**APSS1BN18 From Gloom to Bloom: Global New Urbanism**

with English Writing Requirements

(Rodney Chu)

~~[First~~ / Revised] Draft Submission:

Draft 2

**Word count: 1577** **words**

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Field Trip Report, Draft 2

*Use this checklist* ***before*** *submitting your draft to ensure that it meets all the requirements. If you are missing any of the required elements, revise the draft. Submit the completed checklist (as part of the assignment cover) together with your draft.*

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| --- | --- |
|  | **The second draft** |
|  | ~~is 1,500 words long~~ |
|  | uses headings and subheadings |
|  | ~~may contain in-text citations (if other reliable sources are used)~~ |
|  | ~~may contain a list of references~~ |
|  |  |
|  | **The body paragraphs** |
|  | ~~contain all required items in Draft 1 (Read the feedback report and revise Draft 1)~~  Field Site Details  ~~describe the streets/buildings and physical settings of the region or district~~ |
|  | ~~describe the contrasting and diversified urban elements of the region or district~~  ~~describe the major groups of stakeholders responsible for (re)/shaping the region or district~~ |
|  | ~~each starts with a topic sentence~~  ~~contain sources as part of your evidence~~  ~~contain explanations and examples to support the topic sentences~~ |
|  |  |
|  | **Referencing** |
|  | ~~Have you used a wide range of quality sources?~~ |
|  | ~~Does your end-of-text reference list match your in-text citations?~~ |
|  | ~~Have you followed the APA 7~~~~th~~ ~~ed. referencing style consistently?~~ |

**Note:** In this course, you are advised to use the APA 7th ed. referencing style. Please refer to the APA **Note:** 7th ed. referencing guide at: <https://www.polyu.edu.hk/elc/independent-learning/language-resources/apa/>

Start your draft here:

1. **Growth of Humanity**

Humanity has made significant strides in progress over the years. Our growth can be traced from our early days of being hunters and gatherers; to the neolithic period– marked by the development of agriculture, animal domestication, and formation of small settlements; to the division of work amongst people; to the emergence of cities; to the current social evolution that majorly concerns industrialization. We may view the recent development from four perspectives-- political, economic, social, and cultural. Politically, we notice that humanity now operates under the dominance of political power within defined geographical borders with complex systems of working. Economically, capitalism has been rising rapidly with the increase of large-scale production of products and possession of private property. In terms of social development, we have come to classify people into new classes that greatly differ from what we did before. Culturally, we no longer view the world from a traditional view but rather from a materialistic and rational point of view. From our early days to the current era, humanity has undergone a massive transformation that has shaped the world we live in today.

1. **Gidden’s analysis**

Certain innovations that have come with the advancement of humanity may not be completely beneficial to us. While the societal progress in the last few years may seem remarkable, life for people seems to have gotten more monotonous. Although we are educated about the negative implications of certain innovations that we use in our day-to-day lives, measures to combat such impacts are not being taken. For instance, according to Elsayed (2021), social media had a negative impact on the social identity of adolescence. However, mitigating such an issue is not something that is considered owing to the immense impact of social media on our daily lives. This lack of action may have serious effects on future generations of humanity as shown by Gidden’s analysis (1990).

1. A) Dynamism of Modernity

The dynamic nature of modernity has multiple sources leading to its acceleration. The development of technology, in particular, has been so immense that we now can interconnect with people located thousands of miles away as though they were in the same locality as us. Communication between individuals or masses is no longer restricted to a territorial boundary. Cairncross (1997) even claimed that the internet could lead to "the death of distance”. Additionally, we have been more comfortable with interacting with strangers and trusting people who we oftentimes do not know personally. This faceless commitment we have adopted may be because we do not find the situation to be unstable or unsafe until proven otherwise. The risk that comes with such pre-given trust is found to be acceptable. Furthermore, humanity’s beliefs in social customs are regularly questioned and examined with the influx of modern education.

The acceleration of dynamism of modernity has also been impacted by a few other factors. Giddens (1990) states that capitalism, industrialism, surveillance, and control of means of violence have significantly facilitated the dynamism of modernity. Globalization– that refers to the linking of distant places in such a way that events occurring in one location are influenced by events occurring in another far away location– can be described with nation-state system, world military order, the international division of labor, and world capitalist economy.

1. B) Risks and Utopian Realism

People react differently to various dangers. We have a lot of remote dangers that we could consider to be ‘low-probability high-consequence risks’. Although these are low-probability, we may minimize the damages but we cannot completely correct the damage caused. A few possible reactions to such risks could be Pragmatic acceptance, Sustained optimism, Cynical pessimism, and Radical engagement. Giddens (1990) suggests that the last category leads the most social movements in our current era. ‘Utopian Realism’ is an idealistic version of our future. We could work towards achieving this by focusing on the United Nations Sustainable development goals.

