

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Towngas Launches New Concession Scheme for the Single-parent Families

(18 January 2008, Hong Kong) – The Hong Kong and China Gas Company Limited (Towngas) collaborated with the Hong Kong Council of Social Service (HKCSS) to launch the Towngas Concession Scheme for Single-parent Families, the Company’s latest initiative to demonstrate its care for the community. About 38,000 single-parent families are expected to benefit from the scheme.

Effective 1 January 2008, single-parent family households receiving Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) are eligible to apply for the new concession scheme. These families will enjoy a 50% discount on the first ten units of town gas consumed each month, and with their security deposit exempted. Monthly initial charge and monthly maintenance charge will also be waived. In addition, Towngas will provide free appliance maintenance service.

Permanent Secretary for Labour and Welfare Mr Paul Tang Kwok-wai, officiated the scheme’s kick-off ceremony. He said he was pleased to see more corporations come up with different ways of helping the needy and underprivileged in the community. Towngas Executive Director and Chief Operating Officer Mr Kwan Yuk-choi, and Chief Executive of the Hong Kong Council of Social Service Ms Christine Fang, joined by 26 non-governmental organizations (NGO) adhered paper hearts to an “Evergreen Tree” to underline their commitment in launching this new concession scheme.

Mr Kwan said, “Over the years, Towngas has been helping the elderly and the underprivileged to improve their quality of life. The company introduced the Elderly Concession Scheme in 1995 and extended the benefits to people with disabilities in 2004.

The programme has been well received by the community. We are very happy to take the programme further to include single-parent families, offering practical assistance to such needy families. As a responsible corporate citizen, we strive to contribute in nurturing a warm and harmonious society. We do hope more corporations will follow suit in deploying more resources to help the underprivileged.”

HKCSS, the co-organizer of the concession scheme, has been working closely with Towngas in the past years on different charitable programmes. At the ceremony, Chief Executive Ms Christine Fang said: “Towngas has been actively promoting Corporate Social Responsibility in Hong Kong. Apart from running various community projects, the company has been offering practical benefits to the underprivileged. We’re happy to see Towngas’ concession scheme now encompass the single-parent households who are receiving CSSA. Through collaboration with the 26 NGOs, we would ensure the needy would be adequately looked after.”

A total of 56 centres throughout the territory will assist eligible families in applying for the latest concessions; they include Aberdeen Kai-fong Welfare Association Social Service Centre, Caritas Hong Kong, Christian Action, Christian Family Service Centre, Evangelical Lutheran Church Social Service, Hong Kong Christian Service, Hong Kong Children & Youth Services, Hong Kong College of Technology, Hong Kong Family Welfare Society, Hong Kong Lutheran Social Service, Hong Kong Outlying Islands Women’s Association Limited, HKSKH Lady MacLehose Centre, Hong Kong Single Parents Association, International Social Service Hong Kong Branch, Po Leung Kuk, Salvation Army, Shatin Women’s Association, St James’ Settlement, The Hong Kong Catholic Marriage Advisory Council, The Mongkok Kai-fong Association Ltd, The Neighbourhood Advice-Action Council, Tsuen Wan Kwai Ching District Women's Association, Tuen Mun District Women’s Association, Tung Wah Group of Hospitals, Yang Memorial Methodist Social Service and Yan Oi Tong.

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About Towngas Concession Schemes

Towngas has good track record of helping the needy. The first concession scheme was launched in 1995 to benefit eligible senior citizens aged 60 or above. A scheme was extended to cover people with disabilities in 2004. The schemes have since helped 47,000 elderly citizens and disabled.

Information on Towngas concession schemes is available at www.towngas.com



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