

Immediate Release

### **More than 100 Volunteers take part in Towngas Tree Planting Day**

(16 May 2010) The Hong Kong and China Gas Company Limited (Towngas) and Friends of the Earth (HK) worked together to organise the Towngas Tree Planting Day, which was held in Tuen Mun today. Over 100 Towngas employees and customers participated in the activity, planting 500 tree seedlings to help minimise the effects of global warming.

The activity was initiated by Towngas to promote its eBilling service. Under the campaign, Towngas donates HK\$6 to support Friends of the Earth (HK)'s Tree Planting Programme for every customer who successfully registers for eBilling service. The programme aims to plant a total of 10,000 trees within a three-year period. Up to the present moment, nearly 30,000 customers have signed up for this service.

The 100 plus participants, consisting of both Towngas employees and customers, walked for more than an hour to the chosen tree planting area along the Tuen Mun Trail on the day of the event. Under the guidance of representatives from Friends of the Earth (HK), the volunteers quickly learnt how to best plant the seedlings into the ground, resulting in the planting of a total of 500 Chinese Gugertree, Hong Kong Gordonia, and Hong Kong Hawthorn tree seedlings during the day.

Officiating guests at the opening ceremony of the Towngas Tree Planting Day included Anissa Wong, Permanent Secretary for the Environment/ Director of Environmental Protection, James Kwan, Executive Director and Chief Operating Officer of Towngas and Edwin Lau, Director of Friends of the Earth (HK).

“Towngas has devoted many years to providing customers with low carbon energy. We utilise natural gas, naphtha and landfill gas in the production of town gas to reduce carbon emissions and help mitigate against global warming,” James Kwan, Towngas Executive Director and Chief Operating Officer said. “This year, we are delighted to support Friends of the Earth (HK)'s afforestation programme with this Tree Planting Day, which has been made possible with the enthusiastic support of our employees and customers. Looking forward, we will continue our efforts at Towngas to promote low carbon living and encourage more Hong Kong people to care for the environment.”

Anissa Wong, Permanent Secretary for the Environment/ Director of Environmental Protection said, "A balance in nature is crucial to relieve the global warming crisis. As such, environmental protection is a Government priority. We are pleased to see Towngas' continued commitment to promoting a low carbon lifestyle and the protection of the environment. We hope that more people will register for eBilling services, not only reducing the use of paper but also generating more donations that will contribute to further tree planting activities in the future."

"Tree planting is a regular activity for Friends of the Earth (HK) as we aim to plant tree seedlings in areas destroyed by hill fires or where there is excessive soil erosion. Building a greener environment, the new trees will absorb carbon dioxide and help to diminish the impact of global warming. I am highly encouraged to see the many volunteers, over a hundred in total and many of them teenagers, taking part today under these very hot weather conditions," Edwin Lau, Director of Friends of the Earth (HK) commented.

A participant said, "Low carbon lifestyles have become a very popular issue. The Towngas Tree Planting Day has become a holiday activity for my family. In addition to the seedlings I have planted today, the day's experiences will motivate me to change my habits and pursue a more sustainable low carbon lifestyle."

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Press Photos:



1a



1b

Photos 1a and 1b

At the Towngas Tree Planting Day jointly organised by Towngas and Friends of the Earth (HK), James Kwan, Executive Director and Chief Operating Officer of Towngas, Anissa Wong, Permanent Secretary for the Environment/ Director of Environmental Protection and Edwin Lau, Director of Friends of the Earth (HK) plant three seedlings, consisting of a Chinese Gugertree, Gordonia tree and Hawthorn tree.



2a



2b



2c



2d

Photos 2a to 2d

Participants hard at work planting the seedlings to improve the environment at the Towngas Tree Planting Day.



3a



3b

Photos 3a and 3b

More than 100 participants planted a total of 500 tree seedlings at the Towngas Tree Planting Day to build a greener Hong Kong.