

The Chinese University of Hong Kong
Department of Geography and Resource Management
Institute of Future Cities

jointly organize a seminar

by

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What Are We Losing? The Significant roles of Hong Kong Corals under Global Warming

Abstract:

Home to eighty-four species of hard corals, Hong Kong's coral diversity is considered quite rich by international standards. Yet there are pressures from coastal development, eutrophication, overfishing etc. Tolo Harbour and Channel in North-eastern Hong Kong, used to support high coverage of corals until the 1980's, were severely affected by extensive pollution impacts. Our recent surveys showed that, fifteen years after the progressive improvement of water quality inside Tolo Harbour and Channel, coral recovery is very slow. For degraded coral communities that cannot recover naturally due to limited coral larval supply and low post-settlement survival, active restoration techniques may provide a means of enhancing coral cover and abundance. Until recent years, our research team has for the first time successfully raised and out-planted laboratory-reared baby corals to assist in Hong Kong coral community restoration. During the seminar, Dr. Apple Chui will guide you on a journey into this magnificent underwater world in Hong Kong. Drawing on her latest research, she will also share with you the potential roles of Hong Kong corals in future under projected climate global warming, and discuss the importance of marine conservation in marginal coral communities.

About the Speaker:

Dr. Apple Chui is a marine biologist, conservationist, underwater photographer, and ocean lover. She obtained her M.Phil. and Ph.D. degrees in Environmental Science and Biology programs from The Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK), and has been a lecturer in CUHK since 2016. Her research interests include coral larval ecology, coral recruitment dynamics and reef restoration using sexually reared corals. Her contribution to coral research in Hong Kong has gained global notice. In 2019, Dr. Chui was selected as a Pew Marine Fellow, one of the eight awardees per year from around the world. As a lecturer, it is her passion on coral and conservation research that arouse students' interest and curiosity, so that the students not only learn intellectually but, connect emotionally and take responsibility to conserve nature. Her learner-centered teaching approach has earned her the Faculty Exemplary Teaching Award 2018, Outstanding Teaching Performance for College General Education Course 2017-18 of Shaw College, Vice-Chancellor's Exemplary Teaching Award 2017 and Exemplary Teaching Award in General Education 2017. As a committed scientific communicator and devoted conservationist, Dr. Chui has been actively engaged in community outreach and education activities in Hong Kong. Throughout the years, she has been invited to speak in over 40 public seminars on marine and coral conservation for various organizations, including Schools, AFCD, WWFHK, RTHK, Ocean Park Hong Kong and Hong Kong Science Museum. In 2018, Dr. Chui officially launched an outreach program "Coral Academy", to raise students and public's awareness and inspire action in marine conservation through various workshop activities.

Language: English
Date: 11 April 2019 (Thursday)
Time: 4:30-6:00pm
Venue: Room 221
Chen Kou Bun Building
Chung Chi College

~All are Welcome~

For any inquiries, please contact Prof. Li Jing (Tel. 3943 6537 or Email: victorli@cuhk.edu.hk).