

GENERVISION CAPE



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[TEDXSENADOSQUARE TALK: DAWN • THE BEGINNING OF CHANGE] CO-FOUNDER OF GENERVISION HOUSE EXPLORES SUSTAINABLE SOCIETAL CHANGE

In November, Christy Un, the Co-founder of Genervision House, was delighted to have been invited as one of the TEDxSenadosquare speakers to share her thoughts on the process of community change, sustainable development, the work of Genervision House and her personal growth traversing the Middle East, Europe and Macau throughout the recent years. As this year's theme is "Dawn", Christy would like to share a bit of faith and deliver the key message of the talk.

"Societal change begins by creating everyone's inner space."

From having awareness for change to going out of one's comfort zone to act on change, we can always make a difference to our own lives and create our own inner space for change. Yet, acting on one's own could hardly bring about societal change. When there is a space at the community level to gather the momentum for change, we are closer to bringing an impact to our society. There are two spaces for change - one is at the knowledge and cognitive level and the other is at the community level. Change always begins by creating a space to accommodate it.

The 8th Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC)

The 8th Ministerial Conference of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) was held in Dakar, Senegal during November 29 and 30. The Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC), established in 2000, is an important multilateral cooperation mechanism between China and African countries. This conference assessed the implementation of the follow-up results of the 2018 FOCAC Beijing Summit as well as the fight against the pandemic in China and Africa, and charted the direction of China-Africa relations in the next three years and beyond.



In addition, the meeting adopted four documents, namely the Dakhal Declaration of the 8th FOCAC Ministerial Conference, the FOCAC-Dakhal Action Plan (2022-2024), the China-Africa Cooperation Vision 2035, and the Declaration on China-Africa Cooperation in Combating Climate Change. -While the first two documents are routine for previous conferences, the last two documents are the first of their kind and represent new milestones for this year's conference.

The "China-Africa Cooperation Vision 2035" will dovetail with the comprehensive plan of the AU's Agenda 2063, while integrating China's 2035 vision, the new development pattern of the "double cycle" and China's "Second Centenary Goals". "It is the first medium- and long-term plan under the FOCAC mechanism, which will lay down the main framework of cooperation between the two sides for the next 15 years, together with a three-year plan focusing on specific areas of cooperation, further enhancing the forward-looking, systematic and continuous nature of the Forum.

The Declaration on China-Africa Cooperation on Climate Change will be the first area-focused declaration on cooperation promulgated at the Forum, reflecting the unprecedented importance and urgency of cooperation on climate change in China-Africa cooperation.

In terms of specific short-term actions, according to Chinese Vice Minister of Commerce Qian Keming, this year's FOCAC focused on "supporting Africa's recovery and development", and mobilized a wider range of cooperation contents and participation of more subjects.

In terms of cooperation issues, the Forum advocated the expansion of traditional cooperation areas into more emerging areas: China-Africa will continue to work closely on traditional cooperation agendas such as health, epidemic prevention, people's livelihood, poverty reduction and trade and investment, while emphasizing the increase of China-Africa cooperation in emerging areas such as digital economy, green and low carbon, and vocational education. On the form of cooperation, Chinese

Ambassador Gong Tao wrote in the local media that there might be more "small but good projects that benefit people's livelihoods and yield quick results".

In terms of the main body of cooperation, it was expected that more entities will be mobilized to participate and open up new areas, and it was clearly expected that the cooperation will deepen from mainly central government assistance, sovereign loans and the operation of central enterprises to local governments and private enterprises, encourage and support the role of multiple entities, and support the participation of market-oriented funds such as commercial credit and corporate investment in China-Africa cooperation. For example, Chinese Ambassador to Seychelles Guo Wei recently told local media that private enterprises in China and Africa will play a greater role in China-Africa relations in the future, referring to the upcoming 8th China-Africa Cooperation Forum, which "will open up a wider space for the development of private enterprises in Africa".

