

For Immediate Release

13 May 2013

The Secretary for the Environment, Mr Wong Kam-sing, officiated the launching ceremony of World Green Organisation's latest certification program, the Green Office Awards Labelling Scheme (GOALS)

(Hong Kong) – World Green Organisation (WGO), together with the Core Supporting Organisation Junior Chamber International (JCI) North District celebrated the launching of the Green Office Awards Labelling Scheme (GOALS) with a ceremony on 13 May 2013. Mr Wong Kam-sing, JP, Secretary for the Environment, was an Officiating Guest of Honour at the ceremony.

The GOALS scheme aims at raising local business awareness of global environmental challenges and recognising their efforts to implement green best practices in the workplace. Energy consumption in the commercial sector has increased by 28% in the past decade, a number that research shows could be greatly reduced if green practices are incorporated into daily business operations. According to a study conducted by Intertek Testing Services Hong Kong Ltd., WGO's training partner, there are five basic energy-saving measures an average office