



【PRESS RELEASE】

Green Council 10th Anniversary Review and Forecast **First “Hong Kong Green Awards 2010” results announced today** *Showing green purchasing as a popular trend in business sectors* *with more and more SMEs participate*

(Hong Kong – 10 December, 2010) **Green Council (GC)** is a non-profit, non-partisan and non-government Hong Kong based environmental organization with charitable status established in 2000. Today, the GC organized the “**Green Council 10th Anniversary Dinner Reception cum Hong Kong Green Awards 2010 Presentation Ceremony**”. The function was held at The Mira Hong Kong, with Dr. Kitty POON Kit, JP, Acting Secretary for the Environment as the Guest of Honour.

Green Council 10th Anniversary Review and Forecast

The GC was established a decade ago with the main purpose of introducing and enhancing environmental awareness and consideration in all society sectors, along with encouraging and guiding corresponding decisions and actions by business and industry sector officials as well as the general public. The Hong Kong Green Label Scheme (HKGLS) and Hong Kong Green Purchasing Charter (HKGPC) are two most notable initiatives.

Being the one NGO provide eco-product certification, the GC continuous to expand and evolve the **HKGLS** by introducing on-site factory audits into compliance certification process to reinforce its international recognition and credibility.

Ms Linda HO Wai-ping, Chief Executive Officer of Green Council, stressed, “Green Council pursue to be an accredited certification body on eco-labelling in accordance with ISO/IEC Guide 65. Cooperation with mainland Chinese and overseas eco-labelling organisations will be increased in order to boost the competitiveness of and demand for HKGLS-certified products.”

Also, the **GC** plans to incorporate the “Carbon Calculator” – i.e. a recently developed and internationally implemented carbon footprint measurement tool into the existing HKGLS criteria development/review process and to foster carbon credits for marketing and trade purposes under established or future regional or international carbon trading schemes and platforms.

As the organiser and secretariat of the **Hong Kong Green Purchasing Charter (HKGPC)**, the Green Council is committed to “champion” Hong Kong business and industry sectors’ widespread adoption of green purchasing strategies, processes and practices, along with the complementary production and consumption of environmentally preferable products.

The **Hong Kong Green Awards (HKGA) 2010** is firstly launched by the **GC**. The results announcement and award presentation are organized in conjunction with the Green Council 10th Anniversary dinner function. The HKGA 2010 comprised of 2 awards- the “Green Purchasing Award” (GPA) and the “Green Office Management Award” (GOMA).

The number of companies that participated in the inaugural HKGA 2010, indicate that an increasing number of Hong Kong’s large and small enterprises are integrating green strategies into their business operations.

Hong Kong First Green Purchasing Award – Green Purchasing Award

The “**Hong Kong Green Award 2010**” is the first recognition on green purchasing in Hong Kong with the aims to recognise companies that have reduced their environmental impact through making practical environmental improvements to their office management operations or procurements.

The large corporations and SMEs are assessed separately. Companies, who meet the requirement of the HKGA 2010, will be granted with any one of the four recognition categories (i.e. Platinum, Gold, Silver and Bronze).

In general, the building, transportation and public utilities have better green purchasing performance. Among various environmental concerns, the energy conservation is commonly target, which most companies strive toward. The common strategy toward energy conservation include using electrical



appliances and equipments with grade 1 energy efficient, using the **Hong Kong Green Label Scheme (HKGLS)** certified products, and adopt high efficiency ventilation and air conditioning systems. Those companies with outstanding green purchasing performance are capable to formulate a policy and target with explicit, as well as be able to demonstrate the management commitment.

Although the SME cannot allocate as much resources as large corporations on green purchasing, their relatively simple and flexible purchasing procedure has made them implement the green purchasing in promptly. However, the senior management commitment plays the most important role on green purchasing.

Green Office Management Award

Reflected from the participating companies, environmental concerns are becoming the main trend in the business operation. Definitely, green office management is one of the indispensable elements. With the effects of global warming, energy and carbon reduction is the prior goal for the business sectors; not only saving the operation cost, but also help to promote the environmental protection, which reaches a win-win situation in the long-term.

For the HKGA 2010 Background and Results, please refer the attached backgrounder.

Green Council

The Green Council (GC) is a non-profit, non-partisan environmental association of Hong Kong formed from a group of individuals from different sectors of industry and academics shared the vision to help build Hong Kong into a world-class green city for the future. Our motto is "Conservation begins with Education". Established in 2000, we pledge to promote, support and facilitate environmental consideration, conservation and management amongst industries and the general public through various programmes include **Hong Kong Green Label Scheme (HKGLS)**, **Hong Kong Green Purchasing Charter (HKGPC)**, **Hong Kong Green Awards (HKGA)**, **Green Carnival (2004-2010)**, **International Coastal Cleanup (ICC) (2008-2010)**. For detailed information, please visit: www.greencouncil.org.
