

Hong Kong Roundtable outlines key barriers to LEDs

A roundtable of business leaders and academics in Hong Kong has outlined some of the key barriers that LEDs must overcome if the technology is to realize its considerable potential to reduce the world's emissions and energy costs.

The “The Future of Lighting” discussion outlined five key challenges that stand in the way of widespread adoption of LEDs: low awareness among end users; reliability of products; lack of standards for the new technology; high upfront costs; and, the current lack of policy support for the technology. The group agreed that breaking through each of these barriers is critical and will require concerted efforts and partnerships between NGOs, industry, and consumers, as well as the government.

The discussion, held at the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology was organized by The Climate Group and Energy Alliance @ HKUST, a student-run organization focusing on energy-related issues. Panelists included **Prof W B Lee from Hong Kong Polytechnic University, Dr David Xiao from Advanced Photoelectronic Technology (HK) Ltd, Calvin Xu from Olympus Capital, Bryan Cooper from Traxon Technologies Limited, and Kenny Sze from Kingsun Optoelectronics Co, Ltd.**

The panel stressed the importance of suitable government policies in helping overcome these barriers, agreeing that these could drive innovation and create demand for the products, which would in turn push down the cost significantly.

The panelists also analyzed various technology issues relating to LED lighting such as the compatibility of system components; illumination uniformity; temperature management; and, the role of secondary optics. Innovation and R&D in these areas are still needed in order to enhance the applicability of the technology.

The discussions will further inform the work of the Lightsavers Program, a global initiative set up by The Climate Group to assess the potential of LEDs and smart controls in the effort to curb greenhouse gas emission and cut energy costs. The session took place prior to the launch ceremony of the [LightSavers program](#) in Hong Kong, which will see LEDs trialed at three sites: **The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, The University of Hong Kong (HKU) and**



Hong Kong International Airport. Products for the Hong Kong trials are being provided by Kingsun Optoelectronic Co, Ltd, Neo-Neon Enterprises Ltd, Philips Electronics Hong Kong Ltd and Ruud Lighting. Pilot results will be announced next Spring. Hong Kong is one of ten global cities taking part in the Lightsavers program.

Concluding comments were provided by **Steve Wong from Hong Kong Energy Conservation Association** and **Kalmond Ma from The Climate Group**. Both acknowledged the massive potential of LED lighting in terms of curbing energy use and greenhouse gas emissions.

“LED outdoor lighting has a potential to save 5% of global electricity consumption, if deployed with adaptive control globally. However, to achieve that, we will need to address issues such as lack of awareness, demand and standards, as well as high initial costs. Our global LightSavers program will help address these barriers through a systematic approach”, said **Kalmond Ma, Head of Pearl River Delta Regional Program, The Climate Group**.

LightSavers is supported by the [HSBC Climate Partnership](#).