create a toy library. From painting vibrant wall art to crafting handmade toys and constructing bookshelves, the students brought joy and creativity into the learning environment. The library was stocked with second-hand toys collected from Hong Kong, ensuring more than 150 children in the school, regardless of family income, could enjoy a more enriching childhood.

COURSES
23
11 undergraduate courses
12 postgraduate courses

T&L EVENTS
68

STUDENTS ENROLLED
1,323
627 undergraduates
696 postgraduates

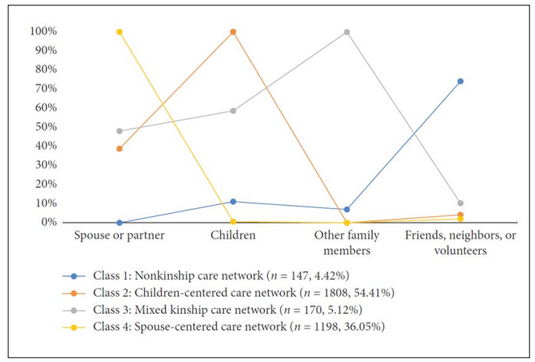
NO. OF PARTICIPANTS
2,964

Research

Typologies of informal care networks for middle-aged and older adults with functional difficulties in China: A multidimensional perspective

Academy of Wellness and Human Development
Authors: Jiajia ZHOU*, Rui KANG
*Corresponding author

The study analyses informal care networks for Chinese adults aged 50 and above with functional difficulties, using data from 3,323 participants in the 2020 China Health and Retirement Longitudinal Study. It identifies four network types: nonkinship (4.42%), children-centred (54.41%), mixed kinship (5.12%), and spouse-centred (36.05%). Factors like greater limitations in Instrumental Activities of Daily Living (IADL), larger family size, household internet access, and public pension enrollment influence these networks, with children-centred ones linked to better support coordination. By revealing how diverse social ties provide care amid declining family structures, the research supports SDG 1 by addressing poverty risks for vulnerable older adults. Strong informal networks reduce economic burdens from formal care costs, enhance financial security, and promote inclusive policies for low-income groups, informing strategies to alleviate multidimensional poverty in ageing populations.



Probability of caregivers in different typologies across four informal care networks.

Firm compliance, state enforcement and social insurance coverage in China

Academy of Geography, Sociology and International Studies
Author: Jiwei QIAN, Zhuoyi WEN*, Jin JIANG
*Corresponding author

This research investigates the dramatic expansion of social insurance coverage in the Chinese Mainland as a critical factor for poverty reduction and inclusive social protection. The study reveals that firm-level compliance—rather than direct state enforcement—is the key driver in ensuring workers, especially in the informal sector, gain access to pension, health, and other essential insurances. Using large national survey data, the analysis shows that companies with trade unions and larger firm sizes are more likely to register their employees for social insurance, improving economic security and reducing vulnerability. The findings indicate that effective policies encouraging firms to comply with labour regulations can significantly extend safety nets to previously excluded groups, such as migrant and informal sector workers. This helps break cycles of poverty and supports Chinese Mainland's progress toward universal social protection aligned with SDG 1 targets for ending poverty and enhancing economic inclusion.

Sustainability Initiatives

Staff mooncake donation

To combat poverty, the Human Resources Office supported Feeding Hong Kong's "Mooncake Madness" campaign during the Mid-Autumn Festival. Staff members were encouraged to donate mooncakes, which were then distributed to underprivileged families, fostering social inclusion and spreading festive joy.

2 ZERO HUNGER

SDG 02:

ZERO HUNGER

End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture.

Teaching and Learning, Outreach and Engagement

Fighting world hunger through communication campaigns

In the service-learning course "Campaign Planning and Management", Dr Vivienne Leung from the Department of Communication Studies partnered with World Vision's School Famine Ambassador Programme to engage 42 students in practical efforts to raise awareness on global food insecurity. Through interviews with programme staff and secondary school committees, and participating in a 24-hour hunger immersion experience, students gained firsthand insight into the lived impacts of food insecurity. Applying strategic communication theory, they then designed multichannel campaigns using digital media, storytelling and face-to-face outreach campaigns to build awareness and foster youth advocacy.

Connecting communities: Re-distributing bread to those in need

The "Replacing Hunger with Bread" service programme aimed to connect with the non-profit organisation, Foodlink Foundation, to collect safe-to-eat surplus food from the food and beverage outlets throughout Hong Kong and deliver them to those in need. Initiated by Dr Gray Ho, the Resident Master of C. L. Soong Hall in the Undergraduate Halls, this impactful initiative involved a group of 41 students who collected 400 pieces of unsold bread from local bakeries and redistributed them to 150 individuals facing challenges with food security. The activity offered students valuable insights into food waste and the challenges faced by low-income households and the homeless, while contributing to hunger reduction in Hong Kong.

COURSES
14
12 undergraduate courses
2 postgraduate courses

T&L EVENTS
21

STUDENTS ENROLLED
498
419 undergraduates
79 postgraduates

NO. OF PARTICIPANTS
536

Research

Targeting osteoblastic 11β-HSD1 to combat high-fat diet-induced bone loss and obesity

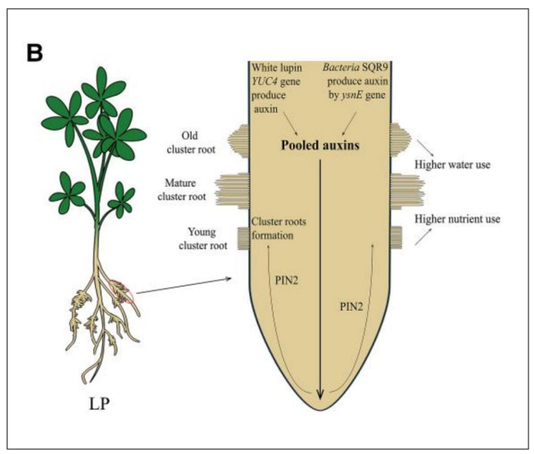
Chinese Medicine - Teaching and Research Division
Authors: Aiping LYU*, Fuzeng REN*, Hong ZHOU*, Jin LIU*, Ge ZHANG*
*Corresponding author

This study demonstrates that high-fat diets contribute to obesity, glucose intolerance, and bone loss by elevating 11β-HSD1 expression in osteoblasts, leading to impaired glucose uptake and osteogenic activity. Genetic knockout and pharmacological inhibition of osteoblastic 11β-HSD1 in mice mitigated these effects, improving metabolic health and bone formation. By addressing diet-induced metabolic disorders through targeted interventions, the research supports SDG 2's focus on improved nutrition and food security, highlighting how poor dietary patterns exacerbate health issues and proposing solutions to enhance nutrient metabolism and overall well-being.

Bacillus amyloliquefaciens promotes cluster root formation of white lupin under low phosphorus by mediating auxin levels

Department of Biology
Authors: Jinyong YANG, Shenglan LI, Xiangxue ZHOU, Chongxuan DU, Ju FANG, Xing LI, Jun ZHAO, Fan DING, Yue WANG, Qian ZHANG, Zhengrui WANG, Jianping LIU, Gangqiang DONG*, Jianhua ZHANG*, Feiyun XU*, Weifeng XU*
*Corresponding author

Phosphorus deficiency limits crop yields worldwide because most applied phosphorus becomes unavailable in the soil, making strategies that enhance plant phosphorus use efficiency essential for food security under SDG 2. This study shows that the plant growth-promoting bacterium Bacillus *amyloliquefaciens* SQR9 substantially increases cluster root formation in white lupin under low phosphorus conditions—a specialised root trait that mobilises and acquires otherwise inaccessible phosphorus. Mechanistically, SQR9 produces auxin via its ysnE pathway and elevates plant auxin biosynthesis and transport, with white lupin LaYUC4 and LaPIN2 required to pool and direct auxin to trigger cluster root development. The loss of bacterial ysnE or plant LaPIN2 disrupts this response, confirming the auxin-mediated bacteria-plant mechanism. By elucidating a tractable microbial-root signalling route to boost nutrient uptake under scarcity, this work supports sustainable intensification with reduced fertilizer dependence and more resilient production systems aligned with SDG 2.



Proposed model for B. amyloliquefaciens-promoted cluster root formation of white lupin under LP conditions.

Sustainability Initiatives

Sustainable procurement policy

The University's *Sustainable Procurement Policy* is a key element of its sustainability efforts, focusing on minimising the environmental impact of procured products by evaluating their entire lifecycle—from raw materials and design to manufacturing, operation, maintenance and supply chain management.

Sustainable food policy

Aligned with the University's commitment to sustainability, the *Sustainable Food Policy* promotes responsible sourcing and consumption of sustainable food products. Its goals include protecting ecosystems, preserving natural resources and maintaining biodiversity while minimising adverse impacts on climate change due to pollution.

Staff pantries and culinary options

Office pantries are established throughout the campus, providing staff with complimentary snacks and beverages. These areas serve as inviting spaces that promote social interaction and well-being, contributing to a supportive work environment. In addition, staff members can access a variety of catering venues on campus, promoting healthy eating and fulfilling culinary needs.

Staff surplus mooncake donation

In alignment with the University's sustainability goals, the Human Resources Office continued its support for Feeding Hong Kong's "Mooncake Madness" campaign. This initiative aimed to reduce food waste by encouraging staff to donate mooncakes after the festival, benefiting those experiencing food insecurity.

Staff activities on food waste education

To raise awareness of food waste management, staff participated in an educational visit to O · PARK1 on Lantau Island. During this visit, participants learned about innovative waste-to-energy process and the importance of sustainable waste practices.

Campus food waste tracking

To proactively tackle food waste, the University participates in the Pilot Scheme on Food Waste Collection Services, facilitated by the Environmental Protection Department. From July 2024 to June 2025, approximately 62,000kg of food waste generated on campus was collected. This waste is sent to O · PARK1 in Hong Kong, where it undergoes anaerobic digestion to produce biogas for electricity, with the remaining digestate transformed into compost. Since May 2024, food waste collection bins have been piloted in selected office pantries across campus to encourage greater participation in recycling efforts. The outcomes of this programme will be regularly reviewed, with plans for expansion aimed at further engaging the University community in waste reduction initiatives.

Sustainable food choices on campus

At HKBU, various initiatives are in place to promote environmentally friendly eating habits among students and staff. Campus catering outlets offer vegetarian and halal options. For more information, please visit the HKBU Catering Services website.

Low·CO_2 Food Tasting Tour

The tasting tour, held on campus on 25 October 2024, aimed to promote sustainable lower-carbon diet. The event featured engaging games and tasting of a variety of low-carbon dishes from local vendors and campus caterers. The event engaged over 300 students and staff, fostering community awareness around sustainable eating.

Try Green campaign

From March to April 2025, HKBU collaborated with the Jockey Club Sustainable Campus Consumer Programme to launch the Try Green campaign. This initiative encouraged plant-based eating and allowed participants to explore the health and environmental benefits of vegetarian diets. Participants could also win meal vouchers, promoting accessible sustainable food options on campus.

Healthy and affordable food choices

By offering a variety of options such as salads, fresh fruits, whole-grain sandwiches, and hot vegetarian dishes, our campus catering outlets help students maintain a balanced diet at an affordable price while also supporting their overall well-being. The "WeGen x Local Produce" menu was introduced at the Main Canteen in February 2025, bringing fresh and nutritious seasonal vegetables to the table, allowing students and staff to practice a low-carbon diet and support sustainable development on campus. HKBU's support to this sustainability effort highlighted its commitment to offer healthy and affordable food choices on campus.

Promoting upcycling of food waste

Co-organised by the Jockey Club Sustainable Campus Consumer Programme, the Food Waste Bracelet Upcycling Workshop took place on 13 January 2025, attended by both students and staff. This co-curricular learning event, facilitated by Ways Out Hong Kong—a social enterprise dedicated to empowering young single mothers—focused on transforming fruit peels and vegetable scraps into jewellery, highlighting the importance of reducing food waste.

3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

SDG 03:

GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages.

Teaching and Learning, Outreach and Engagement

Meaningful Play: Promoting childhood well-being through art and technology

Co-taught by Professor Kingsley Ng, Professor Kachi Chan, and Professor Samuel Swope of the Academy of Visual Arts; and Professor Taurin Barrera of the Academy of Music, and in partnership with Caritas Hong Kong, 39 students from the course ARTT 3005 Transdisciplinary Collaboration I developed the "Meaningful Play" arts immersion exhibition in April 2025, attracting around 300 visitors.

The initiative promoted play as a powerful tool to support health and well-being, with a focus on fostering positive emotional regulation and social relationships among children. It also offered resources and interventions for children experiencing trauma, depression, anxiety, and related mental health challenges, thereby advancing healthy lives and well-being for children.

De-stressing through therapy animals

Organised by the Counselling and Development Centre with the Hong Kong Institute of Animal Assisted Intervention, the "De-stress through Therapy Animals" sessions created a calm and welcoming space on Shaw Campus during the examination periods. Across four days both in Semesters 1 and 2 and serving 325 students, trained therapy dogs and handlers offered quiet, consent-based interaction, mindful petting, and brief psychoeducation on stress management. The sessions encouraged grounding and emotion regulation, restored study focus, and eased loneliness by fostering warm social connection. Handlers modelled respectful, welfare-centred engagement, deepening the understanding of animal-assisted support. Positive feedback, a mean evaluation of 4.86/5, and a strong turnout highlighted the value of humane, holistic initiatives in promoting rest, resilience, and a healthier, more connected university community.

COURSES
255 178 undergraduate courses
77 postgraduate courses

T&L EVENTS
487

STUDENTS ENROLLED
14,860 10,378 undergraduates
4,482 postgraduates

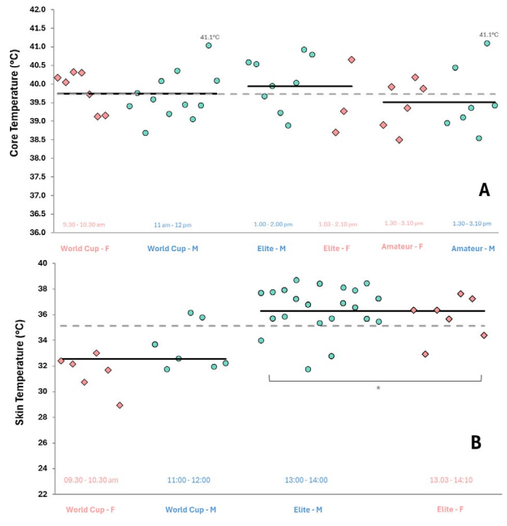
NO. OF PARTICIPANTS
18,380

Research

Thermal and biomechanical responses of amateur, elite and world cup athletes during a World Cup Sprint Triathlon in the heat

Department of Sports and Health Sciences
Academy of Wellness and Human Development
Authors: Carl JAMES, Borja MUNIZ-PARDOS, Mohammed IHSAN, Ka Kay LO, Wing Kai LAM , Dani Peña IGLESIAS, Konstantinos ANGELOUDIS, Yi TENG, Jiao JIAO, Ke HU, KaKi WONG, Fergus GUPPY, Sébastien RACINAIS, Samuel CHALMERS, Sergio MIGLIORINI, Kenneth WU, Yannis PITSILADIS*
*Corresponding author

This study monitored 66 triathletes across World Cup, HK-Elite, and Amateur categories during a sprint triathlon in Hong Kong under heatwave conditions, measuring core temperatures up to 41°C without heat illness incidents. It found comparable peak temperatures among groups but greater rises in elites. Relevant to SDG 3, the findings highlight risks of exertional heat illnesses in endurance sports, challenging assumptions that shorter races reduce dangers in hot weather (>30°C WBGT). By identifying safe temperature thresholds and the athletes' responses, the study supports evidence-based guidelines for event modifications, like earlier starts, to prevent heat-related health issues. Amid rising global temperatures, this promotes equitable well-being for all athletes, informing policies that enhance safety, reducing environmental health burdens, and fostering resilient sports practices for sustainable human performance.



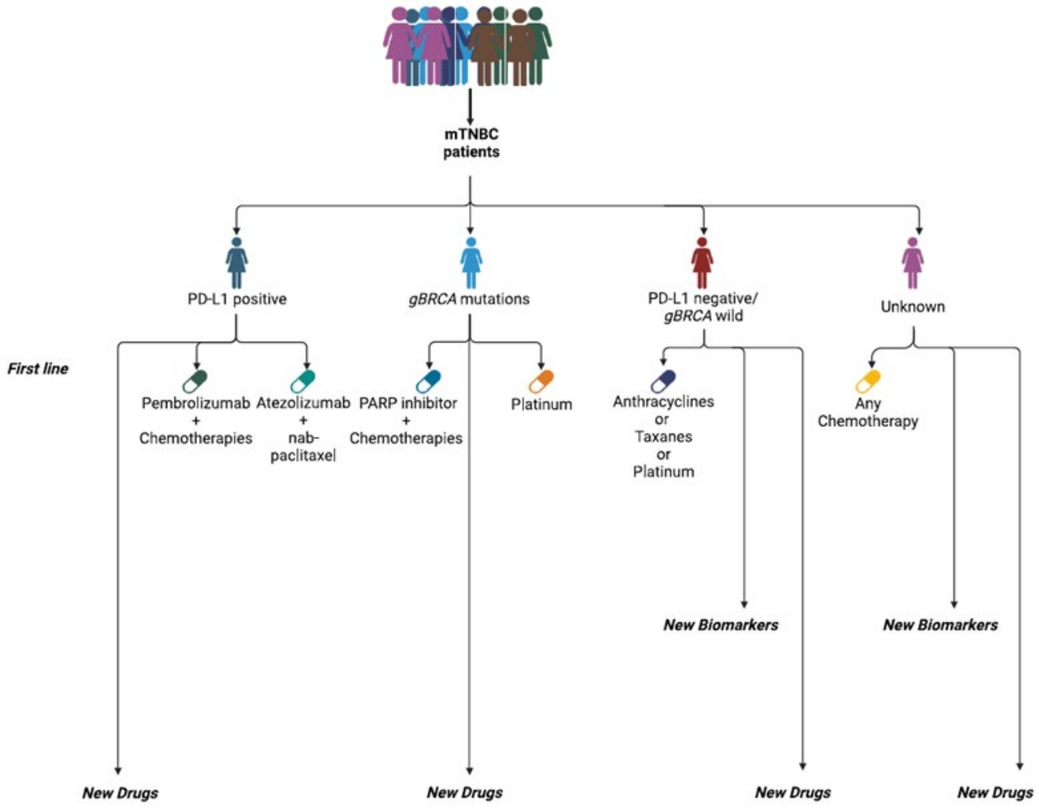
Peak core temperature (upper panel—A) and peak skin temperature (lower panel—B) presented by race category and sex.

Professor Yannis Pitsiladis at the Global Sustainable Development Congress (GSDC) 2025 in Turkey.

Classifications of triple-negative breast cancer: Insights and current therapeutic approaches

School of Chinese Medicine
Authors: Ziqi CHEN, Yumeng LIU, Minchuan LYU, Chi Ho CHAN, Meiheng SUN, Xin YANG, Shuangying QIAO, Zheng CHEN, Sifan YU, Meishen REN, Aiping LU, Ge ZHANG, Fangfei LI, Yuanyuan YU*
*Corresponding author

Triple-negative breast cancer (TNBC) is an aggressive form lacking key receptors, making targeted treatments challenging and leading to high recurrence and metastasis rates. This review synthesises TNBC classifications from molecular subtyping (e.g. Lehmann's six subtypes) to integrative analyses, highlighting heterogeneity in histopathology, proteomics, and genomics. It addresses limitations of conventional therapies like chemotherapy, which often face resistance, and explores innovative strategies such as immune checkpoint inhibitors and PARP inhibitors for subtypes like basal-like or BRCA-mutated. By enabling precise subtyping, the work supports personalised medicine, improving survival outcomes and reducing health disparities, especially among the young and low-socioeconomic groups. This aligns with SDG 3 by advancing effective treatments to combat non-communicable diseases, reducing premature mortality from cancer through better diagnostics and targeted therapies.



