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HSBC CLEAN WATERWAYS PROGRAMME

Four Solar-powered Boats Set To Collect Plastic From Hong Kong Harbours

HSBC today announced the launch of the HSBC Clean Waterways Programme (“Programme”), a three-year initiative which aims to remove plastic waste from the city’s waters using four zero-emission, solar-powered boats. The Programme will also include a community education series to reduce the use of plastic.

The Programme is a partnership between HSBC and Clean Waterways Initiative Ltd. (CWI), a non-profit organisation based in Hong Kong.

WONG Kam-sing, Secretary for the Environment, The Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government, and Diana CESAR, Chief Executive, Hong Kong, HSBC, attended the launch ceremony.

WONG Kam-sing said, “The green and innovative ideas of this programme are worthy of appreciation. The use of solar-powered boats to remove marine plastic waste not only showcases new energy technology, but also cleans up Hong Kong’s waterways simultaneously. The plastic refuse will be sorted on the boat for recycling. The demonstration is a creative attempt to clean the harbours, reduce waste and cut carbon emissions in an integrated manner, bringing multiple benefits.”

Diana CESAR said, “The Programme demonstrates how HSBC helps the community continue to progress through action and advocacy. Hong Kong, like much of the world, has a serious plastic waste issue, one which is causing great harm to the ecosystem. A complete solution needs multiple contributions, from changes in product design to different consumption habits for all of us. We need to preserve Hong Kong’s harbour and waterways for future generations. And, we are committed to working together with our customers and employees in the transition to a sustainable and prosperous future.”

As a key part of the programme, four zero-emission, solar-powered boats – each capable of collecting and sorting more than 2,500 litres of floating plastic per load – are being built. The boats will run every day along Victoria and Aberdeen Harbours to collect plastic waste in the waters over three years.

The boats are equipped with a two-stage filtration system that captures both larger pieces of trash as well as small particles such as pieces of broken down polystyrene. All waste will be sorted on board for recycling before disposal.


Ellen OGREN, Co-founder and Director, Clean Waterways Initiative, said, “Our main goal for this programme is to dramatically reduce the volume of plastic debris that flows out of Hong Kong’s waterways into the open ocean, where it will have a harmful effect on marine ecosystems. HSBC shared our vision from the beginning, and through a combination of direct action and wider community engagement, we hope to work together to lay the foundations for a more sustainable approach to tackling Hong Kong’s plastic waste crisis in future.”

The Programme will also include a series of educational and volunteer activities to engage the wider community and raise awareness of Hong Kong’s plastic issue. The Clean Waterways Initiative has received funding from the Environmental and Conservation Fund of the HKSAR Government to organise educational boat tours for students and community groups. A volunteering programme in partnership with World Wide Fund for Nature Hong Kong will also be launched where experts from the conservation organisation will engage students and HSBC volunteers to learn more about this issue through getting involved in the marine waste collection and sorting process.

HSBC announced an ambitious plan to prioritise financing and investment that supports the transition to a net zero global economy. At the heart of the plan is a pledge to reduce its financed emissions from the customers to net zero by 2050 or sooner, in line with the Paris Agreement. The Bank will also launch a philanthropic programme to donate USD100 million to scale climate innovation ventures, renewable energy, and nature-based solutions between now and 2025.

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Note to editors:

Photo	Caption
	<p>HSBC launches HSBC Clean Waterways Programme, a three-year initiative which aims to remove plastic waste from the city's waters using four zero-emission, solar-powered boats. WONG Kam-sing, Secretary for the Environment, The Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government (left), and Diana CESAR, Chief Executive, Hong Kong, HSBC (right), attended the launch ceremony.</p>

The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited

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