



**Hong Kong Green Council runs first experience sharing seminar
*Disneyland and Shui On apply green purchasing to operations and corporate culture***

(14 December 2007 – Hong Kong) Hong Kong Green Council continues to raise awareness of the Green Purchasing Charter (HKGPC) by organising the first experience-sharing seminar on 12 December at Hong Kong Productivity Council. Hong Kong Disneyland and Shui On discussed their first-hand experience of applying green purchasing principles to operations and corporate culture, to support sustainable development.

The seminar aimed to provide real-life experiences in green purchasing to companies considering becoming a member of the HKGPC.

Ms. Linda Ho, CEO of Hong Kong Green Council, commented, “We’ve found that most companies who’ve signed up to commit to the HKGPC have found the experience very beneficial. Not only are they supporting the environment, but they are able to demonstrate to the public and their shareholders that they are committed to CSR.

Ms Ho added, “To support the Charter, we also run the Cyber Green Center website, which provides large corporates, SMEs and the general public with information on how and where to buy environmentally preferable products. We’ve found it very successful in supporting companies who provide green products while helping those looking to buy them. It’s a win-win resource.”

During the seminar, Linda used long-lasting light bulb as an example to demonstrate the cost efficiency of using products with Cyber Green label. She said “Though T8 and T5 fluorescent lights are more expensive, they last longer than traditional bulbs. Companies will also save on maintenance labour costs since they have to be changed less frequently. This reduces the overall number of used light bulbs in the environment.”

As part of her presentation at the experience sharing seminar, Ms. Tina Chow, Manager of Environmental Affairs, Hong Kong Disneyland, stated that “Hong Kong Disneyland



fully supports Green Council in promoting green purchasing in Hong Kong. Hong Kong Disneyland uses a number of environmentally preferable materials/products in our theme parks, such as low VOC paints, 100% post-consumer recycled paper and biodegradable plastic bags, however we found it sometimes difficult to identify suitable providers here. If the number of environmentally preferable product providers in Hong Kong increases, the cost of the products will decrease and demand will grow. While the cost of using green products does increase our overheads in some cases, we consider sustainable development and the benefits to employees (such as using low VOC paints to reduce toxic emission) very valuable.”

Mr. Frankie Lai, General Manager, QS and Procurement, spoke about Shui On’s experience in green purchasing, saying that “The green label certifies that our construction materials meet environmentally preferable standards. It helps us to easily identify these materials, reduce toxic waste and usage of necessary resources in development, application and waste management stages.”

Frankie added “The success in applying green purchasing principles to your operations and corporate culture depends on your management strategy. If the company perceives social responsibility and sustainability as a priority, then green consumption and purchasing are necessary to ensure that the company is achieving the required standard.”

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About the Green Council

The Green Council is a non profit organisation committed to promoting and assisting Hong Kong’s commercial sector to include environmental practices within their production and management processes. With one of its key mottos being -- ‘Conservation begins with education’, Green Council officials provide its members with training and education on: green procurement; sustainable management concepts and practices; re-use, reduction and recycling; as well as renewable energy alternatives. The Green Council is funded by membership fees, public



donations and sponsorship from organizations, businesses and individuals that share Green Council's vision. Since its inception in 2000, the Green Council has launched a number of environmental programmes, including the Hong Kong Green Label Scheme [an environmental performance leadership identification, certification and labelling scheme regarding products produced and/or marketed in Hong Kong], annual Green Carnivals, and most recently, the Hong Kong Green Purchasing Charter. For more information, please visit www.greencouncil.org.