**The 13th International Conference on Indoor Air Quality and Climate (Indoor Air 2014)**

The following topics will be discussed during the five-day conference. The media is invited to attend the relevant plenary and keynote sessions which are conducted daily in the morning. Please refer to the Participant Guide Book (<http://www.indoorair2014.org/images/Indoor_Air%20Book_final.pdf>) for details.

**Day 1: July 8 (Tuesday)**

Why our air-conditioned buildings are so cold?

Everyone in Hong Kong would have experienced cold restaurant, cold movie theatre or cold shopping centre on a very hot and humid summer day. Parents would need to bring a jacket for their child when going for a dim sum lunch in Hong Kong; and the same phenomenon also occurs in other countries with hot and humid climate such as in Singapore. People often ask – why the air conditioning is designed to be at so low temperature; and why cannot we increase the temperature to save energy?

The Hong Kong Government has advocated raising the set point for air conditioning to be 25.5oC to save energy. Would raising the set-point temperatures in these “overcooled” buildings be a solution?

This topic will be covered by a keynote speech by Professor Chandra Sekhar from National University of Singapore, on Tuesday July 8, at 11:00-11:30 am, Grand Hall, Centennial Campus, HKU.

Other speakers on the topic of thermal comfort will include Prof. Zhu Yingxin of Tsinghua University, Prof Richard de Dear of University of Sydney and Prof Edward Arens of UC Berkeley.

**Day 2: July 9 (Wednesday)**

Why chemicals in our homes are a worry to us?

Chemicals are everywhere nowadays. There are many consumer products in our homes and offices – such as plastics, cleaning products, cosmetics, packaging materials, toys, textiles, and building materials — include chemicals that permanently leak to the surrounding environment and can be found in food, air, dust, soil, and water, and are therefore of relevance for human uptake. Since these sources can be found in environments of daily life – including within homes - the general population is exposed, including more vulnerable groups such as pregnant women and fetuses, infants and children. What can we do?

This topic will be covered by a keynote speech by Professor Carl-Gustaf Bornehag from Sweden, Wednesday July 9, 11:30-12:00 am, Grand Hall, Centennial Campus, HKU.

Other speakers on the same topic will include Prof Charles Weschler from US, Professor Tung Salthammer from Germany and Prof Yinping Zhang from China.

**Day 3: July 10 (Thursday)**

Is it safe to keep a printer in your office?

Some printers are known to produce ultrafine particles. Why printers generate particles? What can we do about it? This problem was first studied by Professor Lidia Morawska of Queensland University of Technology in Australia, who will deliver a keynote speech, Thursday July 10, 10:30 – 11:00, Grand Hall, Centennial Campus, HKU.

**Day 4: July 11 (Friday)**

Will an air cleaner work in your home?

Many families like to know if they should buy a portable air cleaner for their home if their children suffer from asthma, or allergy, or just because that they like to enjoy a better indoor air quality. Poor outdoor air quality is also a reason for many to consider buying a portable air cleaner. Many producers claim that their product is the best, and can achieve 99.99% pollutant removal rate. Is this true? Research shows that some air cleaners produce secondary pollutants such as ozone.

Dr Jeffrey Siegel from University of Toronto will speak about “Primary and Secondary Consequences of Indoor Air Cleaning Technologies”, Friday July 11, 11:30 – 12:00, Grand Hall, Centennial Campus, HKU.

**Day 5: July 12 (Saturday)**

Air quality in air cabins

We all know that the aircraft cabin is different from our homes and offices. The air cabin can be crowded when the plane is full. Passengers may feel that the air is dry, and the air may not be as fresh as they have wished. Is cabin air more polluted or cleaner than your home or office? Professor Xudong Yang and his team have taken on-board measurements of VOCs, PM, O3, CO2 in more than 100 domestic and international flights using instruments that are safe for air travel. Their results are surprising? Humans may be the key contaminant sources in a high-density environment like an aircraft cabin through breathing, skin metabolism, ozone-initiated reactions, and activities such as movement.

His talk will be in the last day of the conference, Saturday July 12, 11:00 – 11:30, Grand Hall, Centennial Campus, HKU.