

Improving Sustainability in the Construction Industry – an UK Perspective



Joanne Kwan
BSc (Hon) MSc CChem
CIRIA UK
Classic House
176-180 Old Street
London UK EC1V 9BP
United Kingdom
E-mail: Joanne.kwan@ciria.org

Abstract

Sustainability is becoming a central concern for us all. This has been grown out of wider recognition that rising populations and economic development are threatening a progressive degradation of the earth's resources. Sustainability is also about improve people's working and living environment as well as the quality of life.

Construction projects, the subsequent maintenance and use of the development have contributed significantly to the change of the world's climate, atmosphere and the environment. For example, buildings are by far the greatest producers of harmful gases such as CO₂ in the UK and this 'eco-footprint' can only increase with the large population growth predicted to occur by 2050.

UK, like HK is committed to building a sustainable future and to ensuring that our future generations can continue to thrive in a clean and green environment. But is incorporating the concept of sustainability into the building design and its management THE only way to reduce environmental impacts to nature and improving our quality of life?

This presentation will explore the connection between sustainability and green building highlighting the experience in UK. It will also examine ways in which clients, government bodies, designers, contractors and consultants can become more sustainable efficiently in construction projects.

Speaker

Miss Joanne Kwan holds a BSc (Hon) and MSc in Environmental Science from Manchester University UK. Joanne is an award winning Project Manager at the UK leading guidance provider, CIRIA (Construction Industry Research and Information Association). She has extensive knowledge and experience in applying good and sustainable practice in green buildings and other construction projects.

She is a chartered Chemist, an Honorary Lecture at Cardiff University UK and External Examiner at Cambridge University UK. Joanne was the winner of the Department of Trade and Industry Demonstration Project 2001 and Biffaward 2004.