Consensus guidelines for TNBC treatment – "Biomarker-driven TNBC management flowchart".

Sustainability Initiatives

Health promotional and outreach programmes

The University demonstrates a strong commitment to health education and outreach through a variety of dedicated programmes. The Annual Medical Clinic Welcoming Programme supports first-year students by offering free vital health screenings, including checks of height, weight, blood pressure, pulse, and vision tests, along with health questionnaires to help in the early detection of potential health issues. Regular seminars on sexual and reproductive health led by healthcare professionals are also organised, such as the talk titled "What You Need to Know About Sexual Health and Sexually Transmitted Infections" held in November 2024. Recognising the importance of physical fitness and injury prevention, a seminar on "Sports Injuries: Treatments and Prevention" was held in February 2025 to educate students on maintaining safety and health during sports and physical activities.

Healthcare services

The University supports the health and well-being of students, staff, and their families through a wide range of healthcare services, addressing both physical and mental health needs. The Health Services Centre provides quality on-campus medical care, including routine check-ups, consultations, and treatment for minor illnesses. The University also partners with external dental clinics to offer discounted rates for University members. In collaboration with the Department of Health, the University supports public health programmes, such as the Human Papillomavirus Vaccination Catch-up Programme, which offers eligible female Hong Kong residents born between 2004 and 2008 the opportunity to receive vaccinations conveniently on campus.

Mental health support

The University is committed to the mental well-being of its staff through the Employee Assistance Programme, which offers professional counselling and resources to address workplace and personal challenges. Management sessions are organised to equip staff in managerial and supervisory roles with practical knowledge for managing emotional situations at work.

Employee wellness day

The Human Resources Office organised the "Employee Wellness Day", engaging over 600 participants in activities such as InBody body composition analysis, preliminary emotions assessment and sleep chronotype self-test. Following the campaign, a series of workshops and lunch-and-learn sessions were held to provide practical wellness information, further emphasising the importance of holistic health.

Mental health first aid training

From November 2024 to April 2025, five "Mental Health First Aid Standard Course" classes were offered in both online and face-to-face formats. Taught by qualified instructors, the courses aimed to deepen staff's understanding of mental health and equip them with the knowledge to support those in need. Over the past three years, 198 staff members have successfully completed the course.

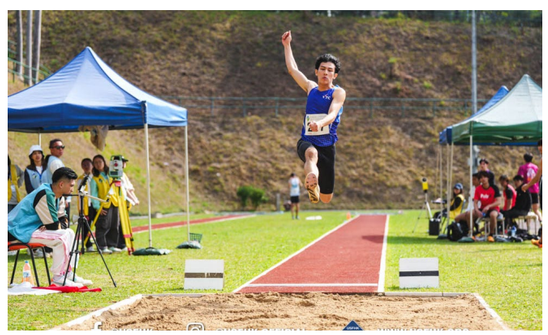
Enhancing community engagement through sports facilities

The University's strategic collaboration with local sports associations to share its sports facilities has significantly enhanced operational sustainability. This initiative optimises asset utilisation, generates ancillary revenue for facility maintenance and upgrades, and strengthens community ties by promoting active lifestyles.

Event	Organisation
The FIVB Coaches Courses 2024	The Volleyball Association of Hong Kong, China
Sport2Pro Basketball Competition	Kowloon City District Recreation and Sports Council
Inter-collegiate Volleyball Competition	The University Sports Federation of Hong Kong, China
Inter-collegiate Basketball Competition	The University Sports Federation of Hong Kong, China
Basketball Player Selection Trials	International University Sports Federation (FISU)
3 on 3 Basketball Tournament	AIA

Joint Sports Centre:

Event	Organisation	Number of Day(s)
Annual Athletic Meet	Vocational Training Council	1
Annual Athletic Meet	The University Sports Federation of Hong Kong, China	2
Tennis Competition	The University Sports Federation of Hong Kong, China	2
Soccer Competition	The University Sports Federation of Hong Kong, China	11



Comprehensive smokefree policy

Recognising the serious health risks associated with direct, second-hand, and third-hand smoke exposure, HKBU has implemented a comprehensive *Smokefree Policy*. This policy strictly prohibits smoking in all indoor and outdoor areas across campus, applying to every member of the campus community. In addition to enforcing this policy, the University actively promotes and supports initiatives to assist individuals in quitting smoking.

Fostering campus health and safety

The University is dedicated to protecting the well-being of its members through a robust health and safety framework. This includes regular campus-wide monitoring programmes that focus on critical areas such as food hygiene, indoor air quality, and drinking water safety. These systematic checks help maintain high safety standards throughout the campus. Precautionary measures including comprehensive safety inspections and indoor air quality assessments are also implemented for new buildings and facilities. To uphold stringent hygiene practices, food safety audits are conducted at newly established catering venues. These audits proactively address potential health risks, ensuring the safety of the University community.

THE Global Sustainable Development Congress 2025

HKBU advanced its commitment to sustainability and interdisciplinary excellence at the Global Sustainable Development Congress 2025, held from 16 to 19 June in Istanbul, Turkey. As the event's Global Health Innovation Partner and sponsor of the Health and Well-being Track, HKBU placed holistic wellness centre stage through a 6,000-square-foot "Well-being Zone". This immersive space showcased the "exercise is medicine" ethos with experiential sessions in Tai Chi, Baduanjin, and Mindfulness Karate, alongside mindfulness practices, digital well-being research, and talks on global health trends, mental health, and the applications of Chinese medicine and AI in healthcare.

SDG 04:

QUALITY EDUCATION

Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.

Teaching and Learning, Outreach and Engagement

Fostering intercultural competence through Cantonese language learning

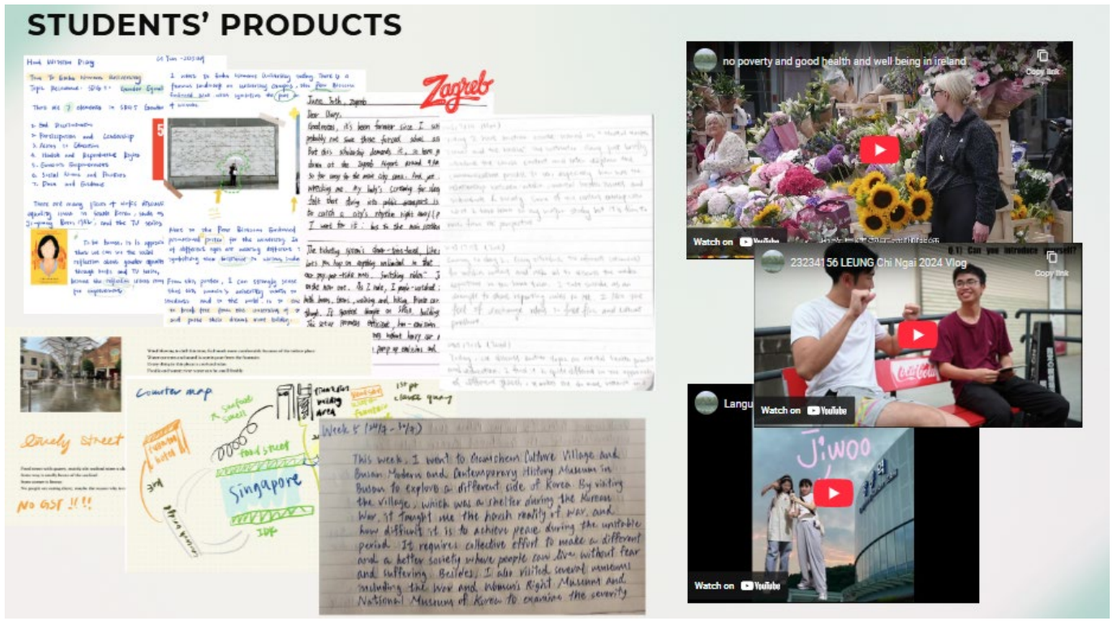
In the course "Applied Cantonese II" led by Dr Chan Yuen-sau of the Language Centre, native Mandarin-speaking students from diverse backgrounds were engaged in a dynamic, interactive learning environment, where active learning activities were implemented using task-based methodology. The course fostered intercultural competence and appreciation for cultural diversity among students through educational visits to local markets and community-based activities, including a flag-selling charity event. These authentic experiences enabled students to build connections with the local communities by using Cantonese in interactive learning tasks while developing important skills such as communication, collaboration and critical thinking.

Empowering education through AI tools

The Centre for Holistic Teaching and Learning, in partnership with Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, presented AI Playground, an interactive learning experience within the AI Workshop Series. Supported by multiple e-learning systems, the event attracted more than one hundred student registrations, with participants engaged in hands-on activities using various AI tools and explored the applications of these tools within competency-based education. Participants also discussed challenges such as algorithmic bias, data transparency, and responsible AI use. The workshop created an interactive learning environment that addressed potential educational inequalities, enhanced critical thinking and problem-based learning. This initiative highlighted the University's commitment to cultivate digital education and lifelong learning.

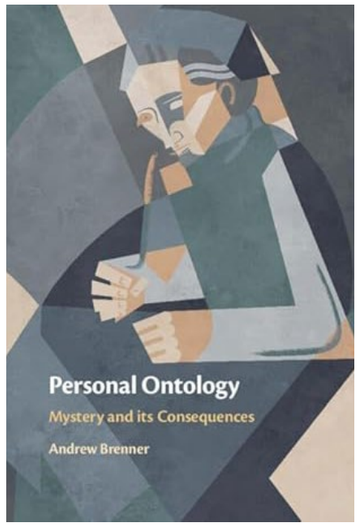
Exploring sustainability through intercultural exchange

Launched in 2024, the Intercultural Immersive Exchange Programme empowers students to engage with United Nation's SDGs by going on summer exchanges supported by the Language Centre. By 2025, over 180 students have travelled to 27 destinations across Europe, the Americas and Southeast Asia. Through these exchanges, students explored how sustainability goals are addressed in different societies, with particular focus on poverty reduction, health promotion, and waste management. Upon return, students created innovative projects such as vlogs and photo stories and took part in reflective seminars to share insights. The Programme provides students with access to inclusive and quality educational opportunities abroad as well as strengthens their intercultural awareness, whole-person development, and understanding of the SDGs.



Research

Personal ontology: Mystery and its consequences



Academy of Chinese, History, Religion and Philosophy
Author: Andrew T BRENNER

"Personal Ontology" explores fundamental questions about human identity—are we souls, bodies, or something else?—and delves into concepts of the afterlife such as resurrection and mind uploading, while advocating for agnosticism regarding unknowable metaphysical truths. This philosophical inquiry advances SDG 4 by enriching educational frameworks in metaphysics and epistemology, as well as fostering critical thinking and ethical reflection essential for lifelong learning. In a world facing sustainability challenges, such knowledge empowers individuals to question existence, values, and human potential, promoting inclusive education that bridges cultural and intellectual divides. By examining selfhood and uncertainty, the book encourages curricula that develop resilient, thoughtful global citizens, supporting SDG 4's focus on equitable access to transformative education and contributing to interdisciplinary approaches in personal and societal development.

An analysis of music textbooks: Insights into citizenship education

Academy of Music
Author: Wai Chung HO

This study examines how citizenship education is integrated into the music curriculum in the Chinese Mainland through textbooks published by the People's Music Publishing House, revealing how songs and illustrations shape students' identities and civic values across family, school, national, and global contexts. Using inductive analysis of 18 textbooks for Grades 1–9, this study identifies recurring themes of love, harmony, unity, and belonging that foster cultural identity and civic participation. The article suggests that high-quality education should combine cultivation of shared values and pride with open dialogue and critical engagement. This work informs educators and policymakers seeking to align arts education with global citizenship goals under SDG 4.

Textbook illustration example: Illustration of the song 'Singing to My Mother's Lullaby'.

Sustainability Initiatives

Promoting continuous learning

The University fosters a culture of continuous learning by offering diverse development opportunities tailored to the needs of staff. The newly launched Leadership Development Programme equips participants with essential skills to lead effectively in a dynamic environment.

COURSES
111
63 undergraduate courses
48 postgraduate courses

STUDENTS ENROLLED
7,873
5,835 undergraduates
2,038 postgraduates

T&L EVENTS
1,198

NO. OF PARTICIPANTS
30,610

5 GENDER EQUALITY

SDG 05:
GENDER EQUALITY
Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.

Teaching and Learning, Outreach and Engagement

Uncovering gender bias in AI-generated content

In the General Education course "Gender, Language, and Creativity", Dr Meilin Chen of the Language Centre guided students to critically analyse AI-generated text and image to uncover gender biases. Students identified how superficially positive words often used to describe gender-minority groups may subtly reinforce marginalisation by framing these identities as exceptions to societal norms. The students found that generative AI, trained on large language models, reinforced these subtle forms of exclusion. This course deepened students' understanding of gender norms and their impact on language and societal discourse. Students were encouraged to recognise hidden inequalities and gender biases, and actively contribute to reshape societal discourse on gender equity.

Advocating equality through creative expression

The "Rethinking Prejudice" initiative engaged Social Work students in a 12-hour intensive workshop to explore human diversity through music and video. Through the creation of seven original Cantonese songs and multimedia projects, students actively challenged issues related to prejudice and fostered an inclusive dialogue on social issues, with particular emphasis on gender stereotypes and sexual orientation. As part of a broader transdisciplinary collaboration with the Academy of Visual Arts, the workshop concluded in a live performance showcasing these original works. The event celebrated diverse voices and lived experiences, prompting meaningful reflection on gender inequality, domestic violence, and discrimination based on sexual orientation. It also encouraged both participants and the audience to confront biases and uphold principles of equality and inclusion.

COURSES
16
9 undergraduate courses
7 postgraduate course

T&L EVENTS
71

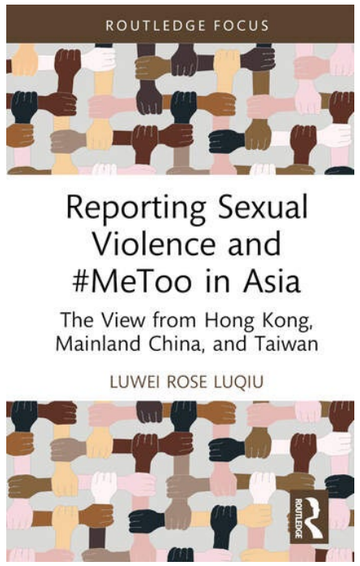
STUDENTS ENROLLED
1,061
793 undergraduates
268 postgraduates

NO. OF PARTICIPANTS
2,420

Research

Reporting sexual violence and #MeToo in Asia

Department of Journalism
Author: Rose LW LUQIU



This book critically examines how media across China including Hong Kong and Taiwan report on sexual violence and the #MeToo movement under different sociopolitical, cultural, and legal environments. It identifies challenges such as victim blaming, inadequate journalistic guidelines, and gaps in support for survivors, advocating for improved standards and training for journalists. By raising public awareness and advancing the discourse around sexual violence, the research directly supports SDG 5, which aims to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls. The work highlights the importance of media responsibility, education, and advocacy in challenging harmful norms and driving progress toward gender equality. The findings and recommendations encourage more inclusive and effective social mechanisms to protect women, promote legal reforms, and ensure justice for survivors, contributing to the empowerment and well-being of women and girls in Asia.

Adaptive self-reflection as a social media self-effect: Insights from computational text analyses of self-disclosures of unreported sexual victimisation in a hashtag campaign

Department of Communication Studies
Author: Tien Ee Dominic YEO

This study analyses 92,583 English tweets using the hashtag #WhyIDidntReport and finds that 61.8% are personal self-disclosures of sexual victimisation, indicating the campaign's role in making survivor experiences widely visible. Linguistic analysis (LIWC-2022) shows greater use of past focus, cognitive process, insight, and causation terms in self-disclosing tweets, which is consistent with adaptive self-reflection rather than rumination. Topic modelling and thematic analysis identify three self-distanced representation patterns—acknowledging previously unrecognised victimisation, reaffirming rationales for not reporting, and decrying invalidating responses—supporting meaning-making, voice, and agency in survivors' narratives. By evidencing how digital platforms can both surface sexual violence and enable reflective coping, the work advances SDG 5.2 to eliminate violence against women and girls, and SDG 5.8 by leveraging information and communications technology for empowerment through better design of survivor-centric communication and support pathways.

Sustainability Initiatives

Upholding equity and inclusion

HKBU is dedicated to cultivating a diverse and inclusive workplace. Fair employment practices ensure that all staff are treated equally with respect, guided by consistent selection, appointment, promotion and development guidelines. A transparent performance assessment and reward system, including a uniform pay scale, ensures evaluations are based on merit, performance and contributions.

Anti-discrimination policies

The University's *Policy Statement on Equal Opportunities* is regularly reviewed to maintain compliance and eliminate inequalities. A Task Force led by senior leadership advises on equal opportunity and diversity matters, ensuring a confidential process for handling complaints.

Mandatory anti-discrimination training

All staff are required to complete online anti-discrimination training. Additionally, various specialised trainings on topics including "Understanding and Preventing Sexual Harassment on Campus", "Managing Complaints of Discrimination and Harassment in the Workplace", "Understanding Effective Skills on Mediation and Conflict Management" and "Promoting Racial DEI in the Workplace" were held to promote anti-discrimination.

Cultural engagement activity

To promote cultural inclusion, staff and their families participated in a cultural tour of the Kowloon Mosque and Chungking Mansions, providing an opportunity to connect with ethnic minorities in Hong Kong.

International Women's Day campaign

In celebration of International Women's Day, the Human Resources Office organised the "Accelerate Action" campaign on 6 March 2025, attracting over 500 participants. The campaign included a themed display created in collaboration with social enterprise "Joy Fusion" and the distribution of handcrafted souvenirs from "Time To Gold" and "sis works" to support women's employment.

Supporting staff with family needs

The University implements family-friendly measures that enable staff members to tend to their family needs. Other than leave provisions which exceed legal requirements, such as full pay maternity and paternity leave, lactation break, marriage leave and compassionate leave, the flexi-hour work arrangements are also in place, reflecting a commitment to supporting staff members' professional and personal lives.

Family engagement initiatives

To promote work-life balance, the Human Resources Office organised various programmes for staff and their families. Initiatives include the Island House and Coastline Eco Tour in Tai Po, family wellness programmes such as a parent-child mindfulness massage workshops and lunch-and-learn sessions on couple relationships. In addition, staff enjoy free access to sports facilities on campus, encouraging recreational activities with their families.

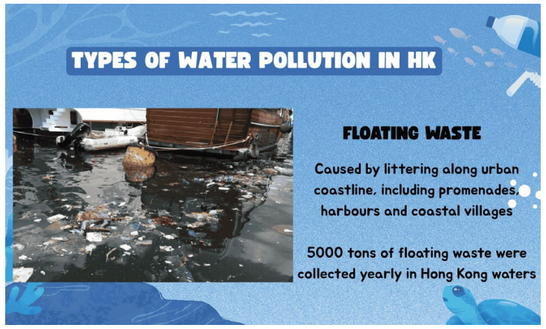
SDG 06:

CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION

Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.

Teaching and Learning, Outreach and Engagement

From nexus analysis to sustainable water management



The General Education course "People and the Environment", led by Professor Lyu Xiaopu of the Department of Geography, explored topics related to human-environment interactions and contemporary environmental issues. Introducing the food-energy-water nexus, the course highlighted the interdependence of food production, energy systems and water resources, as well as the need for integrated management to secure a reliable supply of water. Drawing on transdisciplinary perspectives, students of the course studied the water cycle's role, sources and impacts of pollutants, and wastewater treatment and reuse. Through field trips, mini-research projects and debates, students developed data analysis and evaluation skills for sustainable water management. The course fostered responsible citizenship to advance equitable access to safe water, improve sanitation, reduce pollution, and strengthen the resilience of water services and ecosystems.

