

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **“HKQAA - Hong Kong Cooking Oil Registration” Scheme Kicked-off Today**

### **Improving the identification of cooking oil and traceability of used cooking oil**

*(24 July 2014, Hong Kong) Hong Kong Quality Assurance Agency (HKQAA) held the kick-off ceremony of the **Hong Kong Cooking Oil Registration Scheme** at the Hong Kong Federation of Youth Groups Building today. The first such scheme in Hong Kong, it aims to boost the confidence of end users by verifying the identifiable sources of cooking oil supply and encourage environmental protection and sustainable development among business and citizens by enhancing the traceability of used cooking oil during recycling processes.*

#### **The first of its kind in Hong Kong**

Like other “green waste”, used cooking oil is a recoverable and recyclable commodity with commercial value in the market. According to a study commissioned by the Hong Kong government in late 2013, an estimated 16,000 tonnes of used cooking oil are collected locally each year for recycling, of which about 11,000 tonnes are used in biodiesel production by local factories. As the cooking oil recycling market continues to grow, industry practitioners and citizens are becoming more aware of how the used oil is collected, where it goes and how to improve the identification of cooking oil in the market.

Responding to market needs, HKQAA has newly developed the “HKQAA – Hong Kong Cooking Oil Registration Scheme”, the first of its kind in our city, to verify the identifiable sources of cooking oil supply and enhance the traceability of used cooking oil. The kick-off ceremony for this scheme was held today at the Hong Kong Federation of Youth Groups Building. **Ms Anissa Wong Sean-ye, Permanent Secretary for the Environment, Hong Kong SAR Government**, was invited to officiate the ceremony and celebrate this significant occasion together with representatives from the industries.

The pilot programme for this scheme has received great response from the catering and recycling industries in a short time since it was open for application. A total of nine organisations, including cooking oil suppliers, used cooking oil collectors and processors, and catering groups, have participated in the pilot programme, in which eight of them joined today’s ceremony. Over a hundred restaurants under the participating catering groups have also applied for becoming Cooking Oil Registration Scheme Companions.

In addition, a number of organisations are currently applying for the scheme and the Agency is expecting more applications in the future.

#### **Enhance end user’s confidence and encourage recycling of used cooking oil**

With the aim of encouraging recycling of used cooking oil and enhancing the confidence of end users, the Scheme recognises an organisation’s capability to maintain and retrieve records of cooking oil and used cooking oil along the supply chain. It is applicable to organisations in the food and catering industry such as merchants and restaurants, cooking oil suppliers such as manufacturers, wholesalers and distributors, used cooking oil collectors and processors such as biodiesel companies, as well as property management companies.

Upon successful registration, the organisation will receive a confirmation of registration letter and be entitled to use the Hong Kong Cooking Oil Registration Scheme Mark for promotional purposes. The Marks may be displayed at the retail stores, advertisement and printed matter for customers to identify organisations that have participated in the Scheme. HKQAA is now inviting organisations to join the pilot programme of the Scheme.

The Scheme enables food and beverage businesses to demonstrate their commitment to environmental protection and providing cooking oil with identifiable sources to their customers, which will help enhance the registered organisations' brand image and reputation. HKQAA expects this scheme will, in the long run, strengthen the recycling amount of recyclers and citizens' environmental awareness.

For further information, please call (852) 2202 9111 or check out the HKQAA website at [www.hkqaa.org](http://www.hkqaa.org).



*Ms Anissa Wong Sean-ye, Permanent Secretary for the Environment, Hong Kong SAR Government, was invited to address and officiate the ceremony.*



*Ms Anissa Wong Sean-ye, Permanent Secretary for the Environment, Hong Kong SAR Government, and Dr Michael Lam, CEO of HKQAA, officiate the kick-off ceremony.*



*Representatives of the scheme's supporting organisations and pilot scheme participants.*

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**HKQAA Background**

Being a non-profit-distributing organisation established by the Hong Kong Government in 1989, Hong Kong Quality Assurance Agency (HKQAA) assists industry and commerce in the development of management systems to enhance its competitive advantage. As one of the leading conformity assessment bodies in Hong Kong, HKQAA provides enterprises in Hong Kong and China with professional, impartial and value-adding certification services, as well as promotes management systems and various training services. Please check out <http://www.hkqaa.org> for further information.