



**Hong Kong
Green Purchasing Charter
「香港環保採購約章」**

Organizer and Secretariat:
主辦機構暨秘書處：



**Summary of the Introductory Speech of the Hong Kong Green Purchasing Charter
by**

Ms Linda W P Ho, CEO of Green Council

4th October 2007

Mr. Edward Yau, Hong Kong Green Purchasing Charter Founding Members, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen.

I would like to extend a warm welcome to everyone here this afternoon to kick-start a coordinated effort from the private and public sectors on green purchasing in Hong Kong.

With my organization, the Green Council, having been the lead developer and Organizer of the Hong Kong Green Purchasing Charter, or the HKGPC, I would like to share with you the background, launch and direction of the HKGPC.

“Global warming” and “climate change” have become high priority and major consideration topics for world leaders. Concern about the adverse effects of human activities on the natural environment is no longer limited to scientists. Even the media and the public have conveyed grave concern over the environmental impacts caused by ever increasing and unsustainable business and industry activities.

Green purchasing involves identifying and purchasing products and services that have reduced or minimal adverse environmental impacts when compared to other products and services.

In 2005, the Hong Kong SAR Government published “A Policy Framework for the Management of Municipal Solid Waste (2005 – 2014)” which outlines a ten-year waste management strategy and approach. Green purchasing is one of the key initiatives.

In “Policy Address 06/07”, the Chief Executive also made appeal to the business and industrial sectors to do their bit to protect the environment by adopting green purchasing in their operations.

In addition to Green Council’s ongoing environmental initiatives (namely the Hong Kong Green Label Scheme, China Environmental Labelling Program and Cyber Green Centre), Green Council organized and staged the first “International Green Purchasing Congress 2006” attracting over 250 local and overseas environmental professionals, leading green purchasing experts and practitioners, and



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government officials.

Based upon considerable feedback from participants in the International Green Purchasing Congress, as well as opinions expressed by certain business and government leaders consulted in early 2007, Green Council decided earlier this year to establish the HKGPC. As devised, its mission is to guide and assist the Hong Kong business community in three major areas:

1. Formulation and application of green purchasing policies and strategies;
2. Implementation and advancement of green purchasing processes and activities through practicable and sustainable means; and
3. Influencing of stakeholders to consider and adopt green purchasing in their own operations and activities

The HKGPC is guided and led by a collection of its eleven Founding Members. These Founding Members are pro-active organizations from various business and public sectors, including government, utilities, mass transportation, property development, and others.

Green Council serves as the HKGPC's lead organizer and secretariat. In performing these dual roles, we readily apply acquired in-house expertise. However, we are also able to take advantage of high quality advice and support offered by an impressive collection of local and international professional organizations (especially the United Nation Environmental Programme (UNEP)). Further, we are fortunate in receiving basic support from three local prestigious organizations.

Over time, several working groups will be formed to guide the planning, organizing and implementation of various activities intended to benefit the HKGPC Members.

With the launch today, we are openly recruiting business leaders and committed companies to become the next HKGPC Members, who must sign and implement the "Statement of Commitments".

In order to be systematic and practical in how we progress after the HKGPC launch today, we have decided to focus on public campaign, research, outreach program and special membership projects in order to increase public awareness and interest regarding green purchasing and provide essential guidance tools and support to those businesses ready to implement green purchasing.

Ideally, the HKGPC will eventually become a highly credible and large membership network with at



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least two main offerings. Firstly, a greatly accessed and used platform that effectively links and enables strong interaction between green supply and demand interests, Secondly, provision of readily available information, guidance and support to enable all interested parties to properly and effectively consider and initiate their own green purchasing practices and activities.

More broadly, we would like to reach a point where the high levels of demand, and the increasing number and variety of supply sources to satisfy that demand, stimulate the formation of a Hong Kong Green Purchasing Network and becomes a full member of the International Green Purchasing Network (IGPN). While we will continue to learn from the other IGPN members, we will also be able to start sharing and promoting our own successful strategies and experiences.

To conclude, I trust that each of you can see merit in the HKGPC as a guidance and support tool to either get your organization started in the area of green purchasing, or to increase and enhance your organization's efforts and activities in this regard.

You should also consider that HKGPC membership can provide your organization with immediate public recognition as a progressive and environmentally concerned organization that is leading by example.

I would like to close by saying that I hope you will enjoy the rest of this afternoon's launching ceremony. I am sure that you will also be able to learn from the experiences of our Founding Members present, and that you will find the afternoon both rewarding and stimulating.

Thank you.