

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **Towngas Establishes Technology Centre in Guangzhou**

(Hong Kong, 1 June 2005) Hong Kong & China Gas Investment Limited, a wholly-owned subsidiary of The Hong Kong and China Gas Company Limited (Towngas), announced today the official opening of Towngas Technology Centre at the Guangzhou Economic & Technological Development District.

As Towngas' first gas technology research arm in Mainland China, the Centre provides comprehensive and quality inspection of household, industrial and commercial gas products, such as gas cooking appliances and water heaters, while also undertakes research and development of new gas applications.

The Centre was established with an investment of RMB 5 million *yuan* from Hong Kong & China Gas Investment Limited. On a site of about 1,000 square metres, the Centre consists of a product development room, an environmental laboratory, a durability test room and test rooms for cooking appliances and water heaters. The Centre is equipped with a full range of advanced facilities, such as gas mixing systems, gas composition analyzers, exhaust gas analyzers and gas heat pumps.

With more than 140 years of experience in the gas industry, Towngas is responsible for the Centre's operation and management. The Centre will adhere to inspection standards and quality control systems of the internationally recognised Hong Kong Laboratory Accreditation Scheme, bringing the standards of its research and inspection services on a par with international requirements.

Towngas Managing Director Alfred Chan Wing Kin said, "Towngas Technology Centre is established in response to the Mainland customers' increasing need for quality gas appliances as their living standard continues to rise. We aspire to provide the most reliable product inspection services and develop new, sophisticated gas appliances for the Mainland customers. By exploring new gas applications, the Centre also aims to promote the wider use of natural gas as a clean energy to improve the city environment and enhance people's quality of living."

Chan continued, "Towngas Technology Centre will work closely with the joint venture companies and wholly-owned subsidiaries of Hong Kong & China Gas Investment Limited in its initial stage of development, endeavouring to help gain a wider market acceptance for our products by providing the related inspection and development services. We aim at making the Centre an accredited quality assurance certification agency, which broadens gas applications in the Mainland market and contributes to the technological development of China's gas industry in collaboration with fellow industry players in the years to come."

## **The Hong Kong and China Gas Company Limited**

Founded in 1862, The Hong Kong and China Gas Company Limited (Towngas) was the first public utility company in Hong Kong. With a pipeline network of over 3,000 kilometres and an 85% economic reach, the Company supplies town gas to over 1.5 million customers in the territory. Its core business comprises production and distribution of gas, marketing of gas and appliances and comprehensive after-sales services. In recent years, Towngas has diversified into various green businesses including LPG filling stations and the utilisation of landfill gas.

Since 1994, Towngas has actively developed city piped gas businesses across the mainland through its wholly-owned subsidiary Hong Kong & China Gas Investment Limited, and involved in an LNG receiving terminal and a number of midstream projects.

## **Hong Kong & China Gas Investment Limited**

Established in 2002, Hong Kong & China Gas Investment Limited is a wholly-owned subsidiary of The Hong Kong and China Gas Company Limited (Towngas), dedicated to the daily operation and management of Towngas' joint venture companies and wholly-owned projects in Mainland China. Hong Kong & China Gas Investment Limited is a sizable, market-oriented energy enterprise with more than 30 joint ventures and wholly-owned projects across the mainland, including eastern, central, northern and northeastern China, Guangdong and Shandong province, providing residential, industrial and commercial customers with a safe and reliable supply of gas, delivering caring, competent and efficient services, while working to preserve, protect and improve the environment.

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Media Enquiry:  
The Hong Kong and China Gas Company Limited  
Corporate Communications Department  
Tel.: (852) 2963 3493  
E mail: [ccd@towngas.com](mailto:ccd@towngas.com)