

Towngas Volunteer Service Team celebrates 10 years of service

(7 November 2009) As part of its ongoing active involvement in community service, The Hong Kong and China Gas Company Limited (Towngas) held its 10th anniversary celebrations for its Volunteer Service Team, by offering soup pack to over 200 senior citizens at Tsz Wan Shan.

Boasting a long tradition of caring for the community as part of its corporate social responsibility, Towngas established its corporate volunteer team in 1999. Since then, the Towngas Volunteer Service Team has dedicated more than 200,000 hours of voluntary service to the community and current membership stands at around 900 members. In 2004 and 2006 respectively, Towngas established the Towngas Customer Volunteer Team and the Towngas Hair-cutting Team, taking its overall number of volunteers to 1,063 to date.

“The Towngas Volunteer Service Team has worked persistently and altruistically in serving the elderly and underprivileged in our community, and I am really proud of them. That same spirit has been replicated in the Mainland, where more than 70% of our joint venture companies have formed their own volunteer teams to serve local communities. Last year when we learnt of the earthquake in Sichuan, Towngas immediately mobilised employees and contractors across the group to pool resources to support the quake survivors. We raised approximately HK\$16 million and formed a team of 150 people to coordinate and deliver relief supplies to the quake-hit regions fully demonstrating our commitment to carrying out our corporate social responsibility,” said Mr Alfred Chan, Managing Director of Towngas.

Director of Social Welfare, Mr Patrick Nip, JP, also praised Towngas’ volunteering efforts: “Since 2002, Towngas volunteer team has been a frequent winner of the annual ‘Highest Service Hour Award’. Towngas has always supported volunteerism and has always encouraged its employees to participate in community services and programmes organised by the Social Welfare Department. The efforts and commitment of Towngas volunteers demonstrate great care for the underprivileged members of the community”

In celebration of the annual Senior Citizens’ Day held in November, Towngas invited more than 200 senior citizens and television artiste Wayne Lai to join the “10 Years of Service” event.

Participants engaged in activities, took photographs and played games. Towngas volunteers handed out gift packs and soup packs to the elderly.

The “10 Years of Service” honoured the Towngas’s most dedicated volunteers and supporters. Those who had dedicated the most hours to volunteering over the last decade were presented with an award in recognition of their commitment and services. Towngas also presented awards to Maxim's Cake Shop, Lin Heung Bakery and Health Beauty Health and Care Services Centre to acknowledge their long-standing and ongoing support to the Company's social service initiatives.

For years, Towngas has dedicated a strong focus to serving the needs of the elderly community, such as regularly delivering long-boiled soup to elderly who live alone, providing elderly people with free haircutting and photo-shooting services, as well as installing safety rails in their homes. Other events held for the community include the annual "Rice Dumplings for the Community" and “Mooncakes for the Community”. Over the 10 years in which these programmes have run, over 930,000 rice dumplings, 570,000 heart-shaped mooncakes and 150,000 bottles of warm soup have been distributed. In helping to promote social integration, Towngas has also organised programmes for new immigrants such as the “Cooking for Fun” English learning classes, which have benefited over 2,300 children.

The achievements, contributions and efforts of Towngas Volunteer Service Team have been recognised by the Hong Kong Council of Social Service who presented the Company with the “Total Caring Award” for 2007-2008. Towngas has also achieved the highest honour awarded by the Social Welfare Department, taking consecutive awards in 2007 and 2008 for the Champion of Highest Service Hour Award (Private Organisation- Best Customer Participation).

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Media Enquiries:

The Hong Kong and China Gas Company Limited

Corporate Communications Department

Tel: (852) 2963 3493

Fax : 2516 7368

e-mail: ccd@towngas.com