

2015 Design Workshop for Water & Sustainable Asia Was Held in Shenzhen Polytechnic (SZPT), China

2015 Design Workshop for Water & Sustainable Asia was held during November 21-30, 2015 in Shenzhen Polytechnic, China. The event was sponsored by Shenzhen Polytechnic (SZPT), the Art Design Professional Research Board (ADPRB) of the Teaching Working Committee of the Chinese Society for Vocational and Technical Education (TWCCSVTE), the Guangdong Provincial Steering Committee of Specialty Instruction of Higher TVET Art Design Education and UNESCO UNEVOC Centre Shenzhen Polytechnic. The City of Design Innovation Centre of Shenzhen Polytechnic and the subordinated Xiao Yong Design Studio organized the event. Over 50 teachers and students from 9 higher education institutions in China (including 2 from Taiwan) and 1 in Malaysia participated the event.



A brief opening ceremony was arranged for the event on the morning of 21st November at the Entrance Hall of Xingzhi Building A, in which building the School of Fine Art & Design (SFAD) was located. Prof. Zhou Liqun, Prof. Liu Jun, Dean and Vice Dean of the School of SFAD, Prof. Dayue (David) Fan, Acting Director, UNESCO UNEVOC Centre SZPT and Prof. Xiao Yong, the tutor of the workshop, participated the ceremony together with the teachers and the students from the 10 institutions. Prof. Zhou Liqun said in his opening speech that the “2015 Design Workshop for Water & Sustainable Asia” was the 3rd workshop organized by the Xiao Yong Studio since the establishment of the City of Design Innovation Centre (CDIC) of Shenzhen Polytechnic. The CDIC in fact played as a public platform for sharing art design information and ideas among art design educators in China and around. The workshops had involved teachers and students from higher education institutions, including polytechnics and universities both at home and from other foreign countries. Such kind of event has been recognized and welcomed by colleagues in the art design education areas. They took the advantage of the platform to discuss face to face with international famous design masters and to learn and exchange the up-to-date information in the field.

After the opening ceremony, the teachers and the students gathered in the Art and Design Meeting Room and began their activities by graphing the head of the partner randomly paired under the

guidance of Professor Xiao Yong. And this helped everyone to be familiar with each other and to be encouraged to contribute their ideas. Prof. Xiao Yong explained to all that water is the origin of lives and a unique element for all, no matter in the past, at present or in the future. The purpose of the workshop is to use this concept for design, to arouse rethinking of the relationship between human beings and the nature. Practically, meaningful designs can make changes in peoples' ways of life so as to achieve benefits for environment protection and future development. Following this understanding, all teachers and students then were divided into five thematic groups and were given the competitive tasks for their own initial development of the water and sustainable development-related designs. Discussions were heated on the subject and content for their designs. In the next five days, each team gathered their wisdom and kept on their designing work independently. The organizer provided all needed help as possible, including materials, facilities, human power and outputting of the designed outcomes.



On 30th of November, the scheduled Outcome Reporting and Exhibition was in place after day and night working of the teachers and the students and all the designing products were placed in the Art Gallery of Shenzhen Polytechnic for the public. At the beginning of the closing ceremony and opening of the Exhibition, each group reported their designing idea and understanding underpinned with their designs.



This photo is of the first designing outcome named Perspective of Water and its designers. The

three iced water-drops were placed on the stones in the front illustrate the present common scenery of ocean, river and lakes polluted with carelessly thrown garbage while the other three water-drops formed with several layers of coloured transparent plastic board show the beauty of colour and filth of rubbish. In addition, green and white water-drops with pure colours in the open air tell the expectation of the designers. The design reminds people to care the nature and pay attention to the pollution of water.



The second design outcome is Origin Source--Water and Chinese Characters (源 Source--水与汉字). It lines Chinese character component "氵" (which means water) and sentences of very famous and commonly recited Chinese old poems on hung down strings to illustrate that without water there will be no Chinese culture, telling people the importance of harmonious existence of human beings and the nature and the importance of water resource protection.



The 3rd design outcome named Water--eternal for the future (氵 • 永 eternal future) expresses

through the designing components that the use of water and pollution of water increase dramatically and simultaneously (plastic bags on the wall holding water or polluted water indicate various amount and pollution degree of different cities worldwide) with the progress of human civilization. The design encourages visitors to note down the water pollution problems in his own cities on the green leaf shaped tip papers and stick them onto the dry tree branches so as to make the trees green. They can also take away a tree seed from the hang on bags on the board surrounded by the designers. They hope to remind people to make their bit effort to change the colour of the land and the vision of the cities in the video.



The 4th design outcome uses a name Water Colour (水 • 色). Water is colourless, is media, can bearing all things. Water is a mirror and can reflect everything. The designers use a video projector to broadcast changes of different colours which indicate different continents on the earth to show their concerns on the nature.



The 5th design outcome Wake up of Water--Wisdom of Water (醒水--水的智慧) uses words and graphs and even video programmes to tell stories of destruction of water resources in nowadays city planning and constructions. They also designed a 3D picture (centre) to express their expectation to their cities constructions. They also use a QR code for visitors to scan for more water wisdom stories in apps. The purpose is to wake people up to value water around them and make their efforts to protect water resources.

The process of designing enriched the understand of the teachers and the students on water, nature and human beings relationship with them. The five brilliant designed works applying various means, materials and facilities provide another kind of meaningful greening education to visitors.

Professor Xiao Yong is a famous art designing master of Qinghua University, China, Vice Chairman of the ICOGRADA, the designer of the medals for 2008 Beijing Olympic Games. This November workshop in fact is the 2nd one on the sustainable development of our world and the 4th workshop carried out by the Xiao Yong Studio. In addition to the Xiao Yong Studio, Shenzhen Polytechnic has also invited some other well-known artists in China as visiting professors to establish the other 7 their name titled art design studios under the City of Design Innovation Centre for teachers and students. Such kind of stories will last and designing will also continue.

(by UNESCO UNEVOC Centre Shenzhen Polytechnic)