

# THE CITYU SUSTAINABILITY LECTURE SERIES THE INAUGURAL LECTURE

## Setting the Bottom Line for the Planet's Future

3 March 2017



The Department of Asian and International Studies has launched a new sustainability lecture series designed to focus the attention of the university and the broader community on the concepts and data needed to better comprehend sustainability and to design sustainability initiatives. Dr David Suzuki, a globally known thought leader, delivered the inaugural lecture on 3 March 2017 to a near full house of 400 audience members.

The inaugural lecture offered Dr Suzuki a platform to reflect on his career in science and in advocating for environmental change and to offer advice to students. Dr. Suzuki at 80 years old is a wise elder of the environmental movement and he called for a re-engagement with

indigenous knowledge gained from their history of living with nature. Dr Suzuki urged the audience not to give up when confronted with global environmental degradation. Rather, society must go down two tracks: first, encouraging creativity and novel solutions to environmental problems and second, rethinking our current economic norms and systems.

The event attracted a diverse audience including secondary students, university students, scholars, sustainability professionals and interested members of the local community. Drawn from a wide range of disciplines, CityU students formed the largest part of the audience. AIS students actively participated in the Q&A session and then joined Dr Suzuki in a more intimate conversation after the lecture at a reception.

The lecture series will continue with five more talks in 2017-2018. The backing of the private sector (Air Canada and CLP Power Hong Kong Limited) and the Hong Kong government (the Environment and Conservation Fund) for this lecture series signals support for CityU's efforts to incorporate a sustainability agenda in its teaching, its research and its student activities.

