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Every drop of water—an effort of many people

After visiting Ma On Shan Treatment Works, I realized that there were lots of stories behind every drop of water running out of our taps. Raw water from Plover Cove Reservoir and High Island Reservoir has to undergo more than 7 procedures to become clean enough for usage. And there are inspectors continuously monitoring the samples from each stage throughout 24 hours. Indeed, the water treatment system is so well-designed that it makes use of many useful properties of chemicals to purify raw water. For instance, during missing, alum is added to make the impurities which normally repel each other due to their negative charges coagulate and settle as sludge in the sedimentation basins. In addition, to ensure filters can be fully utilized, the filter backwash system is in work to wash the filters from time to time. To my surprise, the plant is so environmentally friendly that all the water used will once again be recycled.

I am so amazed by the precise system and I think it must be the joint effort of many dedicating operators. In China, many places like Gui Zhou are having drought that clean water is the most precious gift to many in these provinces. In Hong Kong, we are so lucky that we do not need to worry about water shortage and there are professional working crews serving us. Maybe it is high time for us to be more thankful and cherish every drop of effort devoted by them. Save water!



How important chemistry study contribute to the society!

In this life-wide learning day, I have got a better insight into the practical applications of chemistry. In the afternoon, we went to CUHK to attend a talk about drugs. The talk tells us that chemistry is closely related to our daily lives. It is because the invention and manufacture of drugs is based on the knowledge of chemistry. The making of a drug is the same as making a chemical compound. The importance is that we have to find out a way to produce it and ensure the final product is exactly what we want. To produce a new medicine needs a lot of efforts. It may take 10 to 15 years to invest a new medicine.

After visiting the laboratories there, I knew more equipment for doing some precise experiments. For example, gas chromatography, IR spectrometer, hydrogen generator, etc. The professor there told us that the students may find some Chinese medicines in the market to test for their ingredients as part of their homework. It is really interesting as the students can think of the experiment by themselves. After this life wide learning day, I think chemistry is not only a scientific subject; it is really close to human's living and provide us a better living standard.