Nurturing Happy Green Culture in Hospitals

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Introduction
Nurturing green culture starts with a change of peoples’ mind and habits. It takes time to change, adapt and develop green habit. Kwong Wah Hospital and TWGHs Wong Tai Sin Hospital gained its momentum in green since 2000 with ISO 14001 Environmental Management System in place. Over the years, hospitals organized a lot of interesting soft side environmental promotion programs such as Green Day, funny game booths, meaningful secondhand goods sales day and exciting green competitions on top of various hardware facility improvements. A series of new green activities such as “Old Yarn. New Knitwork” rolled out in June and successfully completed in 2014. The theme of this green activity is to give participants a sense of “warm and love”. Lots of old and colorful yarns were donated by our staff and volunteers used several months to knit scarves during their lunch or leisure time. We have received over 140 beautiful scarves and hats. All the knitted pieces were given to the elderly patients as a gift and with our warmest wishes to them.

Objectives
The crux of nurturing green culture in hospitals is to keep GREEN a fresh to our staff by identifying and implementing a concept of “4Ps” – “Planning”, “Promotion”, “Participation” and “Partnership”. Planning is strategic and is the most important part in identifying the next year’s innovative and achievable programs. Effective promotion through posters, email, electronic information panel and networking can enlarge the size of target audiences. Participation is the evidence of the success of the activity, making the green programs more vivid and full of fun, it certainly could attract more staff to participate. Partnership with cluster hospitals and green groups, all the stakeholders can benefit from the synergic effect.

Methodology
The review of previous year’s performance and resources need analysis are the core factors in planning new targets. Means of promotion and encouragement of staff participation directly determine the success of the green programme. In some cases, partnership provides an additional attractiveness and feeling of freshness to the staff.

**Result**

Two remarkable workshops were conducted. (1) Eco-enzymes workshop was one of the most popular green workshops to our staff. With the support and donation of food waste from staff canteen, the enzymes were made in an environmental friendly way. It was a good start for bringing up the concept of the convert the food waste to value. (2) Old yarn collection and knit new scarves was a charitable green programme and the response was much better than expected. Over 140 scarves and hats were knitted and donated to our elderly patients. Besides, on the Energy Saving Promotion Day, our green partner set up a “body generated power set” to let us learnt the importance of energy saving and this was an interesting and funny experience to all of us. Given a wider recognition of our green commitment, hospitals successfully attained Bronze Award in Sectoral Award 2012 from Hong Kong Awards for Environmental Excellence (HKAEE). To conclude, hospital green teams facilitate and launch different green programs for staff, patients, community, with the objective to conserve our environment.