

Corporate initiatives lauded in Hong Kong Smoke-free Leading Company Awards

Organised by Hong Kong Council on Smoking and Health (COSH) together with Occupational Safety and Health Council (OSHC), the Hong Kong Smoke-free Leading Company Awards received a record-breaking 480-plus applications. It represented a significant 40-percent increase compared with 2013. Collectively, the implemented corporate smoke-free policies and measures have benefited a record number of 65,000-plus employees working in progressively more diverse sectors, including construction, retail, logistics, property management and government departments.

The Awards' main objective is to encourage businesses and organisations to promote the smoke-free messages to the various stakeholders, including employees, customers and the general public on a continuous basis. Nearly 50 major chambers of commerce and associations in Hong Kong lent their full support to the Awards by motivating their members to take part. In collaboration with smoking cessation service providers, businesses and organisations advocated the smoke-free culture to all walks of life and encouraged more people to join the "Smoke-free Family".

At the awards presentation ceremony held on 27 February, the officiating guests included

Prof Sophia CHAN (Under Secretary for Food and Health), Dr Cindy LAI (Deputy Director of Health), CHAN Yiu-wah (Acting Deputy Director of Broadcasting (Programmes)), Bonnie YAU (Executive Director, OSHC), Prof LAM Tai-hing (Chair Professor of Community Medicine & Sir Robert Kotewall Professor in Public Health, School of Public Health, The University of Hong Kong), Dr Jeff LEE (Head, Tobacco Control Office, Department of Health), Prof Patrick WONG (Chairman, Quit-Winners Club), Prof Samuel WONG (Head, Division of Family Medicine and Primary Healthcare, The Jockey Club School of Public Health and Primary Care, The Chinese University of Hong Kong), Antonio



The Hong Kong Smoke-free Leading Company Awards attracted over 480 companies to take part and commit to promoting smoke-free culture.

KWONG (COSH Chairman), Yolanda NG (COSH Vice-chairman), Alex FONG and Albert AU (Smoke-free Ambassadors).

Prof Sophia CHAN, Under Secretary for Food and Health claimed that businesses could establish a positive image, fulfill corporate social responsibility and serve as role models for other businesses, resulting in a win-win-win situation for corporations, employees and the community.

COSH Chairman Antonio KWONG said, "Businesses play a significant role in promoting a smoke-free Hong Kong. This is the third year of the Awards, it is very encouraging to see more and more businesses value the health of their employees and the general public. Many innovative, diverse and effective smoke-free measures have been implemented to promote the smoke-free lifestyle through various ways and networks."

Three exemplary companies received the Triple Gold Awards in recognition of their continuous commitment; ten companies received the Gold Awards, and one of them also

received the Most Creative Smoke-free Policy Awards for recognition of its innovative smoke-free initiatives; nine received the Silver Awards and over 450 companies were awarded the Certificates of Merit.

Participating companies have implemented innovative and unique smoke-free measures that are successful in uniting their employees, other stakeholders in their sectors and the general public in creating a smoke-free culture in the city and supportive atmosphere for cessation. The measures included "World No Tobacco Day" promotional events, employees' smoking cessation reward schemes, smoking cessation support group and smoke-free corner that brings co-workers' support to the quitters. Many companies also supported COSH's tailor-made programme "Smoke-free Construction Force" to disseminate smoke-free messages among construction workers whose smoking prevalence is high.

For more information about Hong Kong Smoke-free Leading Company Awards, please visit www.smokefreeleadingcompany.hk.



Officiating guests led and united the business to build a smoke-free Hong Kong.

Triple Gold Award

ARA Asset Management (Fortune) Limited
CITIC Securities International Company Limited
Kwai Chung Hospital

Gold Award

Belle International Holdings Limited
Build King Holdings Limited
Correctional Services Department
DHL Express Hong Kong
Green Island Cement (Holdings) Limited
Link Asset Management Limited
Richform Holdings Limited
The Hong Kong Jockey Club – Retail Department
The 'Star' Ferry Company, Limited
Well Born Real Estate Management Limited
(A Member of Henderson Land Group)

Silver Award

Asia Credit Monitors (Holdings) Limited
China State Construction Engineering (Hong Kong) Limited
Fantastic Natural Cosmetics Limited
Hong Thai Travel Services Ltd
Kai Shing Management Services Limited - Millennium City 5
Nan Fung Group - Main Shine Development Limited (Kwai Chung Plaza)
Savills Guardian Group
The Land Registry
Waihong Environmental Service Group

Most Creative Smoke-free Policy Award

Build King Holdings Limited