Prior to the Forum (November 26), the Chinese government released "China-Africa Cooperation in a New Era," the first white paper to introduce China's cooperation with Africa in a comprehensive manner and the first to introduce the results of China's cooperation with a region of the world, further demonstrating that China's relationship with Africa is "an important cornerstone of China's foreign policy and a firm strategic choice for China in the long term. "

The Gap Between Macau and the Paris Agreement

Gladys Ng

The 26th United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP26) was held in Glasgow, Scotland on October 31. This is a global climate conference convened by the United Nations to encourage countries that have signed the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) to take actions to prevent "dangerous" human interference with the climate system.

Speaking of climate change conference, people are probably most familiar with the Paris Agreement (hereafter the "Agreement") adopted in 2015. Prior to the Conference, China, as a signatory of the Agreement, had submitted to the Secretariat of the Convention its new nationally determined contributions (NDCs) and implementation measures to achieve the Agreement, including the promotion of non-fossil energy production and use and green building standards. As one of the special administrative regions of China, Macau also has a responsibility to promote the implementation of the country's climate targets.

According to Chief Executive's Notice No. 7/2017, the Agreement officially applies to Macau in 2016. As Macau adopts the civil law legal system, there are two ways for international law to be applied in the area of civil law. First, direct application. Meaning that the international law only needs to be directly published, usually in the form of "... hereby publish" to become effective. The second is parallel application, which means that the local law that had been established still applies, but the international law will also be announced separately. Among them, Macau takes the latter approach.

Apart from announcing the application of the Agreement in Macau,

what additional actions has the Government taken to fulfil its obligations?

The Macau SAR Government set up an Inter-departmental Task Force on Climate Change in 2015. However, the task force has held only one plenary meeting since its establishment and no progress has been published on the implementation of the mechanism mentioned at the time of its public establishment. Environmental protection has been mentioned several times in recent policy addresses and the two five-year plans, such as waste reduction and recycling, the adoption of electric vehicles, and the recently announced carbon peak and carbon neutrality targets. However, Macau still lacks a comprehensive climate action plan.

International academics point out that while climate policy has long been seen as driven by national governments, regional and "bottom-up" action has great potential value in achieving the more ambitious goals of the Agreement. A recent study, which combined the climate commitments of American states, cities, and businesses, found that carbon emissions could be cut by 25% from the baseline year by 2030, or 49% when accounting federal actions. It demonstrates the importance of the actions of the city in achieving the climate goals of a country.

In the absence of a clear climate action plan, environmental policies and efforts from all sectors cannot be coordinated to produce the most effective impact. Through action plans, laws can also be amended to align climate action within cities. For example, in 2019 the city council of Berkeley, California issued an ordinance banning the installation of natural gas hook-ups in new buildings and requiring full electrification to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from natural gas. Similar laws and regulations and holding industries within cities accountable for their commitments and targets in climate action plans.

Although Macau has a carbon peak and carbon neutrality commitment, how to achieve this target needs to be clearly indicated. What gets measured gets done, but detailed figures for Macau's annual total carbon emissions and how they are measured are still not clearly communicated to the public. In addition, during the first five-year plan on economic and social development, the carbon emission reduction did not reach the target, but the unit for measuring the carbon emission has been changed in the second five-year plan, making it difficult to reduce emissions based on solid evidence.

If Macau wants to peak its carbon emissions by 2030 or earlier, it must implement climate policy as soon as possible and effectively integrate the actions of various sectors. It is also suggested that policy makers take reference of the environmental policy blueprints of other cities, such as the Hong Kong Climate Action Plan 2050, which sets out four carbon reduction strategies and specific actions for Hong Kong to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050, and 1.5°C: Aligning New York City with the Paris Climate Agreement which sets goals and actions to address climate change for New York City, while taking into account the impact on the city's economic growth, equitable development, sustainability and resilience.

As United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has said, the health of the planet is on brink. For the sake of present and future generations, we must "Choose ambition. Choose solidarity. Choose to safeguard our future and save humanity."

(Published in Plataforma Media)

Have you heard of SDGs in university?

