



Towngas “Supporting F&B and the Economy” campaign to help Hong Kong overcome pandemic hurdles

(18 May 2020) The Hong Kong and China Gas Company Limited (Towngas) launched the “Supporting F&B and the Economy” campaign today, during which details to the kitchen equipment rental and purchase scheme as well as food and beverage e-coupons were announced. Mr Tommy Cheung Yu-yan, member of the Executive Council and Legislative Council representing the catering functional constituency, attended the event with fellow catering industry representatives to show their support.

As a result of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, Hong Kong’s economy has been facing serious challenges. The catering industry has suffered enormous operating pressure as business has fallen into decline along with that of other industries. With the recent drop in the number of new COVID-19 cases and the Hong Kong Government’s easing of the city’s social distancing measures on 8 May, Towngas immediately launched the second phase of its catering industry revival support campaign entitled “Supporting F&B and the Economy”, with three measures to help the catering industry overcome its hurdles resulting from the pandemic.

The campaign includes a kitchen equipment rental and purchase scheme especially tailored for small- and medium-sized eateries. The scheme serves to facilitate individuals and organisations looking to join the catering industry by lowering the start-up investment cost and addressing potential cash flow difficulties.

New eateries with a size of 2,000 square feet or below can apply to Towngas for an 18-month interest-free loan up to HK\$500,000 to be used towards purchasing kitchen equipment and facilities such as stoves, ventilation systems, steelware, and refrigerators.

Applications for the rental and purchase scheme are accepted from 1 June onwards and is expected to be open until 31 May 2021, with an estimated tens of millions of Hong Kong dollars involved.

At the same time, Towngas also launched its brand-new loyalty programme and online shopping platform entitled Towngas Fun. Towngas customers will instantly receive a food and beverage e-coupon valued at HK\$50 upon registration to be used at any of the close to 1,000 participating eateries, with the aim of stimulating dining out and fuelling economic recovery.

The “Supporting F&B and the Economy” campaign has enjoyed the support of multiple organisations and enterprises, including ZA Bank, Hung Fook Tong Group Holdings Limited, New China Laundry Limited, Saint Honore Cake Shop Ltd., Kai Bo Group, On Kee Dry Seafood Co. Ltd, Kam Hing Noodle Factory, Ling Lee International Ltd., Noritz Hong Kong Company Limited, Pro-Fit Industrial Co. Ltd, Chung Tin Kitchen Wares Co Ltd, Champion Group International Limited, Pacific Foodservice Equipment Co. Ltd, Lee’s Richland (HK) Engineering Company Limited, Jackson (HK) Engineering Company Limited, and more. The list of supporting partners will continue to be updated along with additional offers, such as six additional food and beverage e-coupons for members who become ZA Bank’s new patrons.

The third measure provides a safety net for participating eateries: Eatery owners who open an account at ZA Bank will be covered by the ZA F&B Relief Fund, and will enjoy protection¹ of up to HK\$50,000 in the unfortunate event that the eatery is subject to temporary closure as a result of the novel coronavirus.

Mr Alfred Chan Wing-Kin, Towngas Managing Director, remarked, “Hong Kong’s business environment has been severely impacted by the pandemic. It is the time for various sectors of society to work together and put their strengths to good use. Towngas has always placed heavy emphasis on shouldering our corporate social responsibility. As such, we have taken proactive action to help our catering industry partners weather these difficult times. Through the ‘Supporting F&B and the Economy’ campaign, we hope to bring about multi-faceted positive influence to the public,

¹ Protection provided by ZA International. Please refer to ZA F&B Relief Fund for details:

<https://care.za.group/en/TG-Corp-Fund>

industry members as well as socioeconomic recovery, while injecting momentum into spending and investment in order to revive Hong Kong's economy.”

Mr Tommy Cheung Yu-yan, member of the Executive Council and Legislative Council representing the catering functional constituency, attended the ceremony along with representatives from key catering industry associations. Mr Cheung commended Towngas in his remarks: “Towngas has always been a steadfast partner of the catering industry, ready to lend a helping hand at times of difficulty. In the face of the pandemic's severe impact on the catering industry, Towngas' ‘Supporting F&B and the Economy’ campaign is a timely shot in the arm for our industry members. On behalf of the catering industry, I would like to express our gratitude to Towngas for their generous support as we strive to overcome these hurdles.”

Towngas has continuously monitored the industry business environment, and launched the first phase of its support measures to the ailing catering industry about half a year ago. Last October, Towngas launched the three-month-long Credit Period Extension Scheme offering a two-month deferral on gas bill payment due dates for merchants. This March, Towngas also helped apply and distribute nano photocatalytic disinfectant spray to Hong Kong eateries in order to boost the public's confidence in their hygiene. To date, a total of over 10,000 eateries have benefited.

The Towngas Fun membership programme and online shopping platform is now available in the form of a mobile app on Google Play and App Store for download. Please refer to the relevant details on www.towngasfun.com.

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Press Photos

Photo 1:



Caption: Mr Alfred Chan Wing-kin (4th from right), Towngas Managing Director, Mr Peter Wong Wai-ye (right), Towngas Executive Director and Chief Operating Officer – Utilities Business, Mr Tommy Cheung Yu-yan (5th from right), member of the Executive Council and Legislative Council, hosting the “Supporting F&B and the Economy” campaign launch ceremony with representatives of major catering associations.

Photo 2:



Caption: Mr Alfred Chan Wing-kin, Towngas Managing Director, hopes that the “Supporting F&B and the Economy” campaign can bring about positive influence on the public, catering industry and socioeconomic recovery, with the aim of reviving the Hong Kong economy.

Photo 3:



Caption: Mr John Ho Hon-ming (middle), Towngas Chief Financial Officer and Company Secretary, presents souvenirs for representatives of supporting organisations, including Mr Wayne Xu Wei (left), President of ZA International, and Mr Rockson Hsu Luosheng (right), Chief Executive Officer of ZA Bank.

Photo 4:



Caption: Mr Tommy Cheung Yu-yan, member of the Executive Council and Legislative Council, commended Towngas for being a steadfast partner of the catering industry and lending a helping hand at times of difficulty.

Press photos can be downloaded from this link:

<https://towngasdrive.sharefile.com/d-se9cf264013a42f78>