

The First Social Enterprise Providing Meal Packaging Service by the Mentally Handicapped

(11 December 2007) The Hong Kong and China Gas Company Limited (Towngas) is in collaboration with Tung Wah Group of Hospitals (TWGHs) and Henderson Land Development Company Limited (Henderson Land) to present "Cook Easy", the first social enterprise which provides meal packaging service by the mentally handicapped. Through this partnership programme, we offer occupational trainings and job opportunities for the mentally handicapped and low income groups and help them to blend with the mainstream society by enhancing their confidence and self-independence.

"Cook Easy" provides fresh and pre-prepared food packs which are based on recipes designed by Towngas Cooking Centre with an emphasis on a healthy diet. The ingredients are supplied by "Take a Break" Catering Service of TWGHs and the food packs are prepared and packed by the mentally handicapped or low income groups, and then delivered to customers' homes. All the residents living in Henderson Land's residential buildings can order "Cook Easy" fresh food pack, enabling busy families to enjoy healthy home-cooked meals, conveniently and easily.

Chairman of TWGHs Peter Ong said, "I hope that the collaboration will set an example in the business sector to encourage more companies to support charity organisations on the aspects of manpower, capital and technology to develop social enterprise. "Cook Easy", which will be launched today, is a programme full of creativity and business opportunities. It can establish a healthy eating culture for Hong Kong citizens, and create more job opportunities for the underprivileged as well."

Towngas Executive Director and Chief Operating Officer James Kwan said, “Towngas strongly believes that the business sector can make contribution to the development of social enterprise. We hope that by setting up “Cook Easy”, we can bring more creative ideas to the business sector to promote the advancement of social enterprise. Recipes of “Cook Easy” are designed by experienced instructors of Towngas Cooking Centre. They have full knowledge of all types of dishes and the food packs will definitely satisfy customers’ different tastes.

Executive Director of Henderson Land Suen Kwok Lam said, “Henderson Group always spares no effort in serving the community and supporting social enterprise. Over the years, we offer job opportunities for the mentally handicapped at our residential buildings and they have performed well. And now, with our concerted efforts, “Cook Easy” can make life easier for the busy housewives and it will absolutely be well received by Hong Kong families.”

The sustainability of a social enterprise to offer more job opportunities for the mentally handicapped relies on full support of the community. For details about how to order “Cook Easy” food packs, please contact “Take a Break” Catering Service of TWGHs at 2870 9211.

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