



PROFESSIONAL GREEN BUILDING COUNCIL Symposium on Urban Climate & Urban Greenery 2009

Panelist:

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Topic: Urban Climatic Maps for Hong Kong

Abstract:

More than 50% of the world's population now lives in cities. Urban climate of a city has been a topical concern among meteorologists and urban climatologists who has to understand it; planners, designers and governments who has to make it work, and the general public who has to live in it. Urban heat island and canyon effects are now headlines.

Urban Climatic Map has been used in Germany for over 40 years to provide a spatial and strategic understanding of the urban climate of a city. With the information available, the government, the stakeholders and the general public has an information basis for discussion as to how they wish their city to become. Policies and strategies can then be developed.

In Asia, since 2000, a number of countries and cities, including Japan, Singapore, Macau and Taiwan have now embarked on urban climatic studies. In Hong Kong, since 2006, climatic, topographic and planning information have been collated onto a GIS platform and a draft urban climatic analysis map has already been created. Based on the analysis, planning recommendations can be developed. For example, the importance of greening our city (urban greening) and the way urban morphologies can be better designed for the wind available can both be strategically understood and better planned.