Empowering students to improve marine water quality

University YMCA (HKBU), in partnership with the Hong Kong Marine Ecology Association, led the Oyster Shell Skewers Workshop and Placement Service to engage students in practical efforts to improve marine water quality. Students studied Hong Kong's wastewater management systems and discovered the remarkable purification ability of oyster shells, which naturally filter pollutants while providing habitats for diverse marine life. Under the guidance of marine experts, students crafted oyster shell strings and placed them along the Tung Chung coastline. This eco-friendly approach demonstrated how small community actions can have meaningful ripple effects in safeguarding ocean health.

COURSES
6
5 undergraduate courses
1 postgraduate course

STUDENTS ENROLLED
396
315 undergraduates
81 postgraduates

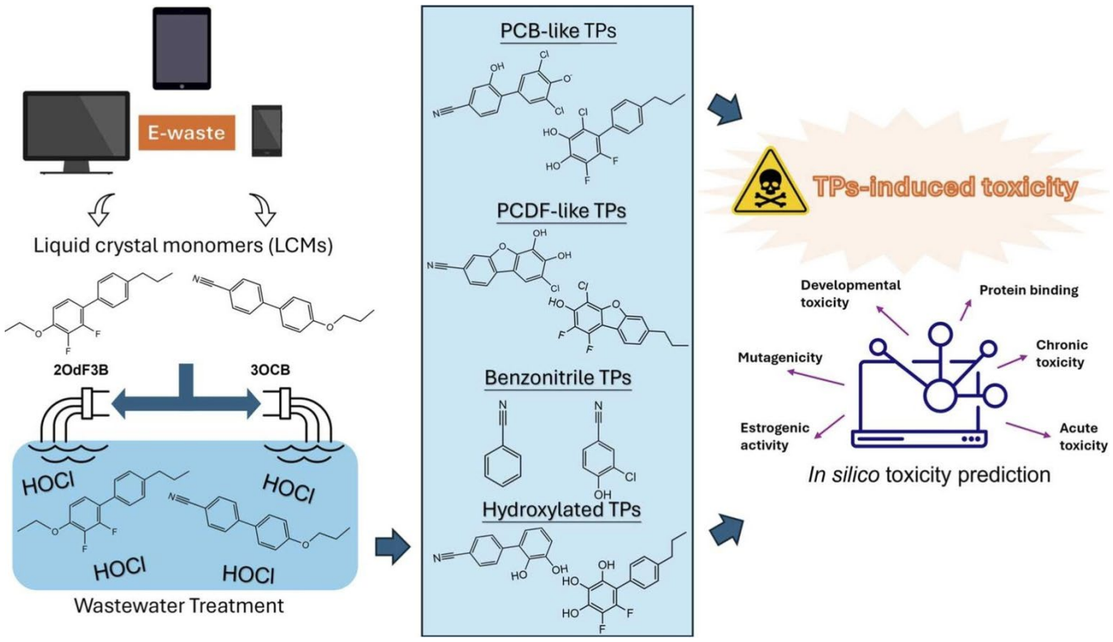
T&L EVENTS
33

NO. OF PARTICIPANTS
1,809

Formation of PCB-like and PCDF-like transformation products from liquid crystal monomers in aqueous chlorination: Degradation, transformation and toxicity evaluation

Department of Chemistry
Authors: Japhet Cheuk Fung LAW, Chi Hang CHOW, Kelvin Sze Yin LEUNG*
*Corresponding author

Liquid crystal monomers (LCMs) from e-waste are increasingly detected in sewage and sludge, but their fate during routine disinfection remains poorly understood. This study shows that chlorination partially degrades two prevalent LCMs and produces 34 transformation products, including species structurally similar to polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) and polychlorinated dibenzofurans (PCDFs). In silico assessments indicate many byproducts have acute and chronic aquatic toxicity, potential developmental toxicity and mutagenicity, endocrine-receptor binding, and protein-binding alerts linked to chromosomal aberrations, in some cases comparable to or exceeding legacy PCBs/PCDFs. These findings highlight unintended risks from standard chlorination and the need to optimise treatment trains, monitor LCM byproducts, and guide source control of e-waste-derived pollutants. This work directly supports SDG 6.3 on improving water quality and strengthens water management research and capacity (6.a–b).

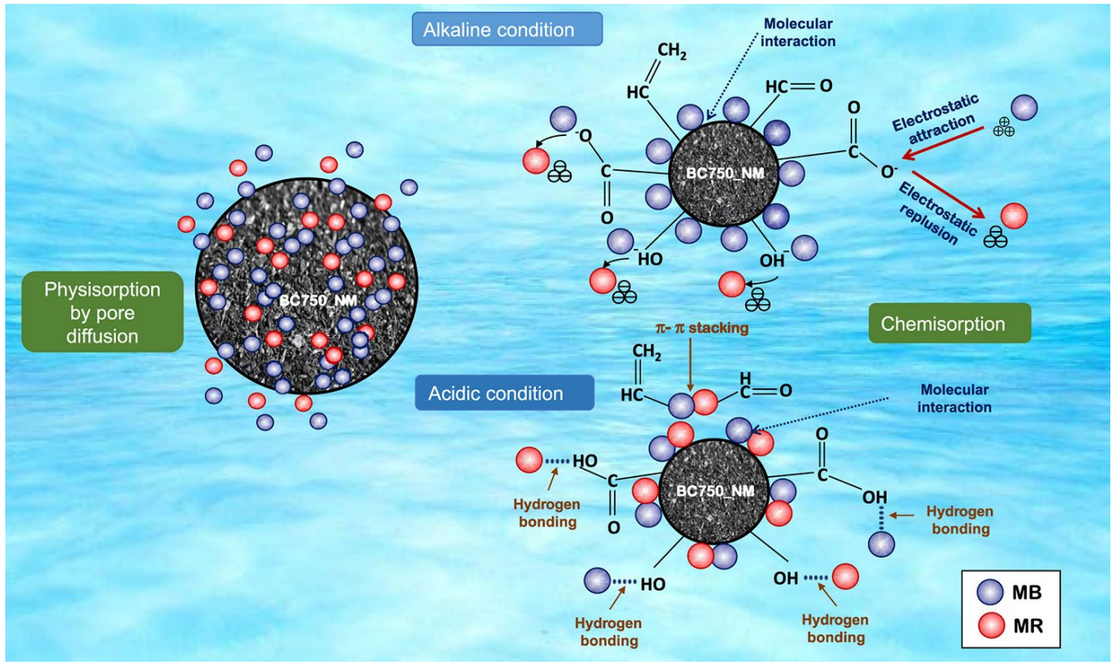


Graphical abstract

pH-tuneable simultaneous and selective dye wastewater remediation with digestate-derived biochar: Adsorption behaviour, mechanistic insights and potential application

Department of Biology
Authors: Ifunanya R. AKANIRO, Gaihong WANG, Peixin WANG, Ruilong ZHANG, Wenhua XUE, Jian YE, Jonathan W.C. WONG, Jun ZHAO*
*Corresponding author

This study converts food-waste digestate into engineered biochar through hydrothermal carbonisation and pyrolysis, followed by mild nitric-acid functionalisation to enhance porosity and oxygen-containing sites for dye adsorption. The optimised material (BC750_NM, ~454 m^2/g) achieves near-complete removal of methylene blue and methyl red simultaneously at acidic pH, while selectively capturing cationic methylene blue at alkaline pH. This enables both holistic cleanup and targeted pollutant separation using simple pH control. Kinetic, isotherm, thermodynamic, and statistical-physics modelling reveal mixed physisorption-chemisorption mechanisms driven by π-π stacking, hydrogen bonding, pore diffusion, and electrostatic, with spontaneous and endothermic uptake and recoverability over multiple cycles. By coupling wastewater remediation with valorisation of digestate residues, this work supports SDG 6.3 on reducing water pollution and promotes sustainable waste-to-resource solutions for scalable, low-cost water treatment.



Sustainability Initiatives

The University has implemented a series of sustainable water management initiatives.

Rainwater harvesting system

The University utilises a rainwater harvesting system that collects and stores rooftop runoff for irrigation purposes. By capturing rainwater, this system reduces dependence on municipal water supplies and promotes sustainable water use.

Accessible drinking water stations

Water bottle filling stations are conveniently located across campus, providing free and safe drinking water to the HKBU community. This initiative supports the University's environmental goals and reduces reliance on disposable plastic bottles.

Safeguarding water integrity

To protect environmental and water quality, the University has installed oil interceptors and grease traps in areas such as catering outlets and car parks. These systems separate oily substances, ensuring that only treated water is discharged into the municipal system.

SDG 07:

AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY

Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all.

Teaching and Learning, Outreach and Engagement

Fostering renewable energy education in Cambodia

Jointly organised by the Language Centre and the Department of Physics, Dr Martin Ma and Dr Joshua Chan led a group of 20 students to Cambodia to address energy challenges through community-based education. Partnering with the Cambodian Children's Advocacy Foundation Organization (CCAFO), the students engaged with over 130 rural children aged 5 to 10 at CCAFO's Motherland Cambodia Education Center in Kampong Speu Province. The students delivered a three-day programme to introduce concepts of renewable energy through interactive games and videos, English language learning and storytelling, water and wind turbine models, and miniature solar-powered karts, demonstrating how natural resources convert to motion. This project strengthened HKBU students' ability to design culturally sensitive curricula, enhancing their adaptability and problem-solving skills. while providing rural children with firsthand exposure to clean fuel and renewable energy generation and igniting their curiosity about sustainable energy.

Affordable and clean energy in practice: A STEM service-learning collaboration

Led by Professor Daphne Mah at the Academy of Geography, Sociology and International Studies, students visited HKMLC Wong Chan Sook Ying Memorial School with an aim to equip young minds with knowledge of sustainability and technological innovation to build a more sustainable future. Through this initiative, students delivered a STEM energy workshop for nearly 100 primary school students, where they built DIY weather stations and explore how temperature, sunlight and wind influence solar generation and energy efficiency. These activities aimed to foster environmental stewardship and encourage the primary school students to envision a low-carbon society. HKBU students were also able to apply their knowledge in real-world contexts.

COURSES
29
20 undergraduate courses
9 postgraduate courses

T&L EVENTS
13

STUDENTS ENROLLED
1,384
860 undergraduates
524 postgraduates

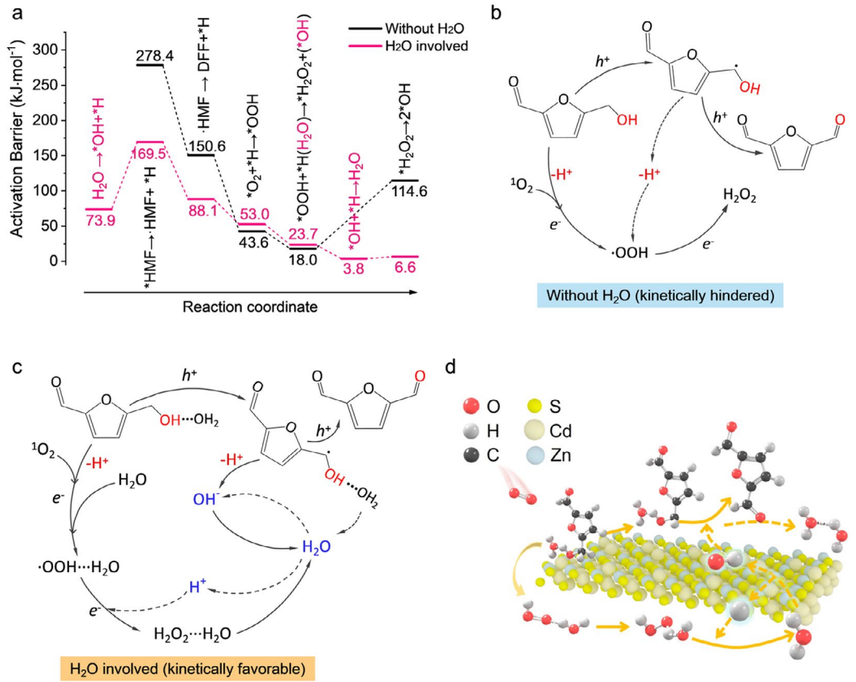
NO. OF PARTICIPANTS
338

Research

Harnessing trace water for enhanced photocatalytic oxidation of biomass-derived alcohols to aldehydes

Department of Biology
Authors: Wenhua XUE, Jian YE, Zhi ZHU, Reeti KUMAR, Jun ZHAO*
*Corresponding author

The study shows that adding minute amounts of water to acetonitrile unlocks sustained, higher-yield solar photocatalytic oxidation of biomass-derived alcohols, exemplified by the conversion of 5-hydroxymethylfurfural (HMF) to 2,5-diformylfuran (DFF) with up to 97% conversion and 66.6% yield under ambient conditions. Mechanistically, trace water participates in hydrogen-bonding to lower the activation barriers for C–H and O–H bond cleavage, while promoting benign decomposition of inhibitory H_2O_2, preventing catalyst deactivation and maintaining the reaction progress. The solvent-tuning concept generalises across photocatalysts (e.g., CdS, $ZnIn_2S_4$, g-C_3N_4) and diverse alcohol substrates, indicating a scalable route for more energy-efficient, low-carbon fine chemical production powered by light rather than heat. By improving solar-to-chemical conversion efficiency and decreasing fossil energy inputs, the work supports SDG 7's aims on renewable energy use and efficiency gains in industrial processes.

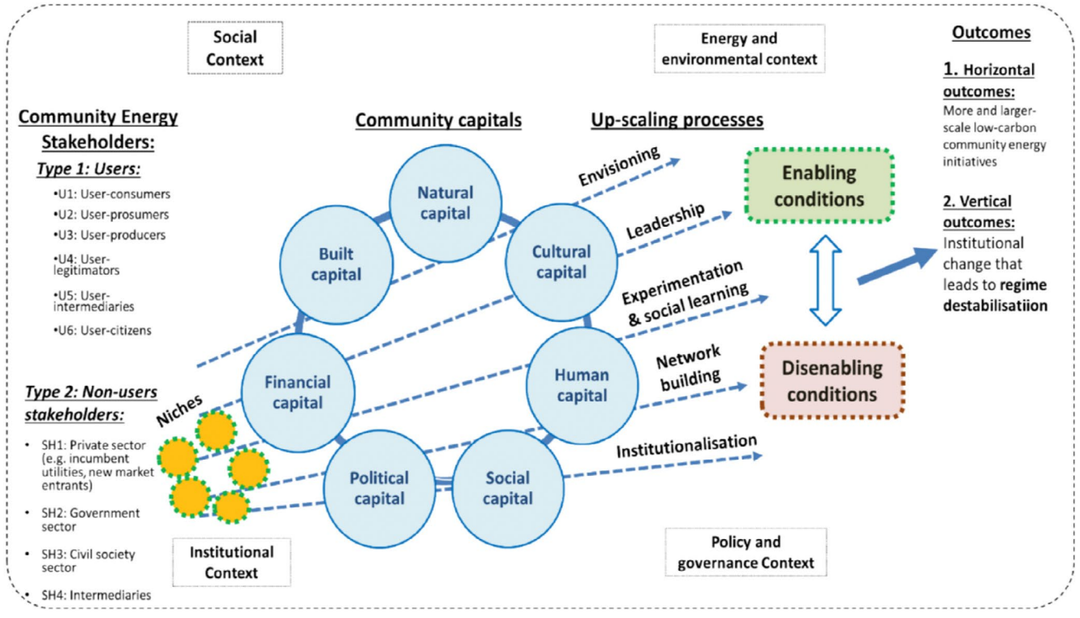


(a) Activation barriers of the elementary reaction during HMF dehydrogenation in the absence (dark line) and presence (pink line) of water.
(b) Schematic of the dehydrogenation pathway without water participation.
(c) and (d) Schematic of the water-involved reaction pathway of HMF dehydrogenation to DFF.

Understanding the up-scaling mechanisms of urban energy transitions: An application of a capital-based framework to a comparative case study of two solar communities in Hong Kong

Academy of Geography, Sociology and International Studies, David C Lam Institute for East-West Studies
Authors: Daphne Ngar-yin MAH, Darren Man-wai CHEUNG*, Wing Kei CHEUNG, Aijia WANG, Andy Wai-hei SIU, Michael K.H. LEUNG, Maggie Yachao WANG, Mandy Wai-ming WONG, Kevin LO, Altair Tin-fu CHEUNG
*Corresponding author

This study explains how to scale up urban community solar by proposing a capital-based up-scaling model and testing it in two Hong Kong residential estates under a high feed-in tariff policy launched in 2018. Using mixed methods—78 household interviews, 21 stakeholder interviews, and two deliberative workshops—the authors identify five interacting processes that enable scale: envisioning shared goals, community leadership, experimentation and social learning, network building, and institutionalisation with market and policy support. They also diagnose common barriers (e.g., unclear shared vision, limited leadership, few trial-and-error pilots, weak replication, thin networks, and electricity-market constraints) and show that residents adopt multiple user roles (consumer, prosumer, intermediary and legitimator) that leverage community capitals to advance solar. The framework offers practical guidance for cities to mobilise households, align stakeholders, and embed community solar in institutions, thereby contributing to SDG 7 through wider, durable clean-energy uptake.



An integrated framework of capital-based up-scaling mechanisms for community-driven urban energy transitions.

Sustainability Initiatives

Generation of renewable energy

Solar photovoltaic system

In 2023, HKBU installed solar photovoltaic systems on the rooftops of six buildings, covering approximately 1,800 m^2. Over the past academic year, these panels generated around 453,500 kilowatt-hours (kWh) of clean electricity, resulting in a reduction of approximately 178 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent emissions. Supported by CLP Power Hong Kong Limited's Renewable Energy Feed-in Tariff Scheme, this project contributes to the advancement of local clean energy. Real-time solar generation data is publicly accessible on the HKBU website and via the HKBU mobile app for students and staff.

Renewable energy system at Crop Science Laboratory

The Crop Science Laboratory, situated on the rooftop of the Sir Run Run Shaw Building, exemplifies a holistic approach by combining research facilities, green spaces, and recreational areas to create a vibrant social hub. Its innovative renewable energy system features an air-quality improvement photovoltaic system that generates approximately 10,000 kWh of electricity per year, along with a wind turbine system that produces around 4,500 kWh annually. These systems significantly reduce reliance on conventional energy, supporting campus sustainability.

The laboratory has gained recognition for its sustainable design and seamless integration with the campus environment. It was a finalist in the "Special Award – Heritage & Adaptive Re-use" category at the Hong Kong Institute of Architects Annual Awards 2022/23, and in the "Existing Buildings: Completed Projects – Institutional" category of the Green Building Award 2023, co-organised by the Hong Kong Green Building Council and Professional Green Building Council.

Five-year energy efficiency plan (2025 – 2030)

New capital projects and major renovation

1. Green building certification

The *University Green Policy for Capital Projects and Major Additional, Alteration and Improvement Projects for University Campus* sets out the policy for these projects to achieve green building ratings under the BEAM Plus Certification Scheme of which energy efficiency performance is one of the key assessment criteria.

2. Carbon and energy reduction initiatives

The following key features will be implemented in our buildings whenever practicable.

Building services and systems

- **Heating and cooling**: Use energy-efficient systems, including advanced chillers and fans that adjust their speed based on need.
- **Lighting**: LED lights and dimmers help reduce energy use.
- **Lifts and escalators**: The lifts have energy-saving motors, and the escalators can operate at lower speeds when not in heavy use.
- **Smart controls**: Use advanced systems to manage energy use, including sensors that adjust lighting and air conditioning based on natural light and occupancy.
- **Renewable energy**: Install solar panels and wind turbines to generate clean energy.
- **Electric vehicle charging**: Provide medium EV charging facilities for parking spaces.