1. **Sustainable Development in Hong Kong**

Hong Kong, although highly developed, has yet to fully grow into a sustainable environment. This may be due to the unwillingness of people to deviate from the current lifestyle we maintain and hesitation when it comes to switching to sustainable means. For example, although Hong Kong is planned to promote safety and convenience, Cho and Wang (2022) suggest that children below the poverty line still deal with food security issues, confined living spaces, and lack of appropriate necessities. Furthermore, the pandemic has tremendously affected the people of this category on the socioeconomic scale. Society may tend to focus on advancing the “wants” rather than the “needs” of our generation which results in such difficulties for those who do not have access to their needs.

However, Hong Kong is taking measures to build a sustainably developed habitat. Wai et al noted that the HKSAR is planning to re-develop older territories of Hong Kong. To further aid the condition of Hong Kong, ideologies of ecological modernization could be adopted. This refers to the working of both the market and state to tackle issues and protect our environment. With such a framework, we will be able to progress towards ‘Utopian Realism’.

1. **T-Park**
2. Introduction

T-Park is a fully self-sustaining sludge treatment facility with a vision of bringing communities together to work towards a shared environmental cause. The plant approach to this vision is centered around the idea of ‘Waste-to-Energy’. Treatment of waste, generation of clean energy and other technologies that reduce air emissions and produce freshwater are some of the processes the plant carries out. In addition to its waste-to-energy operations, it is also designed to provide an educational and recreational space with the aim of promoting environmental awareness and sustainability.

1. The Location of T-Park

T-Park is situated in the Tuen Mun district of Hong Kong. It is located away from the residential areas of Hong Kong, on a remote side of the new territories. The sludge treatment facility faces a large water body on one side and is neighboured by a combination of hills, open spaces, and forests. According to Veolia (2016), the facility is said to be built "between waves and hills". T-Park by itself is a massive complex that incorporates five sections including a Power Generator, Rainwater Harvesting and Wastewater Treatment Facilities, Educational and Recreational Facilities, a Seawater Desalination Facility, and a Sludge Treatment Incinerator at the heart of the plant.

The location of the facility was selected with careful consideration and planning. T-Park was established in a place that allows maximum efficiency, since it is situated near major transportation routes that make it accessible to waste collection vehicles which, thus, allows timely transportation and processing. Additionally, the absence of many buildings and other infrastructure near the plant is quite noticeable. This could help minimize the impact of the facility on its environment. Its remote location further enables it easy access to renewable energy sources including Solar energy, Biogas energy, and Incineration energy. In comparison to the more densely populated sides of Hong Kong, locating such a facility in an isolated location such as Tuen Mun allows the plant to minimize its effects on its environment and also prevent potential health hazards to people residing nearby. Such implications would be tedious to evade in areas with higher levels of activity.

1. Urban Elements of T-Park

The several buildings of T-Park make use of advanced technology to carry out various functions such as waste treatment, energy generation, and water treatment. T-Park (n.d.) describes their ‘Waste-to-Energy’ process to include the reception of sludge in an odor-conscious manner; the incineration of sludge using a method known as fluidized bed technology which reduces the volume of waste by up to 90% and thus decreasing greenhouse gas emissions; flue gas treatment that is strictly monitored to control emission rates; power generation using a turbine; ash and residue handling that further decreases the sludge volume hence reducing the rate of landfill loading; and total water management. Such initiatives collectively illustrate the facility’s efforts toward a sustainable future. They have interactive exhibits that provide information and multiple tours of the location in hopes of spreading awareness on a few issues Hong Kong is facing in terms of sustainability-- particularly with the treatment of sludge-- and the measures being taken to mitigate the situation.  The facility was overall well-planned and organized. Not only were the major facilities planned with immense attention to detail, but other facilities such as the T-cafe were designed to be sustainable as well which was evident from locally sourced ingredients, smaller food portions, and reuse and recycle corner.

D) The Stakeholders

Multiple stakeholders were involved in the design and the execution of the idea of the sustainable sludge incineration plant that is now known to be T-Park. A significant collaborator was the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) who played an integral role of overseeing  the development and construction of the plant, and also running the facility and making sure the facility adheres to environmental guidelines such as the international emission standards.  Claude Vasconi, a distinguished French architect designed the structure of T-Park to blend into its environment naturally and optimize the use of the resources available. Veolia Water Technologies was also involved in the designing and construction of T-Park’s water facilities. They worked towards producing high quality effluent and also helped reduce water usage.  A multitude of other stakeholders including a number of private companies were involved in this project who together collaborated to ensure this project was carried out in an environmentally safe manner.

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