Editor Notes
In this issue, we introduce you the new Executive Committee chaired by Prof. Donggen Wang (HKBU) and the new Secondary Education Committee. Articles covered include the 40th Anniversary Sharing Session report, the PRD field trip report, local field site recommendation and a teacher's article on agricultural practice in the PRD.

The next issue of Hong Kong Geographer will be available in April 2010 (in a printed format). That is a Special Issue on School Based Assessment under the NSS curriculum. We have invited some Geography educators to share their views on SBA or on the new curriculum. We hope the coming Special Issue can help teachers attain a better understanding of the new curriculum.

In the near future, the Hong Kong Geographer will be published in an electronic version. Thus, it is time for members to provide us / update your emails to keep our interactions. You can send your name and email address to enquiry@hkga.org.
Message from the Chairman

Since its foundation in 1969, HKGA has in the past forty years made great contributions to geography education and geography studies in Hong Kong. The association has been providing important professional supports to geography teachers through workshops, lectures, field trips, etc. HKGA has been working closely with government departments including the Education Bureau and Hong Kong Examinations and Assessment Authority on curriculum reform and the introduction of the 3-3-4 education system. Jointly with the departments of geography of the University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong Baptist University and the Chinese University of Hong Kong, the Association has since 1981 been organizing the biennial event of ‘Hong Kong Geography Day,’ which incorporates talks for secondary students, field trips for geography teachers, research seminars for intellectual exchange between academics, forums, exhibitions, etc. In the past three decades, ‘Hong Kong Geography Day’ has become a focal event of geography in Hong Kong. The association publishes a newsletter twice a year, the Hong Kong Geographer, which reports activities of the association and exchange views and experiences in teaching geography. In 1981, HKGA launched a scholarly journal in English: Asian Geographer. The journal focuses on geographical issues in Asia and the Pacific Rim.

All these achievements would not have been possible without the dedication, hard working and creative minds of the previous Executive Committees of HKGA. The 2009-2011 Executive Committee deeply cherish these achievements and will carry on the good traditions and practices of the past. At the same time, we will explore ways to further develop HKGA. We will further enhance the professional services to geographer teachers through organizing seminars, field trips and other activities. Competitions and learning activities will be organized to promote the interests of secondary school students in geography. Efforts will be spent to enhance HKGA’s role in promoting academic development. A major task will be to revitalize Asian Geographer to be an important geographical journal on Asia and the Pacific Rim. In addition, HKGA will be more involved in the organization of academic conferences, workshops and seminars.

I am confident that with the supports of HKGA members and the efforts of colleagues in the Executive Committee, HKGA will be developed to a new height.

Prof. Donggen Wang
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Sharing Session of the 40th Anniversary of Hong Kong Geographical Association

The 40th Anniversary of Hong Kong Geographical Association sharing session was held on 18 August 2009 (Tuesday) at the University of Hong Kong, Pokfulam. The Chair, Professor Donggen Wang, thanked members of the EXCO and committee for running the HKGA for 40 years as well as the support and assistance from the committee of the 10th Asian Urbanization Conference.

About the HKGA

Since its foundation in 1969, HKGA has made great contribution to geography education and geography studies. It has been providing professional support to geography teachers through workshop, lectures, fieldtrips, etc. Also, the Association has worked closely with the Education Bureau and HKEAA regarding the education reform, i.e. introduction of 3-4-4 education system. Started from 1981, the geography department of three universities organized Hong Kong Geography Day which incorporated talks for secondary students, fieldtrips for geography teachers, research seminars for intellectual exchange between academics, seminars and exhibition, etc. It has become an important event of geography in Hong Kong in the past few decades.

The Association publishes newsletter twice a year, i.e. Hong Kong Geographers. It reports the activities of the Association and exchanges views in teaching geography. Moreover, the Association joined the geography department of the University of Hong Kong to publish a scholar journal ‘Asian geographer’ on geographical research for Asia and the Pacific Rim.
Sharing from EXCO members

Mr. H.L. Law (Hon. Treasurer, 1969-1971) shared the history of HKGA. In the early 1960s, the education system had not been widespread in Hong Kong's society. There was not much geography education training. Although the number of geography teachers was not large, the motivation to promote geographical education was still in progress. The teachers gathered and had the mind of establishing the HKGA. It had used two years for the establishment which took United Kingdom Geographical Association as a role model.

