

21 June 2019

**HSBC 150TH ANNIVERSARY CHARITY PROGRAMME FUNDS  
MOBILE APP FOR REAL-TIME AIR QUALITY ANALYSIS***Personalised Real-time Air Quality Informatics System for Exposure –  
Hong Kong (PRAISE-HK)*

Fully funded by HSBC 150th Anniversary Charity Programme, the Institute for the Environment of The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology today launched a new mobile app that aims to help users reduce their exposure to outdoor air pollution. The “Personalised Real-time Air-quality Informatics System for Exposure – Hong Kong”, or “PRAISE-HK”, will help build Hong Kong into a world-class smart and healthy city through a five-year project that commenced in November 2016.

**Patrick Humphris, Head of Communications, Asia-Pacific, HSBC**, said, “At HSBC, we have a long tradition of supporting the communities we serve, particularly here in Hong Kong. The integration of smart-city technologies into our lives will create smarter, healthier places to live and work. PRAISE-HK raises the profile of air pollution as a serious health hazard but also gives us the tools to manage our exposure. The real-time air quality data on the app will help us protect our children, elderly and other vulnerable individuals. I am delighted that HSBC has supported HKUST’s work to develop this app through our 150th Anniversary Charity Programme.”

The HSBC 150th Anniversary Charity Programme was launched in 2015 to support local charities using the net proceeds of the sale of the Bank’s HKD150 Anniversary Banknotes, which commemorated HSBC’s founding in Hong Kong 150 years before. The donation focuses on the themes of “environment”, “youth and education” and “mental health and wellness”.

PRAISE-HK is a smart city app that provides state-of-the-art real-time and 48-hour forecast air quality and health risk information down to the street level, and is powered by a new system developed by cross-disciplinary experts led by the HKUST Institute for the Environment. As a result of different traffic and urban ventilation conditions, the air quality can vary widely from one street to another in dense urban cities like Hong Kong. PRAISE-HK maps air quality variation down to individual streets, allowing users to proactively plan their time and activities and reducing exposure from high pollution. Users can access this useful information on the PRAISE-HK app and take corresponding action, in particular, to reduce short-term exposure risks that makes a big difference to people who are sensitive to air pollution.

The app's high accuracy performance is attributed to important technologies including air quality and atmospheric model, traffic model, sensor technologies, big data, air quality exposure science and mobile technology. In the next phase, the app launched today will provide full integration of personal exposure, analysing both outdoor and indoor air pollution levels including inside buildings or commuting; and the third phase will be an interactive app system that provides health prediction alerts based on personalised responses to air pollution.

For further information, please visit: <http://praise.ust.hk>



Tse Chin-wan, Under Secretary for the Environment of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government (4th from left), Patrick Humphris, Head of Communications, Asia-Pacific, HSBC (4th from right), together with the team of experts at The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology.



Patrick Humphris, Head of Communications, Asia-Pacific, HSBC, speaks at the launch of the PRAISE-HK mobile app.

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**About Institute for the Environment: (IENV)**

Institute for the Environment (IENV) is an interdisciplinary research institute of HKUST that promotes and conducts research aimed at improving the environment of Hong Kong, the Pearl River Delta (Greater Bay Area), and beyond. It has a solid track record in conducting air quality related studies in Hong Kong and the region. Its research findings have been adopted in many different ways in the policy making process both locally and regionally. IENV has gained tremendous support from the University on our research work and facilities (including the Atmospheric Research Center established in Guangdong in 2006). It collaborates with a variety of stakeholders, including academic, industrial and environmental non-governmental partners. It will continue to stretch our collaborative efforts and build cross-border synergies with mainland institutions for a greener and healthier Greater Bay Area.

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