A Hearty Effort: Saving Energy at No Material Cost
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Using energy-efficient facilities is not the only way to conserve energy. If suitable management measures can be developed upon careful inspection of energy consumption data of existing facilities, the outcome may be pleasantly surprising. Ir Dr Percy Kong, Facilities Manager of Campus Development and Facilities Office of the City University of Hong Kong (CityU) states that their team has put a great deal of thought in their daily operation, with an aim to save energy at no material cost.

Most of the facilities are located at Academic 1 (AC1) built in the early years. Originally the air-cooled and water-cooled chiller plants installed in five learning zones at AC1 worked independently. They would substitute each other only when facing machinery breakdown. After detailed study, Ir Dr Kong discovered that such arrangement could be applied to daily operation. The more power-hungry air-cooled chiller plants could be replaced by the water-cooled ones, enhancing the overall cooling efficiency. The outcome is quick and sound: HK$ 2 million saved every year.

"The energy saving measures in the campus are no profound knowledge. They are just basics," Ir Dr Kong says. The facilities management team studied the energy consumption pattern of the facilities, and then tailor-made an operation mode in the centralised system to meet the needs and habits of the users. The ultimate goal is to narrow the gap between electricity supply and actual need to minimise wastage. Working on both the hardware and software, the energy consumption of CityU has dropped for four consecutive years and a 2.5% reduction in consumption is recorded for year 2013/14. In view of the importance of education, Ir Dr Kong frequently shares the Council's HK3030 Campaign with the students via guest lectures and facilities visits. CityU has also joined the HK3030 Energy Saving Charter to engage the community for reducing energy consumption.