Professor Victor Sit (Vice-chair, 1980-1981; Chair, 1981-1983) pointed out that Hong Kong Geography Day is important in secondary geography education as talks about public examinations and exhibition of the latest textbook will be included. The development, popularization and application of geography are essential. Secondary schools and universities are the two main support of the Association. At the same time, the Association has provided support to the geography subject. He revealed that city is a vital source in exploring fieldwork site in studying human geography.

Professor Anthony G.O. Yeh (Chair, 1987-1991) shared his experience when he was the editor of Asian Geographer in 1988. He suggested that the Association can organize international conference. It is important to encourage secondary students to participate the activities in long term. Besides, as the relationship between Hong Kong and Pearl River Delta is closer, the Association shall consider providing more information to students regarding the linkages between Hong Kong and the Pearl River Delta.

Dr David K.Y. Chu (Hon. Secretary, 1982-1985; Chair, 1993-1999) mentioned that we should not emphasize the discipline boundary. People should have a wider point of view. He worked as the chair of HKGA for 6 years. Within these years, he rearranged the structure of HKGA. He emphasized the concept of bridging secondary and university educators. Furthermore, it is possible that there is no linkage between the subjects in secondary and tertiary education. Regarding to the financial situation, striking a balance between the financial prudence and ambition is essential in managing the Association.
Professor C.C. Lam (Hon. Secretary, 2001-2003; Hon. Treasurer, 2003-2005) shared his experience in organizing the talk of Hong Kong Geography Day. The talk was so popular and the number of people attended was much larger than the venue capacity. It inspired him so much that the activity organized by the Association can attract a lot of people if it had targeted the right participants. He suggested that the Association can publish something as it had published a map interpretation exercise book. The book has generated $200,000 income for the Association. It is possible to create a market and provide a stable income source for the Association.

Dr Roger C.K. Chan (Hon. Secretary, 1995-1997; Chair, 1999 -2001) had undertaken different positions in the HKGA and he was proud of the good cooperation with other committee members. He pointed out the importance of communication between government and the HKGA. The HKGA has the responsibility to response to social affairs. He took the introduction of new syllabus as an example in which the HKGA acts as a middleman between teachers and government. Besides, the HKGA suggested government to provide field trips' guidelines to all schools after a fire broke out in Ma On Shan during field trip. The Association should keep its role of bridging geography experts and the society together.

Professor Li Si Ming (Chair, 1991 -1993) pointed out that there are limited ways to understand the development in the Pearl River Delta. He mentioned about the Pearl River Delta Course in Hong Kong Baptist University and the book published by Geography Department in HKBU which provide more channels in knowing the recent development in the Pearl River Delta. Besides, He contributed to the publication of Asian Geographer which is an international academic journal.

Dr. David K.Y. Chu suggested that the Association's journals should be distributed through the Internet instead of a paper form, as this can help to relieve the financial problem within the Association as well as to become an academic journal with international circulations.

Professor Victor Sit pointed out that mistakes in question papers and model answers of public examinations are increasing and the HKGA has the responsibility to report these mistakes.
Ms Linda Lau (Vice-chair, 1983-1985) shared her experience in teaching geography and she wished she could be the only one to teach Advanced Level geography from 1981 to 2012.

Dr. James Wang (Hon. Treasurer, 1995-1997; Hon. Secretary, 1997-1999) mentioned that he learnt different ways of handling matters from the HKGA colleague and he felt the passion of geography teaching. He said what he learnt from the Association is more than what he gave and he hoped the HKGA can keep on promoting geography as well as raising the prestige of the Association internationally.

The sharing session ended with heartfelt thanks from the 2009-2011 EXCO committee to all previous committee for their contribution to the HKGA.

