

Towngas and SAHK co-organised From Farm to Fork Carnival cum Low Carbon Cooking Competition

(18 November 2018) With the aim of widening the choice of jobs for people with disabilities, and to enhance their opportunities for open recruitment, the SAHK launched LOHAS Florist in August. This is a flower shop run as a business, providing job training on floral production, pesticide-free farming and store operations, for disabled students. The Hong Kong and China Gas Company Limited (Towngas) donated HK\$200,000 to sponsor the SAHK (the Association) for the purchase of planting equipment, and invited ten disabled ambassadors of the Association to learn farming skills, including transplanting, ploughing and harvesting, at the farm run by the Towngas Volunteer Service Team. Since the training, the ambassadors have been able to implement their newly learned skills at the Association's rooftop garden, planting pesticide-free fruits and vegetables for sale to neighbourhoods in the district.

On 17 November, Towngas and SAHK hosted the "From Farm to Fork Carnival cum Low Carbon Cooking Competition". The ten SAHK ambassadors who had successfully applied the farming skills that they had learned, produced their freshly harvested ingredients from the farm for use by the participants of the cooking competition. Josephine Pang, the Chairperson of the Association, Peter Wong, Executive Director and Chief Operating Officer – Utilities Business of Towngas, and Nancy Kwan, District Social Welfare Officer (Kowloon City/Yau Tsim Mong), Social Welfare Department, together with the students and parents, made their dishes with the fresh ingredients. The organiser invited Caspar Tsui, Under Secretary for Labour and Welfare, as the judge to select "The Most Creative", "The Most Co-ordinated Team" and "The Best Aroma" dishes and later present the awards.

At the opening ceremony, Caspar Tsui, Under Secretary for Labour and Welfare thanked the support from Towngas and its volunteers. In Hong Kong, there are now 1.3 million volunteers registered with Social Welfare Department. Mr Tsui regarded the number is underestimated as there are

many non-registered volunteers are servicing in the community wholeheartedly. He wishes that there will be more collaboration between corporations and the social welfare sector for the betterment of Hong Kong.

Peter Wong, Executive Director and Chief Operating Officer – Utilities Business of Towngas said, "As a caring enterprise, Towngas actively engages in organising activities with social welfare organisations. On top of that, we employed 11 disabled employees at the moment, all holding different positions, who contribute significantly in many ways, including through customer service, document processing and technical drawing, and in our catering business. We believe that everyone has their own unique work ability and we hope to convey this message to the community. As long as there is a suitable job and appropriate training support where necessary, everyone can demonstrate their talent and ambition."

Josephine Pang, Chairperson of SAHK, said that she was very impressed to see the trainees had managed to implement the knowledge and skills they learned and able to sell their pesticide-free grown fruits and vegetables to the neighbourhood in Ho Man Tin District. Every single detail has great significance, including promoting pesticide-free cultivation, healthy eating and allowing students to participate in community life and enabling students to learn a skill and enhance their employment opportunities.

"In the past, Towngas has co-organised a number of large-scale activities with the Association," added Mrs Pang. "These included the "Towngas Low Carbon Rice Dumplings Bring Warmth to SAHK" in 2015, which brought volunteers and the children and parents from the Association together to promote a low-carbon healthy diet. In the "SAHK x Towngas Superlympics 2016", volunteers and nearly 300 SAHK service users and parents, spent an enjoyable day of games and sports together to promote good health. I look forward to having more cooperation with Towngas, hoping that we can build a caring and more inclusive society together."

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Press Photos:



Josephine Pang, Chairperson of SAHK welcomed all participants at the ceremony.



Peter Wong, Executive Director and Chief Operating Officer – Utilities Business of Towngas delivered a welcome speech at the ceremony.



Caspar Tsui, Under Secretary for Labour and Welfare was officiating guest at the ceremony.



Josephine Pang, Chairperson of SAHK (1st from Left) teamed with service user and parent at the cooking competition, where Peter Wong, Executive Director and Chief Operating Officer – Utilities Business of Towngas (4th from Left) was in another team to compete in the competition.



(From Left to Right) Nancy Kwan, District Social Welfare Officer (Kowloon City/Yau Tsim Mong), Social Welfare Department, Eddie Suen, Chief Executive Officer of SAHK, Caspar Tsui, Under Secretary for Labour and Welfare, Peter Wong, Executive Director and Chief Operating Officer – Utilities Business of Towngas, Chu Koh Ann, Chairperson of the Adult Service Management Committee of SAHK.



Towngas volunteers supported the event by designing booths of fun photo-taking and providing snacks for participants of the day.



A group photo of guests, Towngas volunteers and service users of SAHK.

About The Hong Kong and China Gas Company Limited:

Founded in 1862, The Hong Kong and China Gas Company Limited (Towngas) was Hong Kong's first public utility. For the past 150 years, Towngas has been evolving from the simple gas company supplying fuel for street lamps to our current leading position in the energy industry in the greater China region. Our core business in the territory consists of the production and distribution of gas, the marketing and sale of gas and the sale of gas appliances, as well as comprehensive after-sales services. At present, we supply town gas to over 1.8 million customers in Hong Kong. The Towngas Volunteer Service Team (TVST) was set up in 1999 to fulfill our social responsibility. The Company supports charity activities to help and care for the needy in the community. Up to December 2017, the TVST has accumulated over 784,000 service hours.

About SAHK:

In 1963, SAHK was established with the name “The Hong Kong Association for the Spastic Children”, and in 1967, it was renamed as “The Spastics Association of Hong Kong” to offer rehabilitation services to patients of different ages. In line with the development of its services, the Association officially changed its name to “SAHK” in 2008 with the mission to bring the abilities of its service users into full play. The Association provides wide spectrum of rehabilitation services for persons with disabilities to enable them to realise their full potential, enhance their independence and self-confidence, and become participating members of the society. SAHK has four core service areas, including Children and Family Support Services, Special Education, Adult Service as well as Community Support Service. Special service projects are also implemented. The Association has a total of 75 service units and special programmes to provide services to 17,000 families annually.

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