



## **“Soup to Warm the Heart” Towngas launches Campaign to fight the Winter Flu Over 460,000 servings of soup donated to Hong Kong community over the years**

**(10 December 2016)** Collaborating with the Social Welfare Department and six district elderly community centres, The Hong Kong and China Gas Company Limited (Towngas) launched its “Soup to Warm the Heart” Campaign 2016/17 today (10 December). Seeking to help the more vulnerable in Hong Kong, Towngas donated a combination of more than 600 lucky bags together with servings of soup to the weak and elderly living on their own in Eastern and Wan Chai district. The campaign aims to rebuild and strengthen social harmony as well as to foster community ties within the neighbourhood. Approximately 600 volunteers are taking part in the campaign, working to not only deliver love and care to the elderly, but also to raise public awareness with regard to the health of senior citizens. Towngas commenced its “soup donation” activities in 1999; since then more than 460,000 containers of soup have been distributed to the elderly and other socially vulnerable groups in Hong Kong.

The campaign, known as “The 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of ‘Soup to Warm the Heart’”, is jointly organised by Towngas and the Eastern and Wan Chai District Social Welfare Office, Social Welfare Department to celebrate this major milestone. The opening ceremony was held in Towngas’ headquarters in North Point with Donald Chen, JP, Deputy Secretary for Labour and Welfare (Welfare) 2, Labour and Welfare Bureau of the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Hannah Yip, District Social Welfare Officer (Eastern and Wan Chai), Social Welfare Department; and Peter Wong, Executive Director and Chief Operating Officer of Towngas as officiating guests. The initiative is being supported by six district elderly community centres – the Eastern District Elderly Community Centre and Chai Wan District Elderly Community Centre of The Hong Kong Society for the Aged Sage, Ming Yue District Elderly Community Centre of the Hong Kong Young Women’s Christian Association, Fong Shu Chuen District Elderly Community Centre of the Tung Wah Group of Hospitals, Wan Chai District Elderly Community Centre of St. James Settlement, and Methodist Wan Chai Elderly Service Centre. Around 600 committed volunteers from Towngas and these community centres visited and distributed soup to the more vulnerable and elderly living on their own in Eastern and Wan Chai districts. Some of the volunteers are senior citizens themselves,

realising their own spirit of self-reliance and unlimited capabilities.

The ingredients for soup distributed under the campaign are red carrots, corn, almonds, chestnuts, dates, pork meat and pork bones. The soup has been specially designed to nourish and strengthen elderly constitutions, improve their digestive systems and enhance the health of their lungs. Longevity Noodles and Soy Milk Drinks were also included in their lucky bags, being further items to promote their ongoing well-being. While the soup and lucky bags were being distributed, volunteers shared their own personal experiences in their daily lives, contributing to the event's tremendous atmosphere of love, warmth and care.

At the opening ceremony, Deputy Secretary for Labour and Welfare (Welfare) 2, Donald Chen, JP, said, "Hong Kong is facing the challenges of an ageing population. According to projections from the Government's statistics, the elderly population aged 65 or above is projected to increase from 1.12 million in 2015 to 2.47 million in 2040, and by that time one in every three people will be an elderly person. The Government highly encourages collaboration with enterprises and community organisations to promote a caring culture of respecting and loving the elderly in the community. This event is a role model of tripartite partnership among the welfare sector, the business community and the Government." He said that elderly care is at the top of the current-term Government's agenda. The Government strives to foster an age-friendly environment and implement various measures, thereby enabling elderly persons to lead an active and fulfilling life.

Peter Wong, Executive Director and Chief Operating Officer of Towngas said, "At Towngas, we have always been committed to caring for the needy. Launched in 1999, our "Soup to Warm the Heart" campaign forms part of our ongoing community care programme, which aims to promote the health and well-being of the elderly. This is just one aspect of our elderly care programme – in addition to this soup delivery campaign, we also carry out home visits during various festivals to bring them both some festive food and holiday cheer. Further initiatives include a passport photo-taking service, hair-cutting services, as well as the installation of safety rails. These services aim to show our gratitude for the many contributions that the elderly have made to our society."