Architectural design

Natural elements are also incorporated into the designs to reduce energy needs:

- Roof gardens and landscapes
- Green walls for insulation
- Sun-shading features to keep buildings cool
- Natural ventilation systems to improve airflow
- Well-designed windows to enhance insulation and reduce noise

Existing buildings

1. Carbon and energy reduction for building systems

Actions are taken to improve energy efficiency in the buildings:

- **Upgrade equipment**: Replace old chillers with newer, more efficient models when they reach the end of their lifespan.
- **Optimise systems**: Review and adjust the heating and cooling systems for better performance.
- **Lighting improvements**: Install LED lighting in ongoing renovation projects.
- **Smart classrooms**: Upgrade classrooms with advanced audio-visual equipment and smart sensors to control lighting and air conditioning.
- **Enhanced metering**: Improve our sub-metering system for better energy tracking.
- **Smart technology**: Use smart sensors with Internet of Things (IoT) technology to optimise energy use.
- **Ongoing monitoring**: Regularly check and manage power quality across buildings.
- **Renewable energy development**: Increase the use of renewable energy on campus.
- **Electric vehicle charging**: Upgrade and increase the number of EV charging stations, aiming for at least 50% of parking spaces to have medium chargers by 2030.
- **Green features**: Follow guidelines for eco-friendly building improvements.

2. Carbon and energy management approaches

Regular energy and carbon audits are conducted and policies are reviewed to enhance sustainability:

- **Energy performance monitoring**: Monitor energy use across multiple campuses each month using smart technology.
- **Energy audits**: Perform third-party energy audits for each building at least every five years, except for those scheduled for renovation or closure.
- **Annual carbon audit**: Conduct annual audits that cover all university campuses.
- **Air conditioning review**: Review air conditioning schedules every two years. A recent review reduced operating hours by 10 hours per week in administrative offices.
- **Indoor temperature settings**: Adjust indoor temperature settings to 24°C in summer (increased from 22°C) for general areas, with exceptions for special needs.

Performance indicators for 2024-25

Comparison against baseline year 2016-17

Improvements have been observed for all performance indicators in 2024-25 compared to the baseline year of 2016-17.

Performance indicators		2024-25 against baseline year (2016-17)
Greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions	Per GFA (tCO_2e/sq.m.)	-33.57%
	Per capita (tCO_2e/FTE)	-42.93%
Energy consumption	Per GFA (kWh/sq.m.)	-7.91%
	Per capita (kWh/FTE)	-20.84%
Water consumption	Per GFA (c.m./sq.m.)	-14.12%
	Per capita (c.m./FTE)	-26.40%

Greenhouse gas emissions for 2024-25

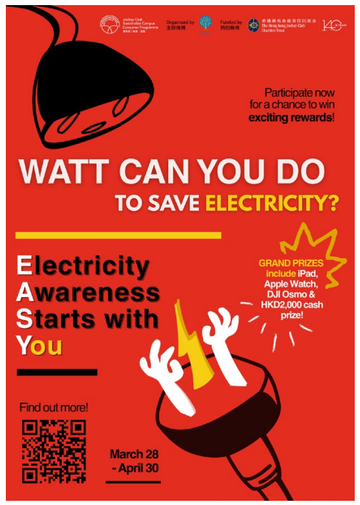
- Scope 1 - Direct GHG emissions: 879 tCO_2e
- Scope 2 - Indirect GHG emissions: 15,450 tCO_2e
- Scope 3 - Other indirect GHG emissions: 192 tCO_2e

Total GHG emissions: 16,521 tCO_2e

Awareness Campaigns

E.A.S.Y. Campaign

From March to April 2025, the Electricity Awareness Starts with You (E.A.S.Y.) campaign was launched in collaboration with the Jockey Club Sustainable Campus Consumer Programme (JCSCCP) to promote responsible energy consumption. This student-focused digital initiative featured gamified challenges, including educational puzzles and quizzes on eco-labelling. These encouraged participants to adopt energy-saving habits.



Every Action Counts Campaign

Organised by JCSCCP in collaboration with Learn Root, the Energy and Water Conservation Promotion Booth under the Every Action Counts Campaign was showcased on 25-26 November 2024 at the Li Promenade of the HKBU campus. The booth featured interactive displays and a demonstration of a behaviour-activated showerhead, promoting awareness of energy and water conservation, while offering small green gifts to participants.

8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

SDG 08:

DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all.

Teaching and Learning, Outreach and Engagement

Walking Hong Kong's global story: Community learning for inclusive growth

The General Education capstone course "Hong Kong and the World," taught by Professors Kang Yi and Samson Yuen, prepared students to promote inclusive and sustainable growth in Hong Kong's multicultural context. Exploring the city's economic history, migration patterns, the legacy of economic freedom from the colonial era, and integration with the Chinese Mainland, students analysed the drivers of growth, structural transformation and social implications while engaging with NGOs, social enterprises, and refugee communities to understand conditions for decent work and inclusion. Through developing neighbourhood walking tours that linked Hong Kong's local stories to global connections, students applied their learning to foster community-based tourism and a more tolerant, multicultural society.

Industry–university partnership accelerates student innovation for sustainability

In collaboration with Alibaba Cloud, TriAngle of the Centre for Innovative Service-Learning hosted the "techstars Startup Weekend Hong Kong for Social Good". This innovative education programme empowered students to design technology-driven solutions that foster the sustainable development of society and inclusive economic growth. Guided by more than 20 mentors and judges from various industries and startups, 41 students from 16 disciplines received entrepreneurship training and mentorship. As a result, 11 teams pitched innovative ideas that addressed issues including climate change, quality education and economic growth. Audacity was one of the three winning teams and received the Market Validation Award. This social enterprise focuses on creating decent work by producing sustainable, high-performance sportswear from recycled textiles in the Chinese Mainland. Their business model demonstrated a commitment to both environmental and economic sustainability. This strong industry–university partnership showcased how collaborative ecosystems can accelerate student-led innovation, paving the way for scalable impact and a more sustainable future.

COURSES
101
48 undergraduate courses
53 postgraduate courses

T&L EVENTS
174

STUDENTS ENROLLED
6,140
4,016 undergraduates
2,124 postgraduates

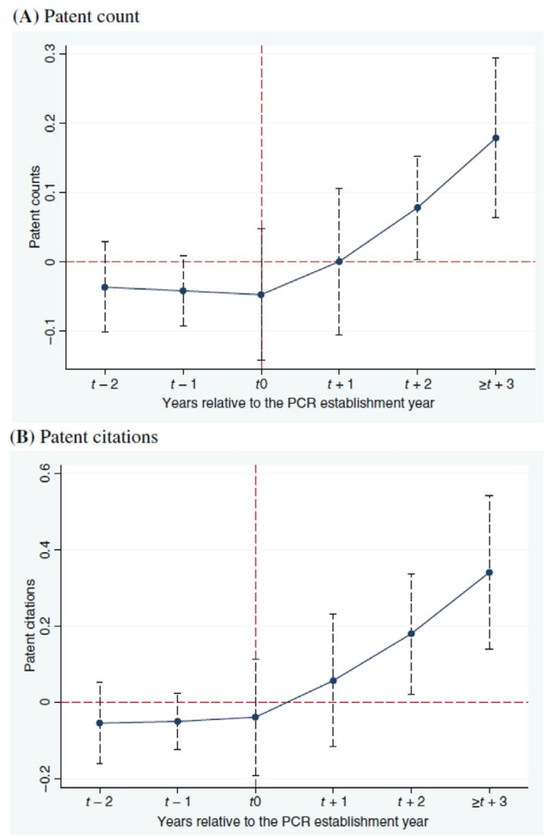
NO. OF PARTICIPANTS
4,516

Research

Credit information sharing and firm innovation: Evidence from the establishment of public credit registries

Department of Accountancy, Economics and Finance
Authors: Fangfang HOU, Jeffrey NG, Xinpeng XU, Janus Jian ZHANG*
*Corresponding author

This study explores how public credit registries (PCRs) can boost firm innovation by easing access to finance, and addressing key barriers such as information asymmetry and the high risks of lending for R&D. By analysing global data, the study shows that PCRs increase patent outputs and efficiency, especially in opaque firms and innovative sectors, fostering sustainable economic growth. This aligns with SDG 8 by promoting inclusive economic expansion, productive employment, and innovation-driven jobs. Enhanced credit sharing supports small firms and emerging markets, reducing inequalities and enabling decent work opportunities. By improving financial infrastructure, the research contributes to resilient economies and encourages policies that drive long-term productivity and equitable development worldwide.

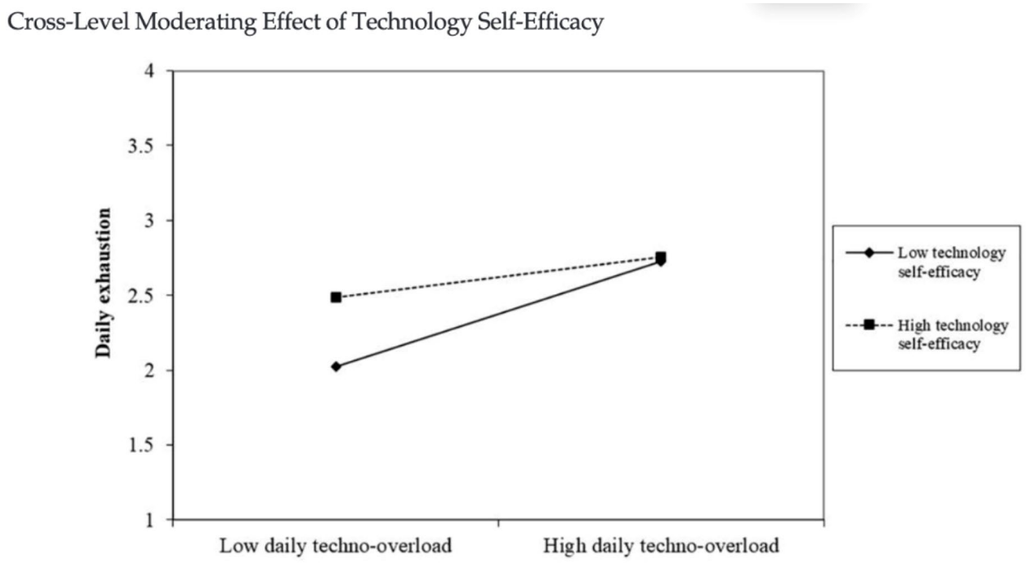


Event-study coefficients around PCR establishment: Yearly effects on patent counts/citations, baseline is ≥3 years pre-PCR, with 95% CIs.

Understanding the dynamic and episodic nature of technostressors and their effects on cyberdeviance: A daily field investigation

Department of Management, Marketing and Information Systems
Authors: Yang CHEN, Jose BENITEZ, Christy M K CHEUNG*
*Corresponding author

This study shows how two daily ICT-related stressors—techno-overload and techno-invasion—lead to employees' daily exhaustion, which in turn increases daily cyberdeviance, such as security-policy violations and harmful online behaviours toward the organisation or colleagues. Using a two-week experience sampling design with 188 professionals and multilevel analyses, the research demonstrates that yesterday's techno-invasion predicts today's techno-overload, and that higher technology self-efficacy weakens the exhaustion caused by techno-overload. These findings help managers to design healthier digital work routines, limit after-hours intrusion, and build employees' technology efficacy to curb deviance, protect organisational assets, and sustain productivity—outcomes that are central to SDG 8's goal of safe, secure, and productive workplaces.



Interaction plot: Techno-overload predicts exhaustion more strongly at low self-efficacy than high self-efficacy.

Sustainability Initiatives

Equal opportunities and non-discrimination

The University is committed to providing equal opportunities and to assessing and rewarding all employees based on consistent criteria. Personal attributes such as family background, family status, gender, marital status, pregnancy, breastfeeding status, place of origin, ethnicity, race, disability, age, faith heritage, religion or beliefs, sexual orientation and gender identity are respected and safeguarded against any form of bias. An impartial mechanism for annual performance reviews is in place for eligible full-time staff, reinforcing appropriate linkage between performance and rewards and fostering a fair and inclusive workplace culture.

Additionally, an Equal Opportunities Panel is established to address grievances, complaints, or allegations of discrimination or harassment with confidentiality, ensuring compliance with the University's Policy Statement on Equal Opportunities and relevant guidelines.

Minimum wage compliance

The University adheres to the Minimum Wage Ordinance of Hong Kong, China regularly evaluating salary scales to ensure equitable compensation. Following the 2025 minimum wage adjustment, salary bands for non-teaching staff have been reviewed and adjusted as necessary.

Safeguarding outsourced workers' rights

To uphold ethical labour standards, the University enforces a *Policy on Anti-Slavery and Equivalent Rights for Outsourced Workers*, ensuring fair wages, competitive benefits, and safe working condition. Suppliers must adhere to the principles of human rights and equal opportunities, commit to non-discriminatory employment practices and offer necessary trainings and feedback channels to their workers.

Occupational health and safety

HKBU prioritises staff health through a robust Health, Safety and Environment Policy, along with proactive initiatives that promote well-being. All full-time and part-time staff must complete mandatory compliance training, which included a module on the Occupational Safety and Health Ordinance. The Human Resources Office also organises relevant training sessions, such as those focused on vocal health. As a participant in the "Joyful@Healthy Workplace Charter" and a signatory of the "Good Employer Charter 2024", the University reaffirms its commitment to employee-centred practices and provides benefits that go beyond statutory requirements. This helps to foster a culture of transparent communication.

SDG 09:

INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialisation and foster innovation.

Teaching and Learning, Outreach and Engagement

Creating accessible digital places of comfort for children

In the service-learning courses "Virtual World: Design and Interaction" and "Creative Production in Extended Reality" taught by Mr Yu Ka-ho at the Department of Interactive Media, students applied technological innovation to support children and families from Ronald McDonald House Charities (RMHC) Hong Kong.

Through this engagement, 51 students designed immersive games and virtual-reality (VR) experiences exploring a wide range of themes – from well-being and self-image, to imaginative worlds, to yearning for freedom, and to facing end-of-life. By listening to the stories and everyday challenges faced by RMHC families, the students gained valuable insights that informed their empathetic and user-centred design approach. The resulting virtual environments mirrored reassuring real-world spaces, providing digital recreations of positive experiences tailored to RMHC's children and their families. As a bonus, students created a virtual and interactive tour of RMHC's space, which was captured using "digital twins". More than 500 visitors from around the world have visited the newly built RMHC Kwun Tong.

These courses fostered human-centred innovation, demonstrating how university–community partnerships can strengthen accessible and inclusive digital infrastructure for health and wellbeing. The experience expanded students' perspectives on how technological advancements can be leveraged for social good, while the RMHC families benefitted from engaging and personalised experiences created specifically for them.

Gateway to explore manufacturing market opportunities in the Chinese Mainland

The Career Centre organised a Greater Bay Area Start-up Exploration Trip on 31 October 2024, taking a group of 18 students to attend the 134th China Import and Export Fair (Canton Fair) in Guangzhou. The Canton Fair is the largest trade fair in the Chinese Mainland, facilitating 1,600 exhibitors from different industries, including manufacturing, electronics and appliances, vehicles, and two wheels, as well as thousands of buyers from around the world, to gain business opportunities.

This event provided aspiring student entrepreneurs with an excellent opportunity to explore the Chinese market and its supply chains, gain insights into recent technology developments and build valuable business networks. Students were able to interact directly with exhibitors and buyers, gaining first-hand insights into product innovation, as well as market opportunities and challenges to inclusive and sustainable industrialisation in the Chinese Mainland – all of which are valuable for those interested in launching their own start-ups.

COURSES
62
43 undergraduate courses
19 postgraduate courses

STUDENTS ENROLLED
2,882
2,006 undergraduates
876 postgraduates

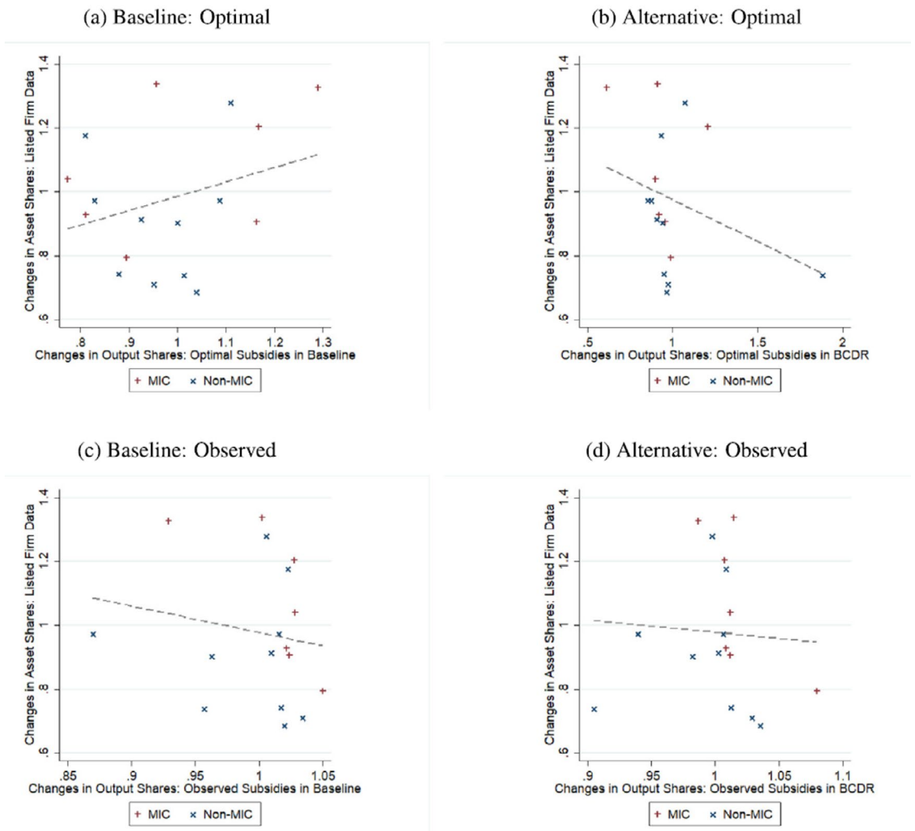
T&L EVENTS
116

NO. OF PARTICIPANTS
3,385

Trade wars and industrial policy competitions: Understanding the US-China economic conflicts

Department of Accountancy, Economics and Finance
Authors: Jiandong JU, Hong MA, Zi WANG*, Xiaodong ZHU
*Corresponding author

This study examines the US-China trade war and industrial policy rivalries, using a model to assess subsidies such as "Made in China 2025" and tariffs on high-tech sectors. It finds that well-designed subsidies can boost the welfare of both nations by leveraging scale economies, while tariffs often lead to losses, suggesting that subsidies are a less distortive alternative. Relevant to SDG 9, the research advances sustainable industrialisation by providing data-driven insights into fostering innovation, resilient infrastructure, and efficient global supply chains. It highlights how policies can promote technological progress without escalating conflicts, aiding inclusive economic development. By analysing real-world scenarios like semiconductor subsidies, it equips policymakers to build innovative industries that support long-term sustainability, reduce inequalities in access to technology, and enhance global partnerships for shared prosperity.

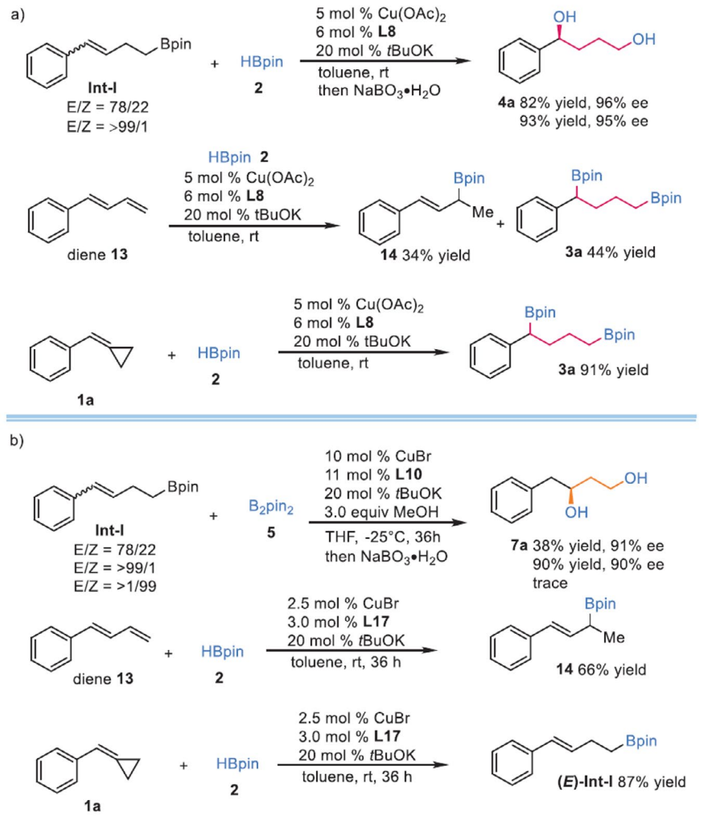


Observed vs. predicted changes in the structure of Chinese manufacturing.

