



Best Commentary Award Champion

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Theme:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social Issues	<input type="checkbox"/> Popular Culture	<input type="checkbox"/> Inspiring People & Amazing Deeds
Division:	<input type="checkbox"/> S.1 – 3	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> S.4 – 7	
Date:	6 May 2008		
Title:	Where has all the blue sky gone?		
Picture:			
Caption:	Here's a typical day set in a typical high-rise skyline in Causeway Bay, HKSAR 30 May 2007.		

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Commentary:

The scene above looks peaceful enough but if you look closely, you'll see a scarred, poisoned, and depleted environment.

What we see in many countries are buildings mushrooming to meet economic growth and to show off a city's wealth and status. This huge demand implies, namely, a rocketing need for raw materials and land, resulting in reclamation, deforestation (with entire forests being wiped out), excessive use of water and energy, and pollution of water, air, and land.

Indonesia and Brazil are two countries which are losing its forests at an irrecoverable rate of over 2 million hectares annually. Massive construction also produces a large amount of solid wastes and greenhouse gases. Global warming has become a reality, causing disastrous global outcomes like climate change, tsunamis, the melting of polar ice caps and the extinction of scarce living species.

Every society needs to develop, but are they doing so sustainably and responsibly? It's high time we all join hands and resolve to live a green lifestyle. For instance, mustn't we implement green technologies in recycling, waste management and constructing green buildings or greening existing structures? Mustn't we develop and use renewable and less polluting energy sources (such as wind energy and solar energy)? And isn't it top priority that people conserve energy and water in their daily life, such as switching off computers when not in use, shortening the consumption of lighting and air-conditioners, using electrical appliances with high Energy Efficiency Ratio, taking a shower instead of a bath, avoiding running water at full blast, and so on?

For sure, a green lifestyle can green – and sustain – the environment. Are you ready to walk the talk with me?

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