Towngas is highly involved in the local community. Launched in 1985, Towngas concession schemes benefit the elderly, people with disability as well as single parent and low-income families. Moreover, Towngas

has donated Electrical Toilet Washlets for elderly care centres since 2004, in a bid to enhance the self-care abilities of senior citizens. Qualified Towngas technicians also examine Personal Emergency Links to ensure their safety at home and provide peace of mind when carrying out regular safety inspections during their visits to elderly homes. Towngas volunteers have racked up over 690,000 service hours over the years.

Ivy Yiu, a Towngas volunteer, said, “Although I have participated in various volunteer initiatives, this is the first time that I have been involved in this soup delivery service. I have learnt how to treasure every moment in life, spend time with my family and offer them more love and care since my interaction with the elderly.”

Eva Shin, an elderly volunteer, said, “I did not have many meaningful things to do after my retirement. However, after I started contributing as a volunteer, my life has more meaning and I am more contented than before. Apart from helping other people, I am also contributing towards the happiness of other elderly people and making more friends. Now I have many new things to share with my family.”


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Captions	Photos
<p><b>Photo 1 a-b:</b>            (From the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> of left) Donald Chen, JP, Deputy Secretary for Labour and Welfare (Welfare) 2, Labour and Welfare Bureau of the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, Peter Wong, Executive Director and Chief Operating Officer of Towngas</p>	 <p>1a</p>

<p>and the representative of district elderly community centres hosted the kick-off ceremony of “Soup to Warm the Heart” campaign. Approximately 600 volunteers visited the elderly with soup, lucky bags and sincere heart in Eastern and Wan Chai districts.</p>	 <p>1b</p>
<p><b>Photo 2:</b> Volunteers from Towngas and 6 district elderly community centres participated in the kick-off ceremony of “Soup to Warm the Heart” campaign. Approximately 600 volunteers delivered their love and caring to the elderly with soup and lucky bags in Eastern and Wan Chai districts today.</p>	
<p><b>Photo 3:</b> Peter Wong, Executive Director and Chief Operating Officer of Towngas visited and shared the daily life with the 91-year-old man, Mr Koo, with the warm soup and lucky bag. The air was full of warm and love.</p>	
<p><b>Photo 4:</b> Donald Chen, JP, Deputy Secretary for Labour and Welfare (Welfare) 2, Labour and Welfare Bureau of the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, and Peter Wong, Executive Director and Chief Operating Officer of Towngas visited the elderly with warm soup and lucky bags</p>	
<p><b>Photo 5:</b> When Donald Chen, JP, Deputy Secretary for Labour and Welfare (Welfare) 2, Labour and Welfare Bureau of the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region delivered a speech in the kick-off ceremony of “Soup to Warm the Heart” campaign, he shared that the campaign, which was jointly organized by Towngas, the Social Welfare Department and six district elderly community centres, was a role model of tripartite partnership among the welfare sector, the business community and the Government.</p>	

**Photo 6:**

Peter Wong, Executive Director and Chief Operating Officer of Towngas said, “Towngas has always been committed to caring for the needy. Launched in 1999, the “Soup to Warm the Heart” campaign forms part of our ongoing community care programme, which aims to promote the health and well-being of the elderly.”



**Photo 7:**

With caring heart, volunteers from Towngas are packing 600 bottles of soup and luck bags for the elderly who are living Eastern and Wan Chai districts.



**Photo 8:**

The ingredients for soup distributed under the “Soup to Warm the Heart” campaign are red carrots, corn, almonds, chestnuts, dates, pork meat and pork bones. The soup has been specially designed to nourish and strengthen elderly constitutions, improve their digestive systems and enhance the health of their lungs.



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**For media enquiries, please contact:**

Corporate Affairs Department

The Hong Kong and China Gas Company Limited

Tel: 2963 3493

Fax: 2516 7368

E-mail: [ccd@towngas.com](mailto:ccd@towngas.com)