Enantio- and regioselective cascade hydroboration of methylenecyclopropanes for facile access to chiral 1,3- and 1,4-Bis(boronates)

Department of Chemistry
Authors: Jian ZHOU, Ling MENG, Ziyi YANG, and Jun (Joelle) WANG*
*Corresponding author

This study introduces a copper-catalysed asymmetric cascade hydroboration of methylenecyclopropanes, producing chiral 1,3- and 1,4-bis(boronates) with high yields and selectivity using affordable catalysts and simple substrates. These compounds are versatile for building complex structures in drugs and materials, addressing challenges in accessibility and efficiency. Relevant to SDG 9, it fosters innovation in chemical synthesis, enabling sustainable industrial processes that reduce energy use and waste, while enhancing technological capabilities. In fields like pharmaceuticals, where chirality is key for efficacy, this method supports resilient infrastructure by providing scalable, eco-friendly tools for molecular design. By merging ring-opening with hydroboration, it exemplifies research-driven advancements that promote inclusive industrialisation, particularly in Asia's growing biotech sectors, contributing to global efforts for innovative, resource-efficient economies.



Control experiments of cascade hydroboration.

Sustainability Initiatives

Green and smart buildings

The Jockey Club Campus of Creativity (JC^3), operational since March 2025, exemplifies sustainable and innovative campus development through the vertical integration of teaching, residential and social spaces.

Key sustainable features of JC^3 include integrated energy-saving technologies, naturally ventilated architectural planning, roof gardens, and a central sky courtyard plaza that supports diverse outdoor activities and enhances connections with the surrounding neighbourhood.

With strong green credentials, JC^3 earned the Merit Award in the Green Building Award 2021 under the "New Buildings Category: Projects Under Construction and/or Design – Institutional," and has been selected as a finalist in the Green Building Award 2025 under the "New Buildings Category: Completed Projects – Institutional". JC^3 has completed its BEAM Plus Assessment and obtained "Final Gold" rating, certified by the Hong Kong Green Building Council Limited in September 2025. This achievement underscores the University's commitment to reducing environmental impact and enhancing occupant well-being.

10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES

SDG 10:
REDUCED INEQUALITIES
Reduce inequality within and among countries.

Teaching and Learning, Outreach and Engagement

Amplifying voices of ethnic minority youth through facial animations

The service-learning course "Facial Animation" taught by Dr Kelvin Lee at the Department of Interactive Media leveraged cutting-edge technologies to address social inequalities. Through this course, students created AI-generated Metahumans to amplify the voices of ethnic minority youth. Over two years, 28 HKBU students interviewed 33 ethnic minority youth from the Islamic Kasim Tuet Memorial College and TREATS, an NGO dedicated to promoting social inclusion in Hong Kong. Together, they captured personal stories and facial data through in-depth interviews. In the lab, students applied AI tools to analyse the narratives, reflecting on issues like discrimination and inequality as they honed their technical skills. By the end of the project, they produced 56 Metahuman facial animations that authentically portrayed the collaborators, giving a platform to marginalised voices and challenging stereotypes, with close to 2,000 views from the public.

Promoting inclusion through simulated disability experience

To foster inclusiveness and social integration, the Office of Student Affairs partnered with Kompass, a start-up founded by two-time Paralympic medalist Mr Daniel Chan Ho-yuen, to launch the 'PHAB Maze' experiential learning activity. In this transformative programme, students were challenged to solve problems while navigating simulated sensory and physical limitations. These experiences offered a glimpse into the everyday barriers faced by individuals with disabilities, encouraging participants to step into another's shoes and experience the world from different perspectives. The event helped enrich the learning experience and instilled a sense of empathy among the 51 participating students.

COURSES
85 49 undergraduate courses
36 postgraduate courses

T&L EVENTS
495

STUDENTS ENROLLED
6,555 4,563 undergraduates
1,992 postgraduates

NO. OF PARTICIPANTS
13,114

Research

Procedure matters: The distinct attitudinal feedback effects of immigration policy

Academy of Geography, Sociology and International Studies
Author: Professor Siu Yau LEE

This study uses a conjoint experiment in Hong Kong to show that restrictive immigration policies—such as labour tests, language requirements, and welfare limits—boost natives' support for highly skilled immigrants by signalling fairness and quality. It uncovers unique effects like moral judgments on loyalty and assurances of immigrant merit, challenging standard theories on economic threats or identity. Relevant to SDG 10, the findings advance reduced inequalities by guiding migration policies that enhance inclusion, minimise backlash, and facilitate talent inflows without deepening divides. In diverse societies like Hong Kong, where immigration fuels tensions, this evidence supports equitable frameworks that promote social cohesion, economic mobility, and fair resource access. By highlighting policy feedback, it aids global efforts to manage migration responsibly, reducing disparities and building resilient communities for sustainable development.

Please study the descriptions of the proposed highly skilled immigration policies carefully. Then, answer the questions below.

	Policy 1	**Policy 2**
Application eligibility	Applicants must have a **good education background** and a **confirmed offer** of employment in the relevant fields. Their employers must demonstrate that **the job cannot be readily taken up by the local work force**.	Applicants must have a **good education background** and a **confirmed offer** of employment in the relevant fields. Their employers must demonstrate that **the job cannot be readily taken up by the local work force**.
Change of employment	Change of employment after settling in Hong Kong must be approved by the Director of Immigration and is generally **not allowed**	Change of employment after settling in Hong Kong is **allowed**
Nationality of the applicants	The scheme is open to **mainland Chinese** citizens only	The scheme is open to **non-mainland Chinese** citizens only
Language proficiency	The applicant should be proficient in written and spoken Chinese **(Putonghua OR Cantonese) or English**.	The applicant should be proficient in written and spoken Chinese **(Cantonese) or English**.
Welfare entitlement	Eligible for welfare (e.g. subsidized housing) only after **seven years** of residence	**Immediately** Eligible for welfare (e.g. subsidized housing)
Tax	Successful applicants need to pay **the same** taxes as all Hong Kong citizens	Successful applicants receive a tax reduction of **50%,** capped at HKD 20,000 in the first year
Quota[1]	**10000** per year	**25000** per year

Experimental design

This study employs a conjoint experiment in Hong Kong to examine how different immigration policy designs shape public opinion. It finds that certain measures, such as labour market tests, language requirements, or welfare provisions, can raise support for skilled immigrants by signalling fairness and transparency. Yet, rather than advocating constraint, the research quantifies the types, scope, and magnitude of these attitudinal effects to help governments avoid overreaction to potential public resistance. As one of the first experimental studies comparing distinct policy framings, it contributes to designing balanced migration frameworks that reduce inequality by facilitating inclusion, maintaining social trust, and informing evidence-based policymaking aligned with SDG 10.

Pride in Asia: Negotiating ideologies, localness, and alternative futures

Academy of Language and Culture
Authors: Benedict J. L. ROWLETT*, Pavadee SAISUWAN, Christian GO, Li-Chi CHEN, Mie HIRAMOTO
*Corresponding author

This publication examines Pride events in the Hong Kong and Taiwan regions of China; Thailand; and the Philippines through linguistic landscapes, revealing how local semiotics and activism adapt global Pride narratives to address regional issues like democracy, class struggles, and cultural identity. It highlights Pride's role in challenging heteronormativity, fostering intersectional solidarity, and envisioning alternative futures amid political constraints. Relevant to SDG 10, the study promotes reduced inequalities by showcasing how these events empower LGBTQIA+ communities, combat discrimination, and integrate marginalised voices into broader social movements. In Asia, where LGBTQIA+ rights vary widely, this transregional analysis informs inclusive policies that tackle systemic barriers, enhance social cohesion, and support equitable development. By provincialising Western models and emphasising local agency, it contributes to global efforts for non-discriminatory societies, aiding sustainable progress in diverse, unequal contexts.

Signs that represent global LGBTQIA+ discourses.

Sustainability Initiatives

Equal opportunities and non-discrimination

As an equal opportunities employer, the University enforces a zero-tolerance policy on discrimination, harassment and victimisation, outlined in its *Policy Statement on Equal Opportunities*. Recruitment, appointment, promotion and development practices are based on consistent selection criteria, with guidance notes emphasising zero discrimination, fair assessment and respect for all candidates. To enhance oversight, a university-level taskforce led by the Provost and Vice-Presidents guides diversity and inclusion efforts, with the Vice-President (Administration) and Secretary also serving as the University Diversity Officer.

Support for persons with disabilities

The University actively supports the employment of persons with disabilities by participating in the TalentWise Employment Charter and the Inclusive Organisations Recognition Scheme by the Labour and Welfare Bureau in Hong Kong, China. To ensure fair assessment and selection, the University also provides reasonable accommodation and support to candidates with disabilities in accordance with the job requirements and established selection criteria.

Promoting diversity and inclusion

The Human Resources Office organised various experiential activities to promote diversity and inclusion. Initiatives include a wheelchair experience workshop, a cultural tour of the Kowloon Mosque and Chungking Mansions, and an inclusive baking workshop, fostering connections with minority groups and enhancing workplace inclusivity.

SDG 11:

SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.

Teaching and Learning, Outreach and Engagement

Co-creating an inclusive city: Collaborative community art and resilient urban design

The General Education capstone experiential learning course, "Art and the Community", taught by Ms Fong Wan-chi of the Academy of Visual Arts, integrated creative practice, community collaboration, and inclusive design to co-create more resilient urban environments. Through fieldwork, co-design with community partners, and public showcases, 58 students engaged directly in identifying local issues, soliciting community feedback, and reflecting on the role of art and design in sustainable city-making, thereby fostering civic engagement. The community art projects emphasised inclusive design and socially engaged practice to activate public spaces and improve accessibility. By directly addressing everyday racism, sexism, and ageism, these projects created shared spaces that were more equitable, safe, and welcoming for all. The course also developed students' skills in project management, documentation, and interdisciplinary collaboration, equipping them to contribute to local strategies for inclusive, resilient, and sustainable urban development.

Exploring Macau: Heritage and sustainable urban life

In July 2025, the International Office organised a heritage field trip to Macau for 280 non-local students from 20 countries. The visit advanced the SDGs by promoting cultural heritage conservation, sustainable tourism and sustainable urban development. Students explored the narrow streets of the historical centre and visited the UNESCO World Heritage Ruins of St Paul's and Senado Square, observing how centuries-old architecture coexists with a modern, compact city. Guided discussions covered urban planning, heritage preservation and community resilience, highlighting the role of heritage management and urban governance in sustaining vibrant neighbourhoods. Conversations on urban mobility, pedestrian safety and green infrastructure encouraged students to consider practical links between heritage and urban sustainability. The field trip motivated students to adopt responsible travel practices and be more committed to resilient cities and urban regeneration in their future studies and careers.

COURSES
110
70 undergraduate courses
40 postgraduate courses

T&L EVENTS
336

STUDENTS ENROLLED
7,816
6,132 undergraduates
1,684 postgraduates

NO. OF PARTICIPANTS
14,210

Research

Commoning art for sustainable engagement with Hong Kong's existential crises: A case study of Tak Cheong Lane Vegetarian Cooperative

Academy of Film
Authors: Professor Hong ZENG*, Kimburley Wing Yee CHOI
*Corresponding author

This study explores the Tak Cheong Lane Vegetarian Cooperative, a self-sustaining space in Hong Kong's working-class areas blending art, food, and community since 2012. Through collective decision-making, free pricing, organic vegetarian meals, and an infoshop promoting alternative values, it practises "commoning art" to counter capitalism's isolation, inequality, and environmental harm. Members foster dissensual aesthetics by reconfiguring daily experiences, embracing otherness, and adapting to crises like rising rents and political restrictions. Relevant to SDG 11, it models resilient urban communities by creating inclusive spaces that build social bonds, support local economies, and engage marginalised voices amid Hong Kong's challenges. In dense cities facing gentrification and disconnection, this approach promotes participatory planning, sustainable living, and cultural vitality, inspiring global efforts for equitable, adaptive urban environments that prioritise justice and collective well-being over profit.

Intercultural communication in collaborative translation: Language, identity, and social inclusion in Hong Kong

Academy of Language and Culture
Authors: Chuan YU*, Tom BARTINDALE
*Corresponding author

This study documents a university service-learning course that uses collaborative translation and participatory video to improve intercultural communication and inclusion among multilingual youths in Hong Kong's urban environment, where public life is shaped by linguistic diversity and unequal access to voice. Ethnographic action research with 43 participants analyses interaction through a communities-of-practice lens—mutual recognition, joint enterprise, and shared repertoire—to show how shared practices enable participation across cultural groups in city settings. Trilingual media co-creation (e.g., English narration with Cantonese and South Asian language subtitles) lowers barriers to information and belonging in urban communities, reinforcing inclusive and participatory social infrastructures consistent with SDG 11.3. By foregrounding local cultural identities and multilingual expression, the project also contributes to safeguarding living cultural heritage in cities, aligning with SDG 11.4.

Sustainability Initiatives

Public access to campus space and facilities

The University campus exemplifies the principles of sustainable urban development, providing public access to designated indoor and outdoor areas, including cultural heritage sites and green spaces.

- **HKBU Library**

1. General access: Open to eligible users including HKBU students, HKBU staff and their eligible family members, alumni, and students from other tertiary education institutions
2. Access to Special Collection and Archives and European Documentation Centre: Open to the general public

- **Cultural Heritage Sites**

1. Lui Seng Chun (declared a monument in 2022)
2. Kai Tak Campus (former Royal Air Force Officers' Mess): Common areas are open to the public through guided tours

- **Green Spaces**

Green spaces, including green wall and garden in Kowloon Tong campus, are accessible to the public during campus operating hours.

Fostering cultural exchange and community

The University offers various performance and event venues, including the Academic Community Hall and Tsang Chan Sik Yue Auditorium, which serve as cultural hubs for both the University and the local community. These venues foster the sharing of ideas, culture and collaboration, strengthening the bond between the University and its surrounding community.

- **Academic Community Hall**

With a seating capacity of 1,346 across two floors, this versatile auditorium is suitable for concerts, musicals, variety shows, ceremonies, religious functions, and seminars. For decades, it has been the venue for the esteemed Hong Kong Schools Music and Speech Festival.

- **Tsang Chan Sik Yue Auditorium**

The auditorium, with a seating capacity of 400, is fully equipped with stage lighting, an audio-visual system, and a VIP lounge. It serves as a multipurpose venue for conferences, ceremonies, seminars, and various performances. The venue is also barrier-free, ensuring accessibility for all.

In the year 2024-25, these venues attracted approximately 42,000 attendees across 65 events in collaboration with local schools, art groups, and non-profit organisations. One highlight was the Studio Ghibli Anime Music Orchestra Concert, featuring the original singers of Studio Ghibli, held in the Academic Community Hall on 5 April 2025, which received positive responses from the public. This collaboration enriched the cultural exchange between the University and the local community.

Preserving cultural heritage and cultivating creative talents

To preserve cultural heritage, the University has transformed historic buildings on its campuses into distinctive cultural landmarks that serve the arts community and the public. Guided tours are also available for these spaces, providing visitors with a deeper understanding of the historical significance and artistic value.

- **Lui Seng Chun**
This project is part of the Revitalising Historic Buildings Through Partnership Scheme initiated by the Government of the HKSAR in 2008. The University has converted this historic building into a Chinese Medicine healthcare centre, providing valuable healthcare services to the community.

- **Kai Tak Campus**
Formerly the Royal Air Force Officers' Mess, this remarkable Grade I historic building showcases early 20th-century colonial architecture. It serves as a venue for public exhibitions, allowing visitors to immerse themselves in the cultural experiences offered by the University. Since 2005, the HKBU Academy of Visual Arts has provided classes in this environment, featuring facilities such as the Centre for Research and Development in Visual Arts and various studios and exhibition spaces.

- **Jockey Club Creative Arts Centre (JCCAC)**
Established in 2008, the JCCAC is Hong Kong's premier artist village, converted from a former factory. As a self-financed registered charity and a subsidiary of the University, JCCAC serves as a multidisciplinary arts and cultural venue open to the public, catering to the diverse needs of the arts community.

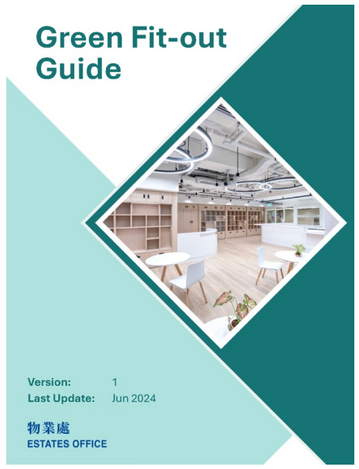
Sustainable campus development and green policies

HKBU's commitment to sustainability is embedded in its green policies and construction practices.

- *The University Green Policy for Capital Projects and Major Addition and Alteration Projects for University Campus* requires all new buildings and major renovations to meet recognised green standards, such as BEAM Plus certification. It aims to minimise development on greenfield sites, demonstrating a holistic approach to sustainable planning.

- *The Waste Management Policy* aims to promote waste reduction and recycling, covering plastic reduction, food waste minimisation, and the "6Rs" hierarchy: Rethink, Refuse, Reduce, Reuse, Repair, and Recycle.

- **Green Fit-out Guide**
Launched in June 2024, this guide provides guidance on incorporating green and sustainable features in fit-out projects. It encompasses best practices in sustainability regarding energy efficiency, waste minimisation, and the use of eco-friendly materials during the fit-out process.



Crop Science Laboratory: A hub for sustainable research

Located on the rooftop of the Sir Run Run Shaw Building, the Crop Science Laboratory has been recognised as a finalist for the "Special Award – Heritage & Adaptive Re-use" at the Hong Kong Institute of Architects Annual Awards 2022/23, and the "Existing Buildings Category: Completed Projects – Institutional" at the Green Building Award 2023 by the Hong Kong Green Building Council and Professional Green Building Council. The facility integrates research, greenery, and recreational areas into a social hub that supports learning and sustainability. Key features include:

- **Active and passive design**
Low-emissivity glazing, green roofs, as well as smart lighting and thermal controls reduce energy use and optimise research conditions.

- **Resource conservation and low-carbon materials**
Retention of the existing structure, a planter wall with irrigation recycling, and the use of low-carbon materials demonstrate a strong conservation ethos.

- **Green and open spaces**
A vertical green wall, interior moss wall, and rooftop garden enhance aesthetics and functionality while supporting a controlled research environment.

- **Renewable energy integration**
Rooftop PV arrays generate electricity and provide natural light, complemented by a wind turbine system powering outdoor lighting.

HKAEE 2023 Silver Award

HKBU received the Silver Award at the 2023 Hong Kong Awards for Environmental Excellence in the Public and Community Services sector, a prestigious accolade recognised as the "Oscars of Environmental Excellence". This award highlights HKBU's strong dedication to environmental management and sustainable development.

Showcase in Times Higher Education

An article by the Estates Office highlighting practical strategies to advance towards carbon neutrality was published in collaboration with Times Higher Education. It shared HKBU's successful experiences in building a green campus culture, innovative renovations, and operational excellence, emphasising sustainable campus environments, integrating green design and technology, and fostering active participation among students and staff to drive lasting impact. Click here to access the article.

