



Green Finance Certification Scheme 香港品質保證局 綠色金融認證計劃

Enhancing Credibility and
Stakeholder Confidence
in Green Finance
提升綠色金融公信力
及持分者信心

Local Excellence, Global Perspective

Established by Hong Kong Government in 1989, Hong Kong Quality Assurance Agency (HKQAA) is a non-profit public organisation committed to introducing international management standards, promoting good management practices and sustainability in Greater China for decades.

As one of the leading conformity assessment organisations in the region, HKQAA not only provides certification, assessment, registration, training and research services to help organisations enhance management performance and competitiveness, but also develops a wide range of good management practices and related criteria to cope with increasingly diversified market demands and the growing need for sustainable development, fostering a better environment and bringing benefits to the community.

Ample Experience in Fostering Sustainable Economy

In recent years, sustainability has become one of the key forces driving organisations towards a prolonged success. To support and encourage them to walk the talk, HKQAA has developed diverse services and obtained ample experience in the field of social responsibility, environmental protection, sustainability and responsible investment:

- With the initial support of **The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited (HSBC)**, HKQAA introduced the **CSR Index** to provide quantitative metrics to measure organisations' maturity level in practicing their social responsibilities in 2008;
- HKQAA has been **the only Hong Kong organisation accredited as the Designated Operational Entity (DOE)** by the Executive Board of the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) to deliver CDM validation and verification services since 2011;
- HKQAA has been providing assessment and rating services on companies' sustainability performance for the **Hang Seng Corporate Sustainability Index Series** since 2014;
- Since 2017, our expert has been nominated by the **Innovation and Technology Commission of the HKSAR Government** and the **China National Institute of Standardization** respectively to directly take part in the technical committee of ISO/TC 207/SC 4 and the working group of **ISO/TC 207/SC 4/ WG 7** to develop **ISO/NP 14030 Green bonds – Environmental performance of nominated projects and assets**;
- Since 2018, HKQAA has been admitted as an **Observer of the Green Bond Principles (GBP) under the International Capital Market Association (ICMA)**;
- Since 2018, HKQAA has become an **approved verifier under the Climate Bonds Standard**.

地方優勢 環球視野

香港品質保證局是香港政府於1989年成立的非牟利公營機構，多年來致力引進國際標準，在大中華區內推動工商業界實踐優質管理辦法及可持續發展。

作為區內最具領導地位的合格評定機構之一，本局除了提供各類認證、評審、註冊、培訓和研究服務，協助機構提升管理水平和競爭力之外，亦因應市場需求和社會可持續發展的趨勢，積極開發具前瞻性的優質管理辦法及相關準則，銳意推動業界創優增值，實現更美好的環境，從而造福社會。

豐富經驗與知識 促進可持續經濟

近年，商界已視可持續發展為取得長期成功的主要動力。為協助及鼓勵企業付諸實踐，本局在推動社會責任、環境保護、可持續發展及責任投資等領域，開發多元化服務，並累積了豐富的經驗和知識：

- 於2008年在香港上海滙豐銀行有限公司的初始支持下，研發**社會責任指數**，提供一個定量的表現指標來衡量企業在實踐社會責任的成熟程度；
- 於2011年獲《聯合國氣候變化框架公約》(United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, UNFCCC)下的清潔發展機制(Clean Development Mechanism, CDM)執行理事會認可，成為**香港唯一提供CDM審定及核實服務的指定經營實體 (Designated Operational Entity, DOE)**；
- 自2014年起，為「**恒生可持續發展企業指數系列**」就公司的可持續發展表現提供評級服務；
- 自2017年起，本局專家分別獲香港特區政府創新科技署及中國標準研究院提名加入ISO/TC 207/SC 4技術委員會及其工作小組(ISO/TC 207/SC 4/ WG 7)，直接參與制定《**ISO/NP 14030 綠色債券 – 指定項目及資產的環境表現**》；
- 自2018年起，成為**國際資本市場協會 (International Capital Market Association, ICMA)《綠色債券原則》(Green Bond Principles, GBP)的觀察員**；
- 自2018年起，成為**氣候債券標準 (Climate Bonds Standard) 委員會授權的核實機構**。

In Line with Government Policies to Promote Green Finance

Green Finance is a strategic tool for promoting the economic development and regional cooperation in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Big Bay Area and along the Belt and Road. In keeping with the development of the national Green Finance policy and being supported by the Hong Kong SAR Government, HKQAA has taken the lead to develop the **Green Finance Certification Scheme** to provide third-party conformity assessments for Green Finance issuers since 2016.

This scheme aims at helping the financial sector to explore new commercial and business opportunities in the Green Finance market, promoting a common understanding of Green Finance, and fostering environmentally-friendly investments in Hong Kong, the Mainland and worldwide. Our ultimate goal is to facilitate the development of green finance and green industry, thereby paving the way to a greener and more sustainable future.

HKQAA has completed the first certification of this scheme in early 2018 and aroused interest of various sectors.

Reference to International Standards

HKQAA has developed the Scheme with reference to a number of widely recognised international and national standards on Green Finance, including:

- ◆ Clean Development Mechanism under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change;
- ◆ Green Bond Principles of the International Capital Market Association;
- ◆ The People's Bank of China Announcement No. 39 and its Annex - Green Bond Endorsed Project Catalogue; and
- ◆ ISO 26000:2010 Guidance on Social Responsibility, among others.

Benefits

- ◆ Enhances the credibility of, and stakeholder confidence in, green financial instruments via independent, impartial third-party conformity assessments;
- ◆ Reaches out to potential Green Finance investors with the aid of the Green Finance Certificate and Certification Mark;
- ◆ Demonstrates issuers' efforts to promote environmentally-friendly investment; and
- ◆ Promotes a common understanding of Green Finance.

