

Towngas and FTU co-organised “Caring for the Elderly Programme”

Aging is a serious problem in Hong Kong. According to the survey conducted in 2009 by Census and Statistics Department, there are 1.13 million elderly aged 60 or above living with their families or living alone, accounting for 16.2% of the total population in Hong Kong, with 12.7%, which represents a number of 143,000, living alone. This indicates that the proportion of elderly living alone has been rising. The issue has aroused the public’s growing concern, as many elderly living alone cannot take good care of themselves and may be in danger when emergency occurs, while the others with low mobility and poor health need to have follow-up consultation regularly and take medicine for a long period of time. They may face health risk when there is no one to take care of them.

Both the Hong Kong and China Gas Company Limited (Towngas) and the Hong Kong Federation of Trade Unions (FTU) have been actively serving the community and focus on providing services for the elderly. In order to establish a community that cares for the elderly, and help the elderly to lead a healthy life with dignity, the two organisations cooperated to launch a large-scale community scheme named “Caring for the Elderly Programme”. Around 1,000 volunteers from Towngas and FTU will get in touch with the elderly through a variety of channels which include home visits, distributing goody bags, organising activities etc to promote a culture of caring and respect for the elderly in the community. The programme will start from February 2011. We plan to serve at least 10,000 elderly, and are now working on detailed plan for the visits.

Launching Ceremony of “Caring for the Elderly Programme” was held at Shi Hui Wen Secondary School in Tuen Mun on 26 February 2011. Towngas Executive Director and Chief Operating Officer James Kwan, JP, FTU Vice President Chan Yuen Han, JP and other government officials, as well as community members attended the ceremony. The officiating

guests of the event distributed Towngas and FTU's goody bags to elderly representatives from 18 districts of Hong Kong. After the ceremony, participants of the event were given red packets by God of Fortune and took part in the lucky draw. Furthermore, the elderly could get gift packs offered by Towngas. James Kwan and Chan Yuen Han together with the volunteers visited the elderly in their residences to chat with them and distributed goody bags to show our care for them.

We appeal to all Hong Kong citizens to care about the need of the elderly, especially those who live alone, so that they can feel the care and support of the community and lead a healthy and joyful life.