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Biodiversity Thrives at Lamma Power Station: HK Electric Promotes Conservation through “Green Hong Kong Green” Programme

Despite its small size of 13.85 square kilometres, Lamma Island hosts about two-thirds of Hong Kong's recorded biodiversity. This includes over 100 bird species, with more than 40% found at the island's largest industrial facility - Lamma Power Station (LPS).

HK Electric Managing Director Mr. Francis C.Y. Cheng recently led this year's first online tour of the Company's Green Hong Kong Green (GHKG) project, sharing insights on transforming the power station into a wildlife haven and urging citizens to help preserve local biodiversity.

Mr. Cheng emphasised HK Electric's commitment to environmental conservation, highlighting efforts at LPS to preserve biodiversity. "Over 40 years, native trees have been planted, attracting birds, while new technologies are applied to minimise operational impacts on water bodies and marine life, preventing fish ingress into our system and supporting coral growth in nearby waters."

He continued, "Since 2011, HK Electric has been conducting bird surveys at LPS every five to six years. The 'Bird Survey Team' uses binoculars to observe and listens to bird chirps, to identify and record bird species and numbers over a 7-month period. This helps assess the relationship between birds and the environment at the power plant, guiding measures to protect and enhance biodiversity."

Mr. Cheng added that the "Bird Survey Team" is currently conducting the 2024-2025 survey and has recorded 30 bird species within the power station area, including various resident birds, winter migratory birds and transit migratory birds. For the first time, the team has spotted the Great Egret, Japanese Thrush, Feral Pigeon and Common Sandpiper within the power station.

One notable species, the Brown Shrike, characterised by its reddish-brown body, lighter underparts, and reddish-brown waist and tail, is both a transit and rare winter migratory bird. It has been spotted again in this survey, marking its second consecutive appearance over the years, reaffirming the power station as a suitable habitat for birds.

In addition to introducing the bird survey, Mr. Cheng also shared results from a coral survey conducted near LPS in August 2023 by a professional organisation. The survey identified Hard Coral and Octocoral species, generally in good health with no signs of bleaching, indicating a suitable environment for coral habitation and growth near the power station.

The ideal habitat at LPS stems from diverse environmental measures. "We continuously plant native trees to improve air quality, reduce soil erosion, create shade and provide food and shelter for birds, insects and other species," explained Mr.

Cheng. "We also monitor air and water quality to protect and enhance biodiversity within and around the power station, benefitting the local ecosystem."

GHKG, a green education programme co-organised by HK Electric and The Conservancy Association (CA), continues to promote biodiversity this year. The first public online tour, held last Saturday (22 March), featured interactive sessions with Mr. Cheng and CA Director Mr. Ken So, who discussed the importance of ecosystem services to biodiversity.

Mr. So remarked, "Humans and biodiversity are like stakeholders in the same community, functioning independently yet benefitting and influencing each other. Protecting biodiversity is crucial for the proper functioning and sustainable development of the community."

He further explained that biodiversity is a key indicator of ecosystem health, requiring collective efforts to protect it. This year, GHKG will continue to focus on biodiversity through a series of guided activities (Table 1) to enhance public understanding and inspire protective actions.

Since 2005, GHKG has developed 12 eco-heritage routes on Hong Kong Island and Lamma Island. Through guided tours, the programme showcases Hong Kong's ecological and heritage resources, promoting green travel, low-carbon living, environmental awareness and a positive attitude towards eco-tourism. For details, visit the GHKG App, Facebook page, HK Electric YouTube channel or website, CA website, or call 2728 6781.

Table 1: GHKG Eco-heritage Tours 2025

| Date | Theme |
|------------------------------|--|
| 22 March (Saturday) - AM | Understanding Ecosystem Services from Multiple Perspectives (online tour) |
| 27 April (Sunday) - AM | Western District Route – West Town Story (physical tour) Wan Chai Route - Wan Chai Kaleidoscope (physical tour) |
| 24 May (Saturday) - PM | Summer Exclusive: Tai Tam Country Park Route - Night Safari @ Tai Tam (physical tour) Night Safari @ Lamma (physical tour) |
| 14 June (Saturday) - AM | Global Food Supply in Ecosystem Services (online tour) |
| 16 August (Saturday) - PM | Summer Exclusive: Tai Tam Country Park Route - Night Safari @ Tai Tam (physical tour) Night Safari @ Lamma (physical tour) |
| 27 September (Saturday) - AM | Ecosystem Services – Precious Gift from Nature (online tour) |
| 2 November (Sunday) - AM | GHKG Eco-tour Day (physical tours) |
| 30 November (Sunday) - AM | New Southern District Route (physical tour) |
| 20 December (Saturday) - AM | Ecosystem Services - Nature-based Solutions (online tour) |

Enrolment for public tours

<https://ghkg.onlineform.ai/registration>



Table 2:

Bird Survey at Lamma Power Station (excerpt)

Bird Species First Registered in Lamma Power Station Bird Survey 2024-25





| | Characteristics / Descriptions | |
|------------------|--|---|
| Great Egret | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The body is entirely white, with black feet and a yellow bill• Common resident bird, migratory bird and winter migratory bird | (Photo 1)  |
| Japanese Thrush | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Male has a black head, breast, and upperparts, with whitish underparts and black spots• Common winter migratory bird and migratory bird | (Photo 2)  |
| Feral Pigeon | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Plumage is variable but usually blue-grey with two broad black wing bars• Common resident bird in certain areas, widely distributed throughout urban Hong Kong | (Photo 3)  |
| Common Sandpiper | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Adult bird has an olive-brown body. It has dark eye-stripe and white supercilium. White patch appears in front of wings. Legs are yellow.• Transit migratory bird | (Photo 4)  |

Photo Captions:

Photo 5:



About 30 bird species have been identified in the bird survey currently underway at Lamna Power Station, including (clockwise from top right) Red-whiskered Bulbul, Yellow-browed Warbler, Grey Heron, Daurian Redstart and the relatively rare Brown Shrike (centre).

Photo 6:



Photo 7:



The coral survey commissioned by HK Electric in 2023 found various coral species, including *Tubastraea* species (Hard Coral) (Photo 6) and *Dendronephthya* (Octocoral) (Photo 7), which were in good conditions without any sign of bleaching.

Photo 8:



Mr. Francis C.Y. Cheng (right) and Mr. Ken So (left) shared how businesses and individuals could help protect biodiversity.

Photo 9:



This year, GHKG will continue to take the public to appreciate nocturnal ecology at Lamma Island and Tai Tam Country Park.