Sustainable commuting

The University actively implements initiatives to promote sustainable commuting practices, aligning with its carbon neutrality plan.

- **Electric vehicles (EV) charging**
  HKBU is committed to enhancing its EV charging infrastructure, aiming for 100% of new parking facilities to be equipped with EV charging stations. By 2030, the University aims to expand and upgrade EV chargers to cover a higher proportion of total campus parking spaces. The first phase will see about 70 chargers installed and upgraded. A smart booking and payment system is being developed, with completion targeted for June 2026, allowing campus users to conveniently reserve and pay for EV charging services using the HKBU Mobile App.

- **Motorcycle and bicycle facilities**
  Dedicated parking spaces are provided for motorcycles and bicycles, encouraging the use of eco-friendly transportation modes.

- **Public transportation access**
  Prominent campus signage directs individuals to the nearest Mass Transit Railway stations, promoting public transport use. Additionally, a Fare Saver kiosk at the Kowloon Tong Shaw Campus entrance offers discounted fares to further incentivise the utilisation of public transit services.

Sustainable employment practices

Promotion of sustainability

The Human Resources Office launched "SDGs@HRO" to raise staff awareness of SDGs through various activities. The inaugural event, "SDGs@HRO Day," themed "Supporting SDGs at Work," took place in March 2025.

- **Family engagement and work-life balance**
  HKBU prioritises family engagement and work-life balance with programmes like the Island House and Coastline Eco Tour, parent-child mindfulness massage classes, and the family well-being lunch-and-learn series, covering topics such as couple relationships and back-to-school support for parents.

- **Ageing Series**
  Recognising the importance of preparing for different life stages, the Ageing Series was introduced to promote holistic well-being through workshops on physical, mental and financial wellness, along with guidance on after-death arrangements.

• **Employee wellness initiatives**
HKBU supports staff well-being with a comprehensive approach that includes customised wellness courses under the Employee Fitness Programme and mindfulness workshops to enhance mental resilience. These efforts are complemented by regular internal communications that promote a culture of self-care.

• **Flexible work arrangements**
Flexi-hour arrangements are in place to support staff in achieving better work-life balance, allowing them greater flexibility in managing their professional and personal commitments.

• **Affordable staff housing**
HKBU provides eligible staff with access to affordable housing in designated staff quarters, offering comfortable and conveniently located living spaces at reasonable rates. The University also makes practicable efforts to implement barrier-free housing features for physically challenged staff.

SDG 12:
RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION

Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns.

Teaching and Learning, Outreach and Engagement

Decoding youth advertising: Media literacy for sustainable consumption

The General Education capstone experiential learning course, "Children as Consumers: Marketing to the Youth", taught by Mr Wong Tak-hoi of the Department of Communication Studies, linked marketing practices to sustainability and responsible consumption. Students critically examined how advertising shapes the behaviour of children and youth, analysing branded content, decoding embedded ideologies, and assessing consumer socialisation, materialism, and privacy risks in the digital marketplace. Through case analyses of controversial advertisements, regulatory frameworks, and ethical standards, the course generated actionable recommendations that encouraged responsible production and marketing while curbing harmful targeting, stereotyping, and unhealthy or waste-intensive consumption. Students translated their group research findings into practical guidance for marketers, educators, and policymakers, promoting sustainable lifestyles and business practices as well as informed consumption choices.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
REUSE EXPERIENCE SESSION

- Creativity & Sustainability
- **Reuse old materials**, such as old clothing, to **create items for donation**
- After that, we will take that product to the podium and share it with the students
- A tutor will guide them

Exploring sustainable recycling at Hong Kong's MilMill

The Green Quest ambassadors from the Leadership Qualities Centre organised an educational tour to MilMill, Hong Kong's first pulp mill and environmental education centre, aiming to inspire sustainable habits and environmental protection.

During the visit, a group of 19 students delved into innovative recycling practices and explored the pioneering approaches MilMill has adopted in Hong Kong. Students gained hands-on experience making paper from recycled materials and learned the importance of waste reduction, smart consumption, and recycling.

The tour provided students with valuable insight and a deeper appreciation for sustainability. The experience also equipped them with the knowledge and motivation to help reduce environmental impact, paving the way for a greener and more responsible future.

COURSES
73
40 undergraduate courses
33 postgraduate courses

T&L EVENTS
68

STUDENTS ENROLLED
5,373
3,528 undergraduates
1,845 postgraduates

NO. OF PARTICIPANTS
3,670

Research

Fast fashion consumption signals low self-control

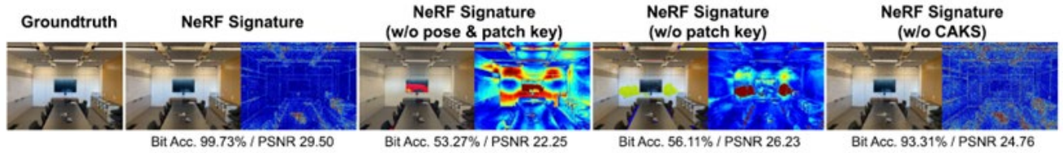
Department of Management, Marketing and Information Systems
Authors: Yunhui HUANG*, Ke ZHANG, Xiaoyan DENG, Qiang ZHANG
*Corresponding author

Fast fashion, characterised by trendy, disposable clothing produced through unsustainable practices, has transformed the industry but at a significant environmental and social cost. This research argues that fast fashion's business model—emphasising quick trends, short product lifespans, and resource-intensive production—signals a short-term consumer focus, leading to perceptions of low self-control. It highlights issues like massive textile waste (92 million tons annually), greenhouse gas emissions comparable to major economies, and labour exploitation in supply chains. By linking consumption habits to self-control inferences, the study reveals downstream effects, such as reduced suitability for endorsements or jobs requiring discipline. Relevant to SDG 12, it promotes awareness of responsible consumption, encouraging sustainable alternatives like eco-friendly lines or reduced disposability to minimise waste and foster long-term environmental and social equity. This contributes to global efforts in sustainable production and mindful consumer behaviour.

The NeRF Signature: Codebook-aided watermarking for neural radiance fields

Department of Computer Science
Authors: Ziyuan LUO, Anderson ROCHA, Boxin SHI, Qing GUO, Haoliang LI, Renjie WAN*
*Corresponding author

This research develops NeRF Signature, a watermarking technique for Neural Radiance Fields (NeRF) that embeds invisible copyrights into 3D models to protect intellectual property without changing the model's structure. It improves imperceptibility, robustness against tampering, and efficiency by using a codebook for signature management, allowing updates without retraining. This promotes responsible digital production by reducing unauthorised copying, which minimises wasteful resource use in recreating or litigating over digital assets. Aligning with SDG 12, it encourages sustainable practices in content creation industries like virtual reality and design, fostering efficient resource allocation and reducing environmental impacts from excessive digital production. By securing 3D assets, the work supports accountable consumption in the digital economy, enabling creators to share innovations safely while cutting down on redundant efforts and promoting eco-friendly technological advancement.



Ablation comparing watermark/encryption variants on LLFF "room" shows 48-bit recovery accuracy and image quality (Bit Acc./PSNR).

Sustainability Initiatives

Ethical sourcing policies

The University upholds ethical sourcing through its *Sustainable Procurement Policy* and the *Policy on Anti-slavery and Equivalent Rights for Outsourced Workers*. The policies ensure all procured products and services meet ethical standards. Suppliers who support fair labour practices and promote environmental sustainability are prioritised. By employing transparent sourcing practices and thorough tender evaluations, the University actively supports ethical businesses and non-profit organisations, fostering positive social impacts across its procurement activities.

Hazardous substance management

Effective management of hazardous substances is crucial for safety, environmental sustainability, and regulatory compliance at the University. HKBU's policy ensures a safe environment while minimising exposure to hazards.

- **Dangerous goods management system**
  The system uses barcode and Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) technology to monitor chemical logistics, covering procurement, delivery, labeling, distribution, storage, and disposal, enabling real-time tracking to ensure safety compliance. The University also partners with licensed waste collectors for safe disposal of hazardous waste.

- **Storage facilities for dangerous goods**
  The University currently operates two dangerous goods storage locations: one at the Ho Sin Hang Campus and a new facility at its Baptist University Road Campus. Additional storages are under construction, set to open in 2026.

- **Training and awareness**
  To ensure the proper handling of dangerous goods, comprehensive training programmes for staff and students are provided, including laboratory safety training for undergraduate students at the start of the first semester. New professional safety training materials for Research Postgraduate students will be available in 2026, further supporting advanced research safety needs.

- **Laboratory inspections**
  Regular laboratory inspections are conducted to enhance safety and foster compliance with safety protocols across all facilities.

Reducing plastic consumption and disposable items

- **Joint-U Lunchbox Lending Programme**
  The programme continues to be promoted through various social media campaigns. By the end of November 2024, over 35,000-plus single-use disposables were diverted from landfills by users across eight campus communities through the lending of reusable containers. User surveys and process reviews have resulted in enhancements to the system, including the introduction of new reusable bowls and cutlery options in October 2024.

- **Recube - Lending Service of Reusable Meal Container**
  An environmental social enterprise, ReCube, has extended its tableware lending service to the Ho Sin Hang Campus catering outlets in September 2024, further reducing disposable cutlery usage.

- **Instagram Reels Competition**
  The "#BringYourOwn: I Choose Reuse" Instagram Reels competition took place in the summer of 2024 to reduce landfill waste by encouraging students to use reusable lunchboxes. The campaign successfully raised awareness, achieving significant reach, with winning entries garnering over 12,000 views.

• **6 Must-Do's of University Life**
Launched at the start of the 2024-25 academic year, the campaign promoted key sustainable habits among students, such as smart takeaway with reusable containers, energy-efficient residential hall management, healthy routines aligned with daylight hours, and mindful water usage during showers. Students were incentivised through Carbon Wallet Points redeemable for green rewards.

Ethical procurement and supplier engagement

HKBU advances ethical sourcing via its *Sustainable Procurement Policy* and *Policy on Anti-slavery and Equivalent Rights for Outsourced Workers*. These frameworks ensure products and services meet ethical criteria and favour suppliers that respect fair labour and environmental standards.

Sustainable waste management and recycling initiatives

Under the *Waste Management Policy* and the "Use Less, Waste Less" approach, HKBU has streamlined its recycling infrastructure, reduced landfill waste, and improved resource circulation. Since 2016-17, municipal solid waste per capita has fallen by 28%, while recyclables per capita have increased by 170%, reflecting sustained progress.

• **Streamlining recycling infrastructure**
All waste bins have been replaced with Green Pitch stations, which incorporate both waste and recycling bins, promoting proper sorting and disposal.

• **Reward-based smart recycling programme**
Launched in October 2023, the Green Corner features advanced recycling bins and a rewards system. Until June 2025, the Green Corner has collected over 3,600 kg of recyclables, demonstrating strong community participation.

• **Reducing paper consumption**
Since March 2024, paper towels have been removed from all campus restrooms, encouraging users to bring handkerchiefs or use hand dryers.

• **Setting up of new reverse vending machine**
The new reverse vending machine is set up in Ho Sin Hang Campus to collect aluminium cans and drink cartons. The machine also provides a reward system, where users can redeem drinks coupon by recycling.

• **Sustainability Leadership Programme – Cloth Swap Party**
The Spring 2025 batch of sustainability leaders focused on "Rethink Clothing Consumption". In collaboration with environmental organisations, HKRITA and CHAT, they implemented projects to collect and redistribute unwanted clothing, raising awareness about sustainability. The HKBU team successfully held a "Swap Party" in April 2025 to redistribute gently used clothing on campus.

• **Zero-Waste Living Fair**

On 1 April 2025, HKBU hosted the Zero-Waste Living Fair, bringing hands-on sustainability to campus as part of an eight-university tour. The event engaged 276 participants, including 260 pledges, 9 student helpers, and 7 student leaders from the Sustainability Leadership Programme. Attendees explored interactive booths, took part in upcycling and repair workshops led by local organisations and student teams, and learned how to reduce daily waste through mindful consumption. A highlight of the event was the exclusive souvenir—upcycled from returned lunchboxes through the Lunchbox Lending Programme—offered to participants who completed a pre-event survey.

• **"Look For Green" recycling truck**

On 21 November 2024, HKBU hosted the "Look For Green" Mobile Recycling Programme to promote sustainable practices among the University community. The event engaged approximately 30 participants in responsible recycling and reuse activities. A mobile truck collected a wide array of recyclables, including paper, plastics, metals, and glass. The initiative also facilitated the community sharing of reusable items such as clothing, books, and small home appliances, providing a convenient channel for responsible waste disposal and reinforced the principles of a circular economy on campus.

• **Eyeglasses recycling**

In support of a postgraduate student project, a collection initiative for surplus eyewear was implemented in March 2025. This project aims to provide a second life to used eyeglasses, promoting sustainability and waste reduction. Collection points were set up across campuses to encourage donations from students and staff. Eyewear accepted for donation includes eyeglasses of any prescription, sunglasses, and sports eyeglasses. More than 100 collected eyeglasses were made available at charity sale for public. This initiative contributes to a circular economy, while promoting responsible consumption and environmental awareness on campus.

Performance Indicators for 2024-25

Compared to the baseline year of 2016-17, municipal solid waste and recyclables metrics have improved.

Performance indicators		2024-25 against baseline year (2016-17)
Municipal solid waste	Per GFA (kg/sq.m.)	-16.14%
	Per capita (kg/FTE)	-28.07%
Recyclables	Per GFA (kg/sq.m.)	+214.05%
	Per capita (kg/FTE)	+ 169.92%

13 CLIMATE ACTION

SDG 13:

CLIMATE ACTION

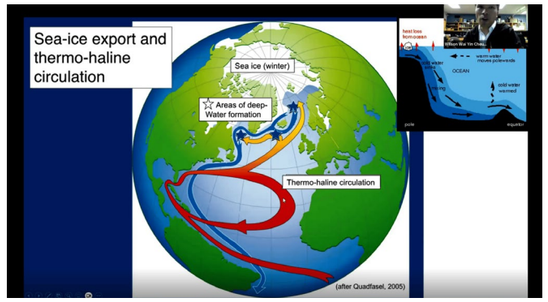
Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts.

Teaching and Learning, Outreach and Engagement

Empowering youth with actionable climate solutions

In the course "Sustainable Urban Environment" led by Dr Chan Wai-Yee of the Department of Biology, students developed educational materials and led workshops for over 100 secondary students from Heung To Middle School and Ho Ngai College, sponsored by Sik Sik Yuen. A key component was interactive board games simulating real-world climate challenges, engaging students in problem-solving and encouraging actionable solutions from simple behaviours to community and technological interventions. This hands-on approach enhanced climate literacy, environmental awareness, and social responsibility among participants. By fostering critical thinking and collective action, the course empowered youth with concrete tools to address climate change.

From science to action: Climate literacy and strategies for a sustainable future



In the General Education course "Racing against the Clock: Saving Environment for Future Generations", two distinguished speakers brought climate science to life for 150 students. Mr Lam Chiu-ying, former Director of the Hong Kong Observatory, presented the causes, risks, and local-to-global impacts of global warming. Mr Wilson Cheung, a HKBU alumnus and polar expedition expert, shared vivid accounts from over 1,000 days in the Arctic, highlighting glacier retreat, warming trends, and their effects on water security, ecosystems, and livelihoods. Their insights enhanced students' climate literacy and offered practical strategies such as sustainable consumption, community advocacy, and pathways to net-zero emissions. This dynamic learning experience fostered accountability and empowered students to contribute actively to resilient, low-carbon, and sustainable future.

Inter-university GenAI hackathon drives climate action

The GenAI Hackathon for SDGs, co-organised by HKBU, HKU, HKUST, and CityU in late 2024, engaged over 250 students in 71 teams to develop AI-driven solutions addressing climate and sustainability challenges. An HKBU team won Second Runner-up for their AI-powered inventory management system aimed at reducing retail food waste and lowering greenhouse gas emissions. Other teams focused on climate action through projects like forecasting climate impacts on urban development, automating medication screening to promote circularity, and optimising food production to cut carbon emissions. This event fostered collaboration and empowered students to translate ideas into impactful solutions to mitigate global warming and build a climate-resilient future.

COURSES
34
24 undergraduate courses
10 postgraduate courses

T&L EVENTS
44

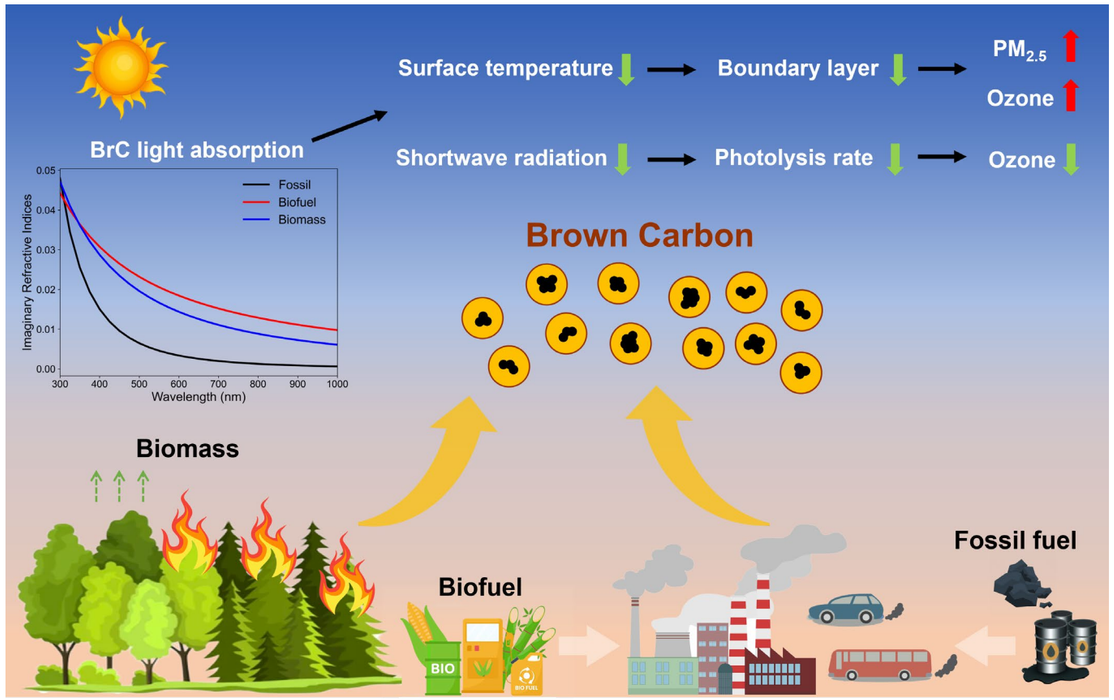
STUDENTS ENROLLED
2,367
1,932 undergraduates
435 postgraduates

NO. OF PARTICIPANTS
824

Brown carbon in East Asia: Seasonality, sources, and influences on regional climate and air quality

Academy of Geography, Sociology and International Studies
Authors: Fan WANG, Zifeng LU, Guangxing LIN, Gregory R. CARMICHAEL, Meng GAO*
*Corresponding author

The study integrates a brown carbon absorption module into the regional coupled meteorology–chemistry model WRF-Chem to resolve source-dependent optical properties and assess climate and air-quality impacts across East Asia without relying on uncertain BrC emission assumptions, advancing regional climate action tools under SDG 13. Simulations show notable increases in aerosol absorption optical depth over organic-carbon hotspots and seasonal radiative forcing peaking in autumn over Southeast Asia at about 2–4 W m^{-2}, altering surface energy balance and reducing surface temperature, boundary-layer height, and turbulent exchange rates. These meteorological changes weaken dispersion and modify photochemistry, generally raising $PM_{2.5}$ and changing O_3 heterogeneously, with increases in Southeast Asia and South China but decreases over East China depending on competing processes. By improving the representation of brown carbon in regional models and quantifying its climate–air-quality feedbacks, the work provides actionable evidence for mitigation and adaptation strategies aligned with SDG 13.