配合政府政策 推動綠色金融

綠色金融是國家推動粵港澳大灣區和「一帶一路」經濟發展和區域合作的重要策略工具。為了配合國家綠色金融政策的發展，在得到香港特區政府的推動和支持下，本局於2016年開展「綠色金融認證計劃」的研發工作，為綠色金融發行者提供第三方認證服務。

此認證計劃旨在協助金融界發掘綠色金融市場新機遇，推廣綠色金融的理念，以及在香港、內地及全球推動環境友善投資，促進綠色金融及產業的發展，創造可持續的未來。

本局於2018年初完成首個認證項目，備受各界關注。

參考國際標準 制定認證計劃

本局在制定綠色金融認證計劃的過程中，參考了多個國際及國家標準，包括：

- ◆ 《聯合國氣候變化框架公約》的清潔發展機制；
- ◆ 國際資本市場協會的《綠色債券原則》；
- ◆ 中國人民銀行公告〔2015〕第39號及其附件《綠色債券支持項目目錄》；
- ◆ ISO 26000：2010 社會責任指南等。

好處

- ◆ 透過獨立公正的第三方認證服務，提升綠色金融的公信力及持分者信心；
- ◆ 透過綠色金融證書及認證標誌，協助發行者吸引更多潛在的綠色金融投資者；
- ◆ 展示發行者推動綠色投資的決心；
- ◆ 推廣綠色金融的理念。

Types of Certification

Two types of certificate: the Green Finance of Pre-issuance Stage Certificate and the Green Finance of Post-issuance Stage Certificate.

Pre-issuance Stage Certificate

- ◆ For issuers seeking certification **before issuing Green Finance products**
- ◆ **As-at certificate**
- ◆ Requires **validation of the adequacy of the Environmental Method Statement** in producing positive environmental effects

Post-issuance Stage Certificate

- ◆ For issuers seeking certification **after issuing Green Finance products**
- ◆ Remains valid **until the debt instrument's maturity date**
- ◆ Requires **verification of the continuous implementation and effectiveness of the Environmental Method Statement** regarding the proposed positive environmental effects

Highlights of Certification Requirements

The Scheme requires applicant to formulate and implement its Environmental Method Statement to produce positive environmental effects. HKQAA will make reference to the environmental targets under the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) defined by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in order to assess whether the methods in the Statement can bring positive effects to the environment throughout the implementation process.

The Environmental Method Statement shall include:

- ◆ The Intended Green Category(ies) of Applicable Projects and Positive Environmental Effect
- ◆ Green Project Selection Mechanism
- ◆ Green Project Evaluation Mechanism
- ◆ Use and Management of Proceeds Plan
- ◆ Information Disclosure Plan
- ◆ Impact Assessment Plan
- ◆ Stakeholder Engagement Plan

Issuers of debt instruments the proceeds of which will support green projects for environmental protection may apply to the Scheme. Current eligible debt instruments include bonds and loans. Please read the *Handbook for HKQAA Green Finance Certification Scheme* for details.

Contact HKQAA 聯絡香港品質保證局

Website 網址 : <http://www.hkqaa.org>

Hong Kong 香港

Tel 電話 : (852) 2202 9111
Fax 傳真 : (852) 2202 9222
E-mail 電郵 :
hkqaa@hkqaa.org

Shanghai 上海

Tel 電話 : (86 21) 6876 9911
Fax 傳真 : (86 21) 6876 9922
E-mail 電郵 :
info.sh@hkqaa.org

Guangzhou 廣州

Tel 電話 : (86 20) 8383 3777
Fax 傳真 : (86 20) 8382 3066
E-mail 電郵 :
info.gz@hkqaa.org

Xian 西安

Tel 電話 : (86 29) 8636 0030
Fax 傳真 : (86 29) 8636 0031
E-mail 電郵 :
info.xn@hkqaa.org

Macau 澳門

Tel 電話 : (853) 2875 1199
Fax 傳真 : (853) 2875 1609
E-mail 電郵 :
info.mo@hkqaa.org

認證種類

此計劃提供兩種認證－綠色金融發行前證書及綠色金融發行後證書，詳情如下：

綠色金融發行前證書

- ◆ 適用於發行綠色金融前申請
- ◆ 有效期為認證當日
- ◆ 審定申請者提出的環境方法聲明之充分性，判斷綠色項目能否帶來正面的環境影響

綠色金融發行後證書

- ◆ 適用於發行綠色金融後申請
- ◆ 有效期至債務工具的到期日
- ◆ 根據申請者提出的環境方法聲明，每年核查實施綠色項目的進度和有效性

認證要求概要

此計劃要求申請者制定及實施能產生正面環境影響的環境方法聲明。本局將參考聯合國環境署 (United Nations Environment Programme, UNEP) 17個可持續發展目標 (Sustainable Development Goals, SDGs) 下所指定的環境目標，評審該聲明所列出的方法應用在綠色項目時能否對環境帶來正面影響。

環境方法聲明應包含：

- ◆ 所適用項目預期的綠色類別與正面環境影響
- ◆ 綠色項目篩選機制
- ◆ 綠色項目評價機制
- ◆ 募集資金的使用及管理方案
- ◆ 披露資料方案
- ◆ 影響評估方案
- ◆ 持分者參與方案

凡是持有債務工具，而其募集所得的資金將用於支持環境保護項目的發行者，均可申請此認證計劃。現時適用的債務工具包括債券和貸款。計劃詳情請參閱《香港品質保證局綠色金融認證計劃手冊》。