Its official name is Sustainable Development Goals Universities Initiative (SDGsUNI), an initiative led by the World Association for Sustainable Development (WASD) which aims to bring universities and research institutions worldwide together. The initiative helps the institutes to identify and overcome major challenges they face in advancing sustainable inclusive knowledge-based development in their countries, such as any governments components, and the new role(s) they can play in the post Covid-19 era.

How does one join the SDGsUNI? The initiative provides 4 membership packages that organizations can choose from, each one offering different levels of resources to suit respective scope and objectives. They are "Seed", "Water", "Grow" and "Sustain" in ascending order. After getting involved, organizations will receive promotion of their work, such as an chance to appear in the WASD SDGs channel, promotion videos, and discounts for attending WASD conferences & events, etc.

What can the universities do to attain the goals? Let's look at an example in Taiwan. Located in Taiwan, National Cheng Kung University created a "2030" website which maps the school's plan and initiatives implemented about the 17 SDGs. For example, liberal education focuses on SDGs, waste management policy, and created different colleges to encourage students to study across disciplines.

The university also did a lot on promoting sustainable transport. For instance, they cooperate with local bicycle shops to let students purchase second-hand bikes with discount. They also set up up to 10000 parking slots for bike on all of the campuses to encourage biking. On the other hand, they cooperate with Tesla, even some local electric car companies like Gogoro and E-moving to provide charging stations as well. Last but not least, they partnered with car rental companies to provide student discounts to promote car sharing.

Sustainability is not rocket science, however, we need to increase the public awareness about it. Hence, targeting students is absolutely a good way to begin, so that the awareness can trickle down into the community and continue forward. Taking the most basic waste sorting as an example, if students take part in it and get used to it, the habit will naturally pass onto their friends and family.



Apple Launches Self Service Repair

Apple announced the launch of Self Service Repair, allowing customers who are confident about making their own repairs to use Apple genuine parts and tools. The first phase of the program will be available in the US and will only be available for the iPhone 12 and 13 series, focusing on the most commonly used modules, such as the display, battery and camera.

The customer should first check the Repair Manual, and they can then order parts and tools using Apple Self Service Repair Online Store. After the repair, old parts can be returned for recycling, and receive credits for their future purchase.

By making it easier for electronics to be repaired, Apple is reducing the chances of them becoming waste.

Although in many developed regions (e.g. Macau), consumers may increase e-waste at source for the sake of trends and fashion.

Macau generates more than 7,000 tons of e-waste every year, according to a 2016 report by the Macau Daily and AAMacau Media.

AAMacau Media also conducted an online survey to find out the habits of Macau residents in dealing with e-waste. The survey found that most of them put their e-waste with general waste ☒because of lack of recycling points or that they are not aware of its recyclability. In recent years, Macau’s Environmental Protection Bureau has set up a recycling scheme for electronic and electrical equipment (we have shared in a post before).

In addition to government recycling schemes, manufacturers are also responsible for making their products more repairable, upgradable and recyclable (such as the Dutch Fairphone) to extend the life of their products.



Barbie joins the green lifestyle

Barbie, a doll that many people grew up with, is certainly one of the influencers for children. This year, Mattel, the owner of Barbie, has launched its first ever "Barbie Loves the Ocean" collection which uses recycled plastic waste from the Ocean. ♻️ The dolls from this collection is made from 90% recycled plastic. The company has a goal to make all of its products and packaging made from 100% recycled, recyclable or bio-based materials by 2030.

Mattel also launched a new video on Barbie's YouTube channel, teaching people to practice sustainable lifestyle everyday.

[Generivision House X Synergy Macao Association] Sustainable Development Goals Workshop

Generivision House was very honored to have co-hosted a Sustainable Development Goals Workshop with Association of Synergy of Macao in November, introducing the goals to participants who are also keen about the sustainable development topic.



Besides 17 SDGs, we also looked into the progress of Macau on achieving the SDGs, linking them with our everyday life. We exchanged ideas on the topic and had a very fruitful discussion!