If you have any memorable items about the HKGA, i.e. photos taken in our events, age-old publications, even your own memories about the Association, you are most welcome to share with us. (Contact: enquiry@hkga.org)

**Member Information Update**

Have you moved recently? Are you a life member joined HKGA years ago? To update your information (especially the contact address and email to receive the latest news of HKGA), email us via enquiry@hkga.org.

香港地理學會專屬地理活動贊助基金

香港中文大學地理與資源管理學系地理節活動報告

本會於2010年1月11日至15日舉行了一年一度的地理節活動，主題為氣候轉變，提醒同學要為保護環境出一份力。於1月11日的開幕禮上，本會於電影欣賞環節上播放在《第十一小時》作為地理節的頭炮活動。還有一連五天，本會於文化廣場設置攤位售賣書籍，教職員及同學們的反應也很熱烈。此外，於1月15日的晚上，本會於大學賓館舉辦了高卓晚宴，邀得前天文台台長林超英先生擔任講者，講授有關氣候變化的課題，使參加者獲益良多。為期一星期的地理節，成功在中文大學宣揚有關氣候轉變的問題，並引起中大教職員和同學關注這一重大議題。

系主任陳永勤教授致送紀念品予林超英先生

出席高卓晚宴的講者、教授和同學們合照
貪婪活動 - 大蠍

位於北大嶼山的大蠍村東涌市中心五分鐘車程，因有白芒、牛牯塱和大蠍三條村落，故又名三鄉，與大嶼山南面遙遙相對的梅窩齊名。大蠍有兩座歷史悠久的更樓，用作抵禦外敵；第二次世界大戰時，日軍入侵，將其中一條村落燒毀。區內亦存有「三面紅旗」的標語和一所儲存很多毛澤東畫像和雕像的合作社，極有歷史特色。

隨著歷史價值外，大蠍的生態價值更高。大蠍擁有河溪、紅樹林、泥灘、風水林和農地。在這些生境的互動作用下，大大提高了大蠍的生物多樣性。大蠍最吸引考察者的生境，莫過於位於大蠍河河口的泥灘和紅樹林。老鼠簕、秋茄、木欖等紅樹廣泛地生長在那近二百頃的泥灘上，吸引了招潮蟹、彈塗魚和鷺鳥覓食。

隨著大嶼山的城市化發展，三鄉人口下降，區內的唯一的學校—白望學校荒廢。九十年代，政府建議在大蠍興建新市鎮和公路連接南面一山之隔的梅窩，但因紅樹林和瀕危的香魚而遭環保團體反對。經村民急於賣地，甚至用鐵絲網把紅樹林圍起，以避免被生態調查員了解其價值。後來工程未通過環評，被迫告吹。一九九四年，大蠍被政府列入公私合營的「新自然保育政策」中，但至今有關保育計劃進展緩慢，大蠍尚未得到任何實質的保護。
考察重點
1. 城市化和村落衰落
2. 生態旅遊和村民
3. 農業合作社的運作
4. 河道生態和地貌
5. 紅樹林生境和生物多様性
6. 可持續發展城市規劃

引導問題
1. 大蠔有城市發展的痕跡嗎？這現象在地理學上如何解釋？
2. 風水林是甚麼？它在文化和生態上有什麼重要性？
3. 大蠔有甚麼值得保護的地方？為什麼它會成為「具特殊科學價值地點」 (Site of Special Scientific Interest, SSSI)？
4. 為什麼河口一帶的紅樹林被圍上籬笆？用意何在？又反映了哪些持份者的衝突？
5. 生態旅遊是否可以在生態與旅遊之間取得平衡？
6. 既要保護大蠔珍貴的生態資源，亦要照顧村民的生活水準，你認為應該要如何規劃大蠔的發展？

參考資料
・香港電台《山水傳奇》
・《新界墟墟話鄉情》・三聯書店1990・
・《大蠔山抗日遊擊隊》・香港各界文化促進會・2002・
・《綠色香港——生態欣賞與認識》・香港：花千樹
・漁農自然護理署http://www.afcd.gov.hk/tc_chi/conservation/con_nncp/con_nncp.html

