



Ultimo Technology

Expanded Polystyrene Degradation Solution

Public Consultation on Producer Responsibility Scheme (PPRS) on Plastic Beverage Containers - Online Sectoral Consultation Forum

On 18 March 2021, WIT Holdings Limited (WIT) participated in the online sectoral consultation forum on “Public Consultation on Producer Responsibility Scheme (PPRS) on Plastic Beverage Containers”, organized by the Environmental Protection Department (EPD). After years of implementation of PRS on plastic shopping bags, the government finally steps forward to the next PRS in regulating other plastic wastes. However, it appears that Expanded Polystyrene (EPS) wastes have not been taken into consideration.



EPS is a “angel-like devil”. It is light and cheap, and is widely used across industries, such as catering, fishery, packaging and logistics. Comparing with common plastic beverage container materials like PP, PET, PE and PS, EPS is seen to be a material that brings more prominent threats to the natural environment than others as it can be easily broken down into fragments or even microplastics and spread everywhere. Such characteristics make EPS nearly impossible to be collected and recycled after they are dumped into the environment.



EPS fragments found near roadside in the city



EPS fragments found along a rocky shore in Shek O



WIT's representative, Bowie So, raised questions regarding the possibility of putting forward a PRS on EPS products during the forum, as we saw the urgency to control the disposal of EPS wastes at source to prevent EPS wastes from entering the natural environment. EPD representatives replied that they are also aware of the EPS wastes issue and have been investigating on potential control methods in dealing with EPS wastes generated from different applications.



EPD representatives taking part in the PRS public consultation forum

EPD representatives reflected that the government has been planning to regulate plastic wastes step by step, and they assure that EPS wastes is on the list. WIT will continue communicating with EPD on this issue, hoping that EPS wastes' end-of-life disposal and treatment will be addressed by the government in the not-too-distant future.