

8 June 2010

## **HSBC GREEN ROOF FOR SCHOOLS – 'CITY COOLER AND CLEANER TEACHERS' TOOLKIT' DEBUT**

Green outdoor classrooms have been created on the rooftops of 10 selected schools across Hong Kong since the HSBC Green Roof for Schools programme was launched in 2008. Through the programme, students gain knowledge of the issues related to climate change, study how to build green roofs, develop an interest in horticulture and learn more about ecology as an integral part of the school curriculum.

To enable more students and schools to take action for the environment, HSBC, in partnership with Professor C Y Jim, Chair Professor of Geography, Department of Geography, The University of Hong Kong, publishes the 'City Cooler and Cleaner Teachers' Toolkit.' The Toolkit is the first book in Hong Kong that integrates teaching and learning about green roofs in tandem with topical environmental issues such as climate change and the urban heat island effect, and will be made available to all schools in Hong Kong.

HSBC Head of Corporate Sustainability Asia Pacific Region Teresa Au said: "Being a sustainable bank, HSBC also looks at how we could promote healthy communities and improve education apart from contributing to economic development and growing our profits. The HSBC Green Roof for Schools programme helps lower air temperature and improve air quality; more importantly provides a platform for environmental education and innovation in the local community."

She added: "Climate change is everyone's business. The Bank will continue to encourage more schools and other sectors to participate with support from our employees for building a cooler and cleaner Hong Kong."

## **HSBC Green Roof for Schools – City Cooler and Cleaner Teachers’ Toolkits’ Debut /2**

Since the programme launch, more than 8,000 students and teachers have benefited from green roofs as natural outdoor classrooms. Schools have also implemented various measures to enhance students’ environmental knowledge and improve schools’ environmental performance. These include building an ecology garden, training student environmental ambassadors, setting up environmental protection committee, installing mini wind turbines and practising organic farming.

Principals, teachers and student representatives from over 200 local primary and secondary schools attended the book launch event cum sharing session on green roofs held on World Environment Day, 5 June.

For more information on the HSBC Green Roof for Schools programme, please visit [www.hsbc.com.hk/sustainability](http://www.hsbc.com.hk/sustainability)

*ends/more*

### **Media enquiries:**

Jeanette Kwok + 852 2822 1373 / 6792 3234 [jeanettelykwok@hsbc.com.hk](mailto:jeanettelykwok@hsbc.com.hk)

### **Notes to editors:**

#### **Photo captions**

**Photo 1:** From right: Teresa Au Head of Corporate Sustainability Asia Pacific Region, Stephen Yip Yam-wing, Chief Curriculum Development Officer, Education Bureau, HKSAR Government and Professor C Y Jim., Chair Professor of Geography, Department of Geography, The University of Hong Kong officiated at the launch of the ‘City Cooler and Cleaner Teachers’ Toolkit’ with students of schools participating in HSBC Green Roof for Schools programme. The Toolkit is the first book in Hong Kong that integrates teaching and learning about green roofs in tandem with topical environmental issues such as climate change and the urban heat island effect.

**Photo 2:** Green outdoor classrooms have been created on the rooftops of 10 selected schools across Hong Kong since the HSBC Green Roof for Schools programme was launched in 2008.

### **HSBC Green Roof for Schools**

Initiated by the Hongkong Bank Foundation in collaboration with The University of Hong Kong, the HK\$5 million HSBC Green Roof for Schools programme created green outdoor classrooms for teachers and students in 10 selected schools in Hong Kong. HSBC helped environmentally-conscious customers put their good intentions to practice – even when spending with their credit cards. Customers of Green Credit Card contributed to the setting up of green roofs in schools as HSBC has donated an equivalent sum of 0.1 per cent of cardholder spending to the programme.

### **HSBC Climate Partnership**

The HSBC Climate Partnership programme was initiated in 2007 by HSBC, the world’s first major financial institution to become carbon-neutral, with a total donation of US\$ 100 million. Partnering with four global environment protection organisations – the Climate Group, Earthwatch Institute, Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute and the World Wildlife Fund – the programme will span five years and seek ways to tackle climate change in the fields of forest, water, city and people. For details, please visit:

<http://www.hsbc.com.hk/1/2/cr/community/projects/climatepartnership>.

*ends/all*