前往方法
新大蠔山巴士公司36號線（循環線往小瀝源）
由於班次疏落，每天只有三班巴士往返，前往須時小心規劃時間，以免誤時。班次資料只供參考，一切以巴士公司最新公布為準。

（梁永健）
香港地理學會在2009年12月28至29日舉行了廣州/珠三角地區農業和工業考察，是次參加活動人數為34人，行程如下：

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>考察項目</th>
<th>內容</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>28日 上午</td>
<td>中港碼頭乘船至蓮花港</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td>番禺汽車客運站</td>
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<td>豐田汽車廠</td>
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<td></td>
<td>廣州氣象衛星地面接收站</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29日 上午</td>
<td>廣州鋼鐵廠(廣州鋼鐵企業集團有限公司)</td>
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<td>廣州珠江鋼琴廠集團股份有限公司</td>
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<td>28日 晚上</td>
<td>北京路步行街</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29日 晚上</td>
<td>蘆花港乘船中港碼頭</td>
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</table>

團隊在兩天的考察行程中，大開眼界，參觀親近外國的大型汽車客運站，日本式的汽車生產線，國內氣象衛星的信息接收，細膩的鋼琴製造，人工裝配的鋼琴，香蕉苗的複製和水耕栽培等。本會考察組將因應會員的需求，了解更多國內城市、工業和農業的最新發展，日後舉辦相關的境外考察。

（楊本基）
A Visit to an Agricultural Research Center in the Pearl River Delta

On the 28th and 29th December 2009, the Hong Kong Geographical Association organized an overseas field trip to Guangzhou. The trip included a visit to an agricultural research center named Jinyingyuan (金颖園).

The contrast of modern and traditional agricultural techniques is very obvious. In the center, the seedlings of the crop are modified and cloned, thus improving productivity and profit while the production cost and labor force required reduce. The output of farm produce can be stabilized with the application of advanced technology to maintain optimal environmental condition for crops. Technicians also improve the quality of seedlings like peanuts and sweet corn by raising their resistance to bacteria and drought.

There are also greenhouses providing crop a favorable environment. The temperature in these greenhouses is about 20°C, while the temperature outdoor on the day of visit was only about 12°C. The plastic cover helps prevent the exposure of crops to the prevailing cold wind outdoor. Some crops are grown without soil, i.e. hydroponics. Pumpkins are also grown overhead in the air. To match the demand of urban dwellers and the limited supply of farmland, vertical farming is also practiced.

Ordinary farmers who practice traditional farming depend a lot on climate. This makes their output unstable and farmers suffer. Following by the establishment of the agricultural research center, farming skills are developed and modified. Farmers simply purchase the modified seedlings and fertilizer for their land. Farm produces increase in both quality and quantity. Modern agricultural techniques help farmers to overcome the constraints of the climatic conditions.

In a country with billions of population, agriculture is crucial. Agriculture is especially important in the Southeast China where the climate favors the growth of diverse cash crops. However, facing the challenges of urbanization and rapid economic development, modern agricultural techniques become necessary. Finding a way to increase the output and reduce the land demanded is the way-out for agriculture in the Pearl River Delta regions.

LAM Kwan Yi

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《香港地理人》徵稿
為使香港地理人內容更多元化，現歡迎學生、老師和對地理有興趣人士投稿。文章字數上限為一千字（中英文均可），內容須與地理科目相關，例如教學心得、課程意見、野外考察分享、學習地理苦與樂等。投稿人士請將文章電郵至 enquiry@hkga.org。（《香港地理人》編委會擁有修改和刊登文章的最後決定權。）

Hong Kong Geographer is now calling for papers
Your contribution is most welcome to diversify the contents of Hong Kong Geographer. Articles (with a maximum of 1000 words) related to Geography, such as teaching and learning methods, opinions on curriculum and field trip summaries, etc. are suitable. Please kindly email your article to enquiry@hkga.org. (Hong Kong Geographer Editorial Board reserves the rights to edit and publish selected articles.)
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<tr>
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<th>Contents</th>
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<th>Quantity</th>
</tr>
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</table>
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