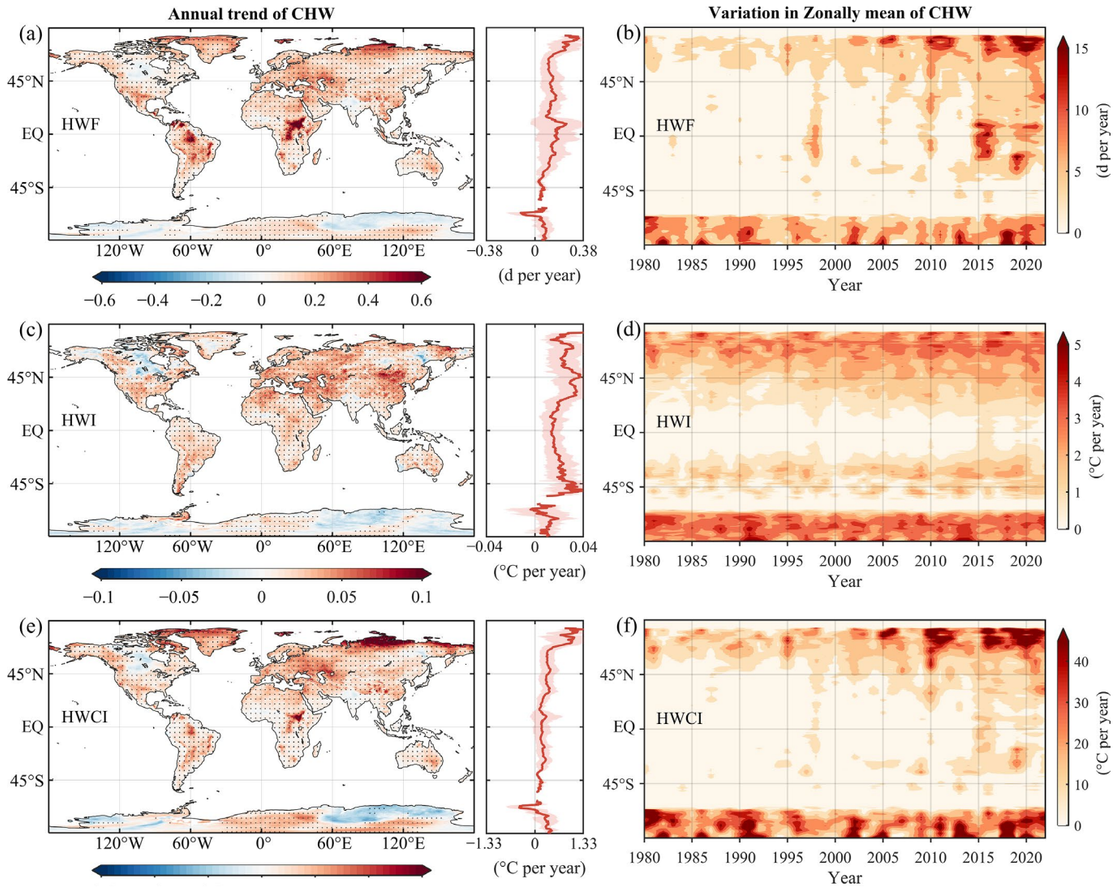


Abstract of the study in illustration.

Global prevalence of compound heatwaves from 1980 to 2022

Department of Mathematics
Authors: Kun ZHANG, Jin-Bao LI, Michael Kwok-Po NG*, Zheng-Fei GUO, Amos P.K. TAI, Shu-Wen LIU, Xiao-Rong WANG, Jie ZHANG, Jin WU*
*Corresponding author

The study uses ERA5 Land temperatures from 1980–2022, corroborated by MERRA 2 and JRA 55, to detect and compare daytime, nighttime, and compound heatwaves (CHW) worldwide, revealing that compound heatwaves now dominate in frequency, intensity, and cumulative intensity. Globally, the annual cumulative intensity of compound heatwaves increased by 3.32 °C per decade—about four times the rise seen for daytime or nighttime events—while the Arctic and other high latitude regions experienced the strongest growth since the mid 2000s. The analysis also maps regional teleconnections, showing strong lagged associations with ENSO and PDO in the tropics that can inform early warning and preparedness. By identifying hotspots, drivers, and trends of the most harmful heatwave type, the work strengthens scientific capacity and supports resilience planning aligned with SDG 13.1 and 13.3. These insights can guide climate risk governance and adaptation strategies under the UN Climate Action framework.



Grid trends (1980–2022): CHW frequency, intensity, and cumulative intensity with zonal means; black dots mark p<0.001 significance.

Sustainability Initiatives

Commitment to carbon neutrality

HKBU is committed to combatting climate change through a structured policy framework and targeted strategies.

- **Policy framework:** The University has established various policies and guidelines to govern its sustainable development and operations. These include the *Sustainability Policy*, *University Green Policy for Capital Projects and Major Addition and Alteration Projects for University Campus*, *Sustainable Procurement Policy*, *Sustainable Food Policy*, *Waste Management Policy*, and *Carbon Neutrality Policy*.

- **Emission reduction targets:** In 2019, HKBU established a five-year energy management plan to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. The Carbon Neutrality Strategy Plan (2023) aims for a 50% reduction in Scope 1 and 2 GHG emissions by 2035/36 and achieving carbon neutrality for these emissions by 2044, which aligned with Hong Kong's overall carbon neutrality roadmap.

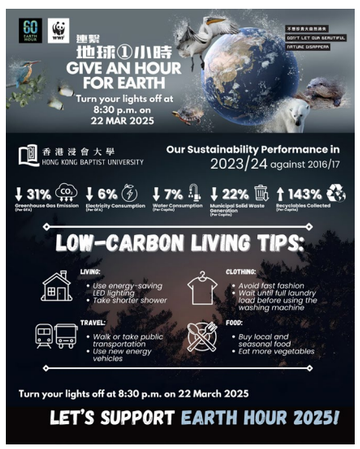
- **Decarbonisation strategies:** The University has put in place decarbonisation actions that focus on energy saving and green buildings, green transport, waste reduction, and community engagement.

Gold Award at the Carbon Neutrality and Sustainability Award

In December 2024, HKBU was presented the Gold Award at the Carbon Neutrality and Sustainability Award Ceremony, organised by the Hong Kong Inheritage Foundation at its 6th Anniversary Charity Gala. This award recognises the University's achievements in sustainable development and highlights its commitment to social responsibility and environmental protection through the Foundation's Carbon Neutrality and Sustainability Charter.

Campus sustainability initiatives

HKBU has been actively promoting sustainability on campus through various initiatives aligned with the need for urgent climate action. On 21 October 2024, the Library collaborated with the Estates Office to organise an interactive sustainability-themed learning event for students, showcasing HKBU's sustainability contributions, including facilities and campus initiatives. Attendees learned to access scholarly materials on SDGs through the online database, enhancing their practical and research-focused understanding of sustainability and the University's commitment to global responsibility. Building on this, HKBU participated in Earth Hour 2025 by switching off non-essential lights and appliances for one hour to reduce energy consumption and raise awareness of the importance of individual actions in combating climate change.



SDG 14:
LIFE BELOW WATER

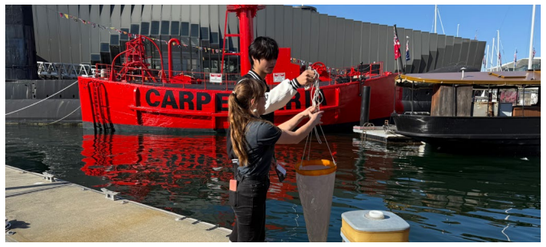
Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development.

Teaching and Learning, Outreach and Engagement

Advancing sustainable oceans with unconventional ideas

Guided by Dr Glos Ho, Dr Patrick Yue, and Dr Gray Ho, 135 Year 1 students from the Global Challenges course showcased innovative approaches to advancing SDG 14 through the "Unconventional Ocean Date" project. Students designed creative approaches such as marine debris detection robots, interactive beach cleanup video games, and educational card games on marine biodiversity. The project attracted over 800 participants, including secondary students and children, raising awareness about marine pollution and sustainable ocean stewardship. Selected projects were invited by Ocean Park's Mission R to present at public outreach events, fostering community engagement on coastal and marine issues.

Life below water study tour to Sydney



Twenty-four HKBU students went on a transdisciplinary study tour to Sydney in May 2025, led by Dr Glos Ho of the Division of Transdisciplinary Undergraduate Programmes, and Dr Patrick Yue from the Department of Biology, to explore sustainable practices for marine conservation. Supported by Western Sydney University, the tour explored how artificial intelligence supports marine environmental monitoring and ecosystem management. Students participated in laboratory sessions analysing microplastic pollution and aquatic invertebrate diversity, assessing impacts on freshwater species like the platypus. Visits to Macquarie University included a seawall block installation at Darling Harbour, demonstrating coastal habitat restoration and urban marine biodiversity enhancement. A workshop at the Australian National Maritime Museum introduced water quality testing and plankton sampling, while OceanWatch hosted a session at the Sydney Fish Market, highlighting sustainable seafood and responsible fisheries management. The learning tour deepened students' understanding of reducing marine pollution, protecting aquatic habitats, and promoting sustainable use of marine resources.

Kayaking for protecting marine life and ecosystems

"Service@ TuesDates: Kayak Eco-Rescue Mission" promoted marine conservation by removing beach litter and ocean plastics. Organised by the Leadership Qualities Centre and Blue Sky Sports Club, 23 students acquired basic kayaking skills before paddling along the coastline to remove debris threatening marine species. Through their hands-on service, students deepened their understanding of ocean pollution and its impacts on marine ecosystems. By engaging in conservation efforts, participants developed a stronger connection to the marine environment and a commitment to sustainable practices that support the health of life below water.

COURSES
6
5 undergraduate courses
1 postgraduate course

T&L EVENTS
18

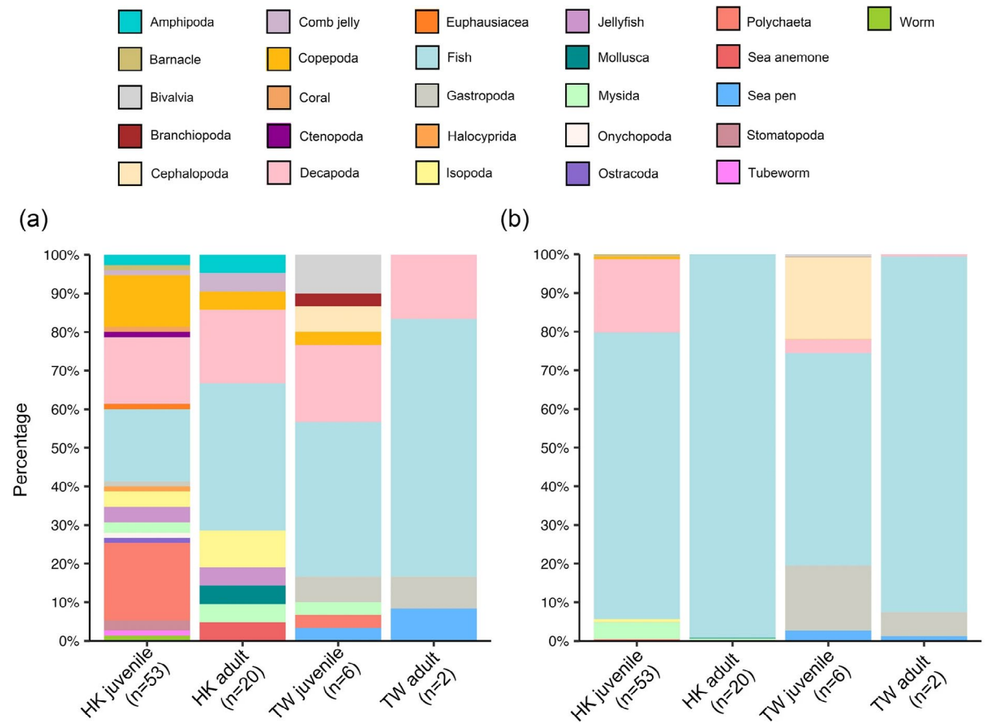
STUDENTS ENROLLED
278
263 undergraduates
15 postgraduates

NO. OF PARTICIPANTS
403

Comparative study of ontogenetic trophic transition in large yellow croaker using metabarcoding and isotope analysis

Department of Biology
Authors: Hei Ching WONG, Chun Ming HOW, Leyi XI, Chien Hsiang LIN, Ming Tsung CHUNG, Jian Wen QIU, Chris Kong Chu WONG, Kelly SU, Jill Man Ying CHIU*
*Corresponding author

This study investigates the feeding ecology of the critically endangered large yellow croaker (Larimichthys crocea) across the Hong Kong and Taiwan regions of China using gut-content 18S metabarcoding and stable isotope analysis to track life-stage dietary shifts and trophic positions. Juveniles typically feed on planktonic prey and adults on benthic species, but Hong Kong adults showed unexpectedly low δ15N values, indicating disrupted ontogenetic trophic transition in degraded habitats. The populations in Taiwan, China displayed expected transitions with higher adult trophic positions, highlighting the influence of local environmental conditions and management. Trawl and isotope baselines mapped prey fields and food-web linkages, confirming a shift from pelagic to demersal resources with growth. The authors recommend marine protected areas, stricter mesh and catch-size regulations, and timing moratoria to protect spawning groups and nursery grounds. These actions advance sustainable fisheries and ecosystem recovery consistent with SDG 14.



Hong Kong juveniles show a broad diet (≥75 species): Fish (74%), Decapoda (19%) and Mysida (4%).

Phylogenomics of bivalvia using ultraconserved elements reveal new topologies for pteriomorphia and imparidentia

Department of Biology
Yi-Xuan LI, Jack Chi-Ho IP, Chong CHEN, Ting XU, Qian ZHANG, Yanan SUN, Pei-Zhen MA, Jian-Wen QIU*
*Corresponding author

This study builds a new ultraconserved element (UCE) probe set for bivalves and captures hundreds to thousands of loci from fresh and museum specimens to reconstruct a robust, dated phylogeny across six major marine clades, improving long-standing uncertainties in shellfish evolution critical for biodiversity stewardship under SDG 14. The probe set recovers a mean of 849 UCEs per specimen and provides higher support at deep nodes, yielding new, well-supported topologies for Pteriomorphia and Imparidentia that refine relationships among oysters, mussels, scallops, clams, and allies important to fisheries and habitat engineering functions in coastal ecosystems. By providing a scalable genomic toolkit and clarified lineages that guide taxonomy, protected-area design, stock assessment, and trade regulation, the work strengthens science-based marine management and conservation of ecologically and economically vital bivalves worldwide.

Sustainability Initiatives

Commitment to conserving life beneath the waves

The University collaborates with its on-site caterers to source sustainable seafood for its campus dining facilities, with shark fin and other endangered marine species strictly excluded from all menus, actively promoting the importance of ocean conservation and ensuring that all catering operations contribute positively to the health of the oceans.

SDG 15:

LIFE ON LAND

Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss.

Teaching and Learning, Outreach and Engagement

Conserving parks and trails in action

In the service-learning course "Fundraising Events, Sponsorships and Donor Management," Miss Barbara Fu of the Department of Communication Studies led students in a meaningful collaboration with Hong Kong NGO Parks and Trails. Students visited countryside trails to learn how to use the TrailWatch app for reporting eco-vandalism, such as fly-tipping and illegal animal traps, gaining insight into environmental damage and community monitoring. Following this, students created and operated three interactive booths to promote trail conservation and demonstrate the app. The booths featured creative slogans, engaging games, and eye-catching displays that attracted over 100 visitors. Elderly and wheelchair users participated as on-site guides, encouraging intergenerational collaboration in caring for nature. This course sharpened students' skills in event planning and stakeholder engagement, while fostering a collective commitment to protecting Hong Kong's natural spaces through sustainable land management.

Transdisciplinary study tour on sustainable land management in Nagoya

With the support of Nanzan University in Japan, 23 transdisciplinary students engaged in a field study in June 2025, led by Dr Caixia Chu of the Division of Transdisciplinary Undergraduate Programmes, and Professor Kingsley Ng of the Academy of Visual Arts, to examine how Nagoya maintains a balance between urban development and the sustainable management of terrestrial ecosystems. Visits to Todagawa Ryokuchi Park and Ryokuchi Park allowed students to observe habitat preservation and biodiversity enhancement strategies. Exploring the Asuke area, they learned how welfare organisations promote sustainable forest management through eco-friendly economic facilities, supporting local jobs and community cohesion. At the forest school in Expo 2005 Aichi Commemorative Park, students discovered how conservation concepts are incorporated into daily life and education to inspire future generations. The experience concluded with a cross-institutional exchange with Nanzan University peers.

COURSES
34 24 undergraduate courses
10 postgraduate courses

T&L EVENTS
72

STUDENTS ENROLLED
1,848 1,102 undergraduates
746 postgraduates

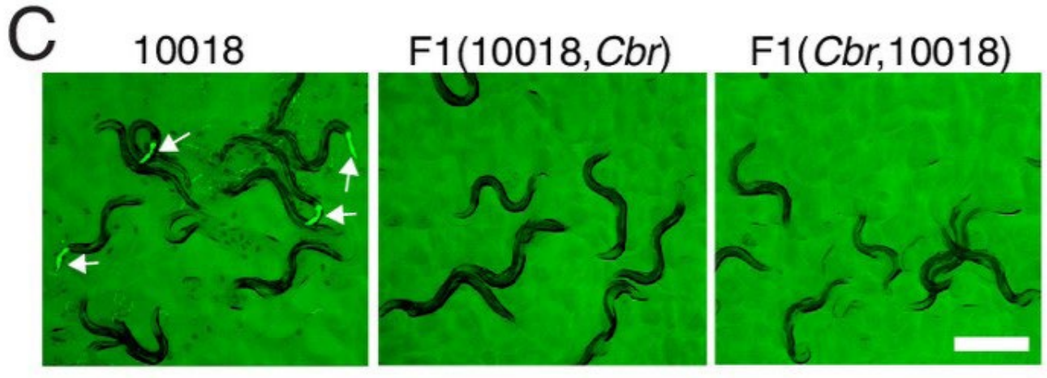
NO. OF PARTICIPANTS
673

Research

A newborn F-box gene blocks gene flow by selectively degrading phosphoglucomutase in species hybrids

Department of Biology
Authors: Dongying XIE, Yiming MA, Pohao YE, Yiqing LIU, Qiutao DING, Gefei HUANG, Marie-Anne FÉLIX, Zongwei CAI, Zhongying ZHAO*
*Corresponding author

This study uncovers how a newly evolved F-box gene in the nematode Caenorhabditis nigoni prevents gene flow with its sister species Caenorhabditis briggsae by selectively degrading a vital enzyme, leading to lethal hybrids. Through genetic mapping and experiments, researchers show that this gene arose from recent duplications, highlighting rapid evolutionary changes that enforce reproductive barriers. The findings reveal mechanisms of speciation, where environmental pressures like pathogens may drive gene expansions, accidentally causing hybrid incompatibilities. Relevant to SDG 15, this research enhances understanding of biodiversity by explaining how genetic innovations maintain species diversity and prevent homogenisation in ecosystems. It supports conservation efforts by informing genetic factors in species resilience, aiding strategies to protect terrestrial life amid habitat loss and climate challenges.

