

【Press Release】

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HKQAA Symposium 2013 Held Successfully Announced Inaugural Cooperation for “Hang Seng Corporate Sustainability Index Series”

(29 November 2013, Hong Kong) Hong Kong Quality Assurance Agency (HKQAA)’s annual flagship event, the HKQAA Symposium 2013, was held successfully today in the Ballroom of the Langham Place Hotel, Mongkok. The Agency also announced that it has become the project partner of Hang Seng Indexes Company Limited (Hang Seng Indexes) to provide assessment and rating services for the Hang Seng Corporate Sustainability Index Series starting from 2014.

Providing assessment and rating services for the Index Series

At the event, an inaugural cooperation ceremony was held to announce that HKQAA has become the project partner of Hang Seng Indexes to provide assessment and rating services for the Hang Seng Corporate Sustainability Index Series starting from 2014. **Ir Dr Hon. W. K. Lo, Chairman of HKQAA**, said, “Hang Seng Indexes has consistently played a leading role in encouraging responsible long-term approaches to investment, and we are pleased to cooperate with them to enhance corporate performance on sustainability issues in the region.”

Launched in 2010, the Hang Seng Corporate Sustainability Index Series aims to further raise awareness about sustainability (which encompasses environmental, social and corporate governance performance) in Hong Kong and mainland China A-share markets, and serve increasing international interest in sustainability investment. In order to ensure all the constituent companies in the Index Series are strong sustainability performers, the selection process includes consideration of the results of the assessment.

Measuring sustainability performance with reference to international standards

The rating criteria and assessment framework will be set out by HKQAA with reference to several international standards, including the GRI G4 Sustainability Reporting Guidelines and ISO 26000 Social Responsibility Guidelines. This enables a professional, objective and multi-angle approach to measure the sustainability performance of listed companies.

Mr Vincent Kwan, Director and General Manager of Hang Seng Indexes, said, “HKQAA has strong knowledge of the Hong Kong and Mainland markets and in the area of corporate sustainability. We are delighted to be partnering with them to promote corporate sustainability and to provide investors with authoritative indicators for developing effective sustainability investment strategies.”

Symposium attracts over 700 attendees

The main theme of the Symposium 2013 was “ESG Management - a Paradigm Shift in Business and Investment Strategies”. It attracted over 700 participants from government, industry, commerce and academia, as well as members of the public.

The Symposium featured acclaimed local and overseas speakers, who discussed how the adoption of sustainable business strategies could help increase the competitiveness of enterprises. Topics in the morning session included relationship between ESG and investment, carbon performance, sustainability reporting and upcoming changes to ISO

standards. In the afternoon session, topics included energy improvement, business continuity, carbon management, social responsible governance and housing development for an ageing society; a presentation ceremony for HKQAA's recent pilot schemes for sustainability was also held.

The presentations of the speakers are available on our website at:

www.hkqaa.org/symposium2013



Ir Dr Hon. W. K. Lo, Chairman of HKQAA, and Mr Vincent Kwan, Director and General Manager of Hang Seng Indexes, officiate the inaugural cooperation ceremony for the Hang Seng Corporate Sustainability Index Series



Dr Michael P. H. Lam, CEO of HKQAA (1st row, 7th from left) and representatives of the companies that have joined HKQAA's recent pilot schemes for sustainability



Dr Michael Lam presents the HKQAA CSR Advocate Mark



Panel discussion from the morning session – from left: Mr Vincent Kwan, Director and General Manager, Hang Seng Indexes Company Limited; Ms Connie Sham, Senior Manager of Strategic Business, HKQAA; Mr Timothy Hui, Director of Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) China; Ir Ho Sai King, Assistant Director (Building Services), Architectural Services Department, The Government of the HKSAR; Dr Nigel H. Croft, Chairman, ISO Technical Subcommittee on Quality Systems



Panel discussion (I) from the afternoon session – from left: Mr Lewis Lam, Assistant General Manager (Property Management), Kai Shing Management Services Limited; Mr K. T. Ting, General Manager, Market Research Business, HKQAA; Ms Katherine Lau, General Manager, Corporate Quality & Sustainability, Fuji Xerox (Hong Kong) Limited



Panel discussion (II) from the afternoon session – from left: Mr. Victor Kwong, Head of Corporate Health, Safety & Environment, the Hong Kong and China Gas Company Limited; Dr David Chui, Partner, XCES Capital Advisory (also Associate Professor and Chairperson of Economics & Finance, Hang Seng Management College); Mr Wong Kit Loong, Chief Executive Officer and Executive Director, Hong Kong Housing Society; Ir C. S. Ho, Deputy Chairman of HKQAA



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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.