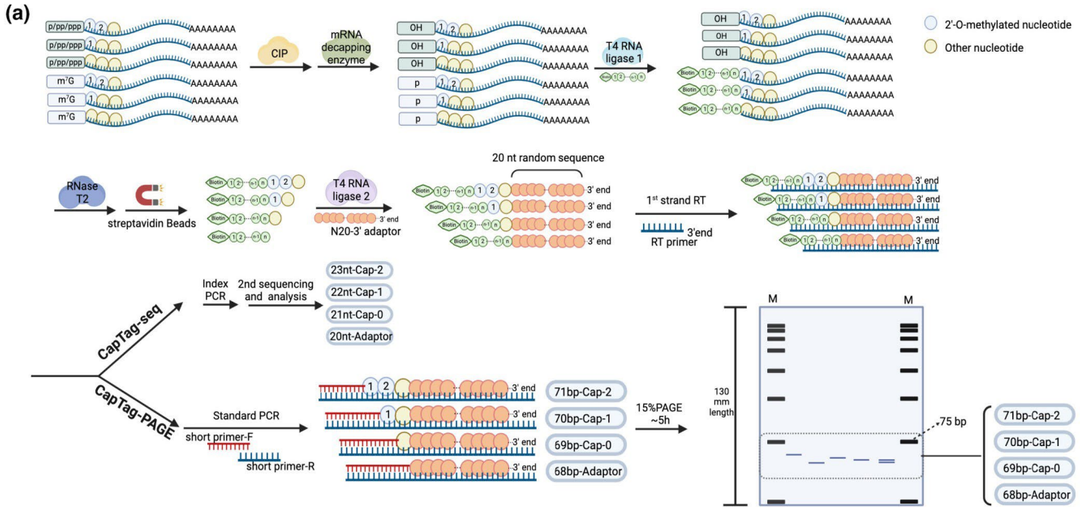


Images show worms and their hybrid offspring, with green fluorescent protein markers. (From left): Parent strain; crosses with C. briggsae mothers/fathers.

mRNAs of plants and green algae lack the m7G cap-1 structure

Department of Biology
Authors: Chen XIAO, Qiongfang LI, Shangwei WU, Feng ZHANG, Hailei ZHANG, Chen ZHANG, Zongwei CAI, Yiji XIA*
*Corresponding author

Messenger RNAs in animals typically carry Cap-1 and often Cap-2 chemical tags at their 5′ ends, but whether plants share this feature was unknown for decades despite early evidence of the basic Cap-0 m7G cap in plants. Using CapTag-seq and a companion gel method, this study shows that Arabidopsis, maize, and a green alga possess Cap-0 but not Cap-1 or Cap-2, whereas human cells show Cap-1 and Cap-2, and yeast resembles plants by lacking them, confirming a major evolutionary split in mRNA cap biology between animal and plant lineages. The authors also find no clear plant homologs of the animal Cap-1 methyltransferase (CMTR1) and highlight plant-specific regulation involving DXO1, indicating distinct capping mechanisms that could intersect with other RNA caps like NAD. These insights provide a foundation for understanding plant gene regulation, stress responses, and adaptation—knowledge that supports conservation genomics and sustainable management of terrestrial biodiversity under SDG 15.



Schematic diagram of the CapTag-seq and CapTag-PAGE workflow used in the experiment.

SDG 16:

PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS

Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.

Teaching and Learning, Outreach and Engagement

Fostering sustainable peace through education in conflict resolution and peacebuilding

The General Education course "Sustainable Peace: Conflict Resolution and Reconciliation of Divided Communities", led by Professor Martin Chung, enrolled 48 students and equipped them with both theoretical knowledge and practical skills in conflict resolution and peacebuilding. Drawing on comparative case studies from Asia and Europe, students examined the roles of international organisations, governments and civil society in violence prevention, transitional justice and institutional reform. The students developed context-sensitive solutions for sustainable peace by analysing conflicts. They also practised mediation, preventive diplomacy and consensus-building through immersive, multi-stakeholder simulations, thereby strengthening their abilities in violence reduction and inclusive decision-making. The course fostered the students' capacity to design rights-respecting policies and reconciliation strategies, preparing them to contribute to the development of accountable, inclusive institutions and to advance sustainable peace in their own communities.

Building bridges with community engagement and arts-based interventions

To foster the building of peaceful and inclusive societies, 50 students from the General Education course "Striving for Sustainable Peace through Cultural Activities and Creative Arts" participated in service-learning community engagement activities, benefitting 238 individuals. In partnership with Runners' Food, students helped distribute meals to homeless individuals at Tung Chau Street Park, promoting dignity and social cohesion. This approach challenged stereotypes and nurtured empathy. Students also collaborated with One Bite Design Studio and joined a place-based walk in Sheung Wan to observe and engage with community members, grounding their ideas in the real needs of the community and modelling inclusive decision-making and non-violent problem-solving. On campus, students initiated cross-cultural dialogues to bridge divides and produced a music video to raise public awareness on subdivided housing. By cultivating multicultural sensitivity and non-discrimination, students developed creative, arts-based interventions that fostered peaceful relationships within the community.

COURSES
41
26 undergraduate courses
15 postgraduate courses

T&L EVENTS
122

STUDENTS ENROLLED
3,025
2,426 undergraduates
599 postgraduates

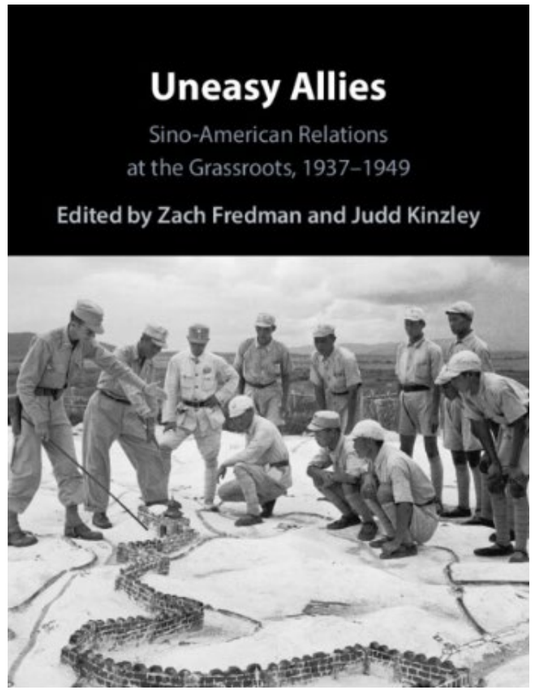
NO. OF PARTICIPANTS
4,754

Research

Allied military competition in South China and the rise of American power

Academy of Chinese, History, Religion and Philosophy
Author: Chi Man KWONG

The book chapter in *Uneasy Allies: Sino-American Relations at the Grassroots, 1937–1949* explores Sino-British-American military interactions in South China during World War II, revealing how informal networks enabled cooperation amid strategic vagueness, while power imbalances and competing priorities led to tensions and Britain's displacement by American influence. The chapter details episodes such as the role of British Army Aid Group's intelligence and the group's ad hoc operations during the Japanese Ichigo Offensive, underscoring the fragility of alliances in complex political landscapes. This analysis highlights the mechanisms for building resilient institutions and peaceful coalitions, informing contemporary efforts to foster international cooperation in conflict zones. By examining the decline of colonial influence and rise of new orders, it supports strategies for accountable governance and reduced inequalities in global partnerships. In Asia's context, where historical rivalries persist, these insights promote justice, stability and collaborative frameworks to prevent escalation and enhance sustainable peacebuilding amid geopolitical shifts. The research of this book chapter is supported by a General Research Fund project entitled "The Japanese 'Total-State' Experiment in Hong Kong, 1942-1945".



Understanding the mechanisms that link information uncertainty to belief formation

Department of Interactive Media
Authors: Yuner ZHU, Xinzhi ZHANG, King Wa FU

The General Research Fund (GRF) project examines how exposure to internet censorship generates information uncertainty that can be filled by worldview-confirming conspiracy theories, expanding theories of conspiratorial beliefs with the roles of censorship experience and motivated reasoning. It uses mixed methods across three studies: a population-based survey integrating situational and dispositional factors, an experiment simulating incidental exposure to censorship with follow-ups, and an observational social media study of spontaneous reactions and sharing behaviour. By illuminating mechanisms linking information manipulation to belief formation, the project speaks directly to SDG 16 on ensuring public access to information and protecting fundamental freedoms, informing policies that enhance transparency and resilience against misinformation. A related output on mandatory location disclosure shows how surveillance shapes expression and privacy cynicism, offering further evidence for information governance and institutional accountability under SDG 16.

Examples of Weibo posts and comments with geo-tags.

SDG 17:

PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalise the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development.

Teaching and Learning, Outreach and Engagement

Multi-sector partnerships empower student-led innovation

Co-led by Professor Nick Zhang of the Department of Journalism and Dr Caixia Chu of the Division of Transdisciplinary Undergraduate Programmes, the course "Transdisciplinary Problem Solving II" engaged students in a mission-driven project. Students are empowered to pursue transdisciplinary pathways beyond traditional majors and tailor their academic and career trajectories by drawing on the expertise of 15 HKBU academic supervisors and nine community advisors from diverse fields. This approach fostered knowledge exchange between university faculty, community partners and students, strengthening collaboration for sustainable innovation. For example, under the guidance of academic and community advisors, a student is developing a metaverse using XR technology to simulate potential evacuation routes for future disasters. These partnerships enable students to co-create solutions to complex societal challenges.

Global partnerships advance cultural exchange and sustainability

HKBU hosted "Gezellig! The Netherlands Funhouse" as part of the 2025 Consul-General-in-Residence Programme, welcoming 2,200 participants to a celebration of Dutch culture on campus. Organised in collaboration with the Consulate-general of the Netherlands in Hong Kong and Macao SARs, the event brought together not-for-profit organisations, industry partners, cultural institutions and secondary students in a dynamic, multi-stakeholder partnership. Highlights included a King's Day-inspired parade and traditional *volksdans*, which created a festive atmosphere and celebrated the UNESCO Corso Culture. Participants were immersed in Dutch art and design through experiential cultural learning activities. Interactive workshops and energy-powered cycling activities encouraged innovation and sustainability, supporting practical collaboration and resource mobilisation across sectors. By connecting cultural appreciation with active engagement, the programme exemplified how collective action and institutional cooperation can foster quality education and develop skills for sustainable development.

T&L EVENTS
1,103

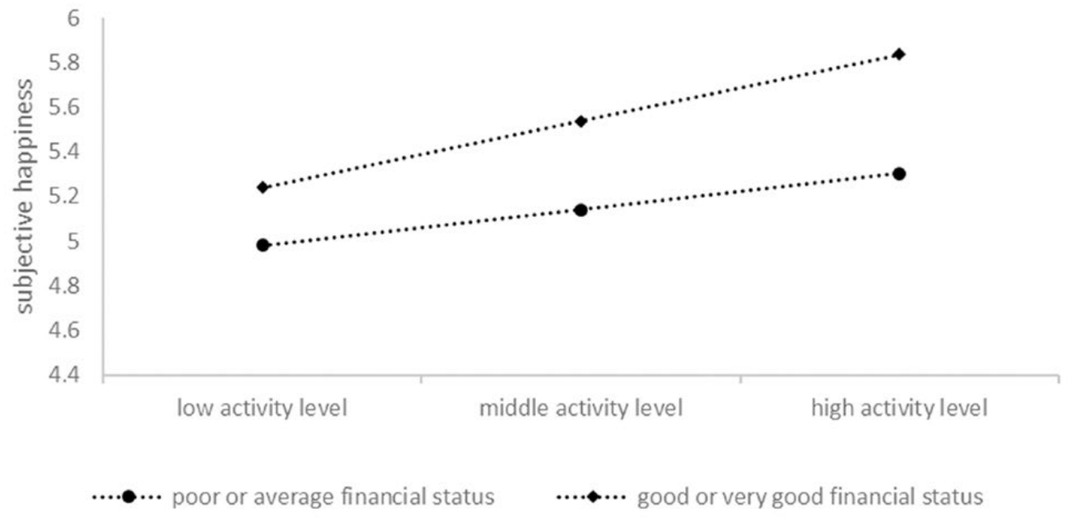
NO. OF PARTICIPANTS
27,929

Research

Do third age adults benefit equally in well-being from activity participation? The moderating effect of financial status

Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences
Authors: Nan QIN, Daniel W.L. LAI*
*Corresponding author

This study surveyed 304 adults aged 50 or above in Hong Kong and found that higher activity participation is associated with greater subjective happiness and quality of life. However, these impacts are significantly moderated by financial status for individuals' quality of life, indicating that those with better finances benefit more from the same activities. The authors recommend policy measures such as inflation-adjusted pensions, activity vouchers, transport allowances, fee waivers through volunteering, and tailored community programmes. Implementing these measures requires coordinated partnerships among universities, social services, community organisations, and government to ensure equitable access and outcomes, directly supporting SDG 17.16 and 17.17. Furthermore, the article's open access status and its deposited dataset (Mendeley DOI) support SDG 17.18 by enabling data sharing, replication, and cross-sector monitoring, thereby strengthening evidence-based ageing policy and programme design.



Visual plot of the interaction of activity level and financial status predicting subjective happiness.

Transcoding a wanghong city: Mediatised culturalisation of urban places in China

Department of Journalism
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This qualitative case study explains how Zibo, a third-tier industrial city, went viral in 2023 through coordinated actions by the local government, platforms, multi-channel networks (MCNs), businesses, and residents. These stakeholders rapidly co-planned transport, events, signage, and "barbecue" branding while leveraging livestreaming and short-video networks. The analysis introduces the concept of "mediatised culturalisation", showing how digital media logics (such as variability, templatability and interactivity) are translated into material urban placemaking, enabled by policy-industry partnerships and citizen participation. By integrating policy documents, media reports, industry analyses, and platform content, the study highlights how data-driven collaboration and public-private-community partnerships can scale city branding and identify risks (including homogenisation, displacement and sustainability concerns) that call for inclusive and accountable governance. These findings align with SDG 17.16-17.18 on the importance of effective partnerships and data capacity for sustainable development.

Wanghong (網紅) street sign in Zibo (Source: Xiaohongshu)

Evolving Legacy: Decoding the scientific trajectory of Chinese medicine

Collaboration between Elsevier and Hong Kong Baptist University
Authors: Yingying ZHOU, Lu ZHAO, Yunxiaoxiao ZHANG, Elisabeth BROWNING, Yandan LIN, Aiping LYU, Kam Wa CHAN, Ping GUO, Jingwen MU, Christy M K CHEUNG, Lu WANG

Covering 200,000+ publications (2014–2023), the report maps collaboration across 188 countries, with Chinese medicine output nearly tripling at a compound annual growth rate of 10.6% (vs. 3.9% globally). The partnership exemplifies SDG 17, combining HKBU's leadership with Elsevier's analytics to enable benchmarking, shared evidence, and capacity-building across medicine, biochemistry, and pharmacology. HKBU's performance—1,764 publications, Field-Weighted Citation Impact (FWCI) of 1.62, and 28.1% top-decile—shows how joint analytics inform standards (e.g. clinical trial reporting), accelerate drug-delivery research, and advance molecular pharmacognosy. The HKBU–Elsevier collaboration strengthens cross-sector, international partnerships uniting traditional knowledge and modern science, driving sustainable, data-driven health innovation.

Sustainability Initiatives

Cross-university collaboration for a sustainable future

During its 2024-25 convenorship, HKBU led the Hong Kong Sustainable Campus Consortium (HKSCC), fostering collaboration among eight universities to advance carbon neutrality and sustainability. HKBU chaired annual meetings, facilitated the sharing of best practices, and supported impactful campaigns such as the Carbon Reduction Action in partnership with the Environmental Campaign Committee. Key achievements included HKSCC's endorsement of the Joint Commitment on Carbon Neutrality by 2050, progress in waste reduction and recycling, as well as the launch of innovative green engagement initiatives for students and staff. A highlight of the year was an address by the Commissioner for Climate Change from the Environment and Ecology Bureau, which focused on targeted carbon neutrality, decarbonisation strategies and the important role of partnerships in research and community capacity-building. The year concluded with enriched cultural and educational programmes, stakeholder engagement and a renewed pledge to support Hong Kong's Climate Action Plan 2050.

Expanding international partnerships for sustainability

Since joining the International Sustainable Campus Network in December 2023, HKBU has strengthened global exchanges on campus sustainability, actively learning from and sharing best practices with peer institutions. In addition, HKBU has participated in the Campus as a Living Lab Community of Practice, engaging in discussions and small group meetings to advance the implementation of living lab initiatives across the University.

Engaging the public in everyday low-carbon living

HKBU supported the Carbon Reduction Action Campaign co-organised by the Environment and Ecology Bureau and the Environmental Campaign Committee. The campaign aimed to promote everyday low-carbon habits. Participants were encouraged to learn about carbon reduction actions, with the opportunity to enter a lucky draw for tickets to the "Zero Carbon Concert". The campaign successfully raised awareness and actively engaged the public in carbon reduction efforts. Through the active participation in the campaign, HKBU was recognised as one of the key strategic partners of the Carbon Reduction Action Campaign during the closing ceremony held in January 2025.

Promoting sustainable travel

Organised by HK Express, this annual initiative invites university students to design and implement low-carbon travel itineraries that promote sustainable tourism. The Director of Estates of HKBU acted as one of the panel judges in the Final Battle of the Gotta GO! Sustainable Explorer Challenge 2025. A team of HKBU students successfully advanced to the final contest, and was awarded the 2nd runner-up in the Gotta GO! Sustainable Explorer Challenge 2025 competition, sharing their experiences on social media to advocate for sustainable travel. Their participation helped raise awareness about carbon footprints and encouraged responsible travel choices among the wider community.

Driving Hong Kong's leadership in sustainable technology

Established by the Hong Kong Science and Technology Parks Corporation in March 2025, the GreenTech Hub represents a major milestone in Hong Kong's development as a green technology centre in Asia. The opening ceremony of the GreenTech Hub brought together industry leaders, academics and policymakers to promote innovation and collaboration in sustainable technologies. HKBU is proud to partner in this initiative, with its Director of Estates serving as a guest speaker at the event.

APPENDIX:
Recognition, Memberships, External Charters and Awards

HKBU has received a number of sustainability recognitions, memberships, external charters and awards, affirming the university's commitment and efforts to environmental protection.

Organisation	Recognition / Membership / External Charter
The International Sustainable Campus Network	Member
United Nations Sustainable Development Solutions Network	Member
Environment and Ecology Bureau / Environmental Protection Department / Environmental Campaign Committee, HKSAR Government	Certificate of Carbon Emission Reduction 2024 (O · PARK)
	Wastewi$e Certificate (Excellent Level)
	Energywi$e Certificate (Excellent Level)
	Hong Kong Green Organisation
	Carbon Reduction Charter – Carbon Audit Green Partner
	Charter on External Lighting
Electrical and Mechanical Services Department, HKSAR Government	Energy Saving Charter 2024
	4T Charter
Labour Department, HKSAR Government	Good Employer Charter 2024
Department of Health, HKSAR Government / Labour Department, HKSAR Government / Occupational Safety and Health Council	Joyful@Healthy Workplace Charter
Labour and Welfare Bureau, HKSAR Government *(in collaboration with the Rehabilitation Advisory Committee, the Hong Kong Joint Council for People with Disabilities and the Hong Kong Council of Social Service)*	Talent-Wise Employment Charter and Inclusive Organisations Recognition Scheme
Hong Kong Sustainable Campus Consortium	Institutional Member 2024 Convening Institution
Business Environment Council	Affiliate Member
Hong Kong Green Building Council	Basic Member Jockey Club Campus of Creativity (JC^3) - Final Gold under BEAM Plus NB v1.2
Green Council	Founding member of the Sustainable Procurement Charter Bronze Member
Institute of ESG & Benchmark	Corporate Founding Member
Food Wise Hong Kong	Signees of the Food Wise Charter

Organisation	Award
Hong Kong Green Building Council & Professional Green Building Council	Jockey Club Campus of Creativity (JC^3) - Green Building Award 2021 - Merit Award (New Buildings Category: Projects Under Construction and/or Design - Institutional)
CLP Power Hong Kong Limited	CLP Smart Energy Award 2023 – Grand Award (Energy Management Award (Catering and Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs), Non-governmental Organisations (NGOs), and Educational Institutes))
Environmental Campaign Committee (alongside with the Environment and Ecology Bureau and in conjunction with nine organisations)	2023 Hong Kong Awards for Environmental Excellence - Silver Award (Public and Community Services)

For the most updated information, please visit https://hkbu-sustainability.hkbu.edu.hk/recognition-memberships-external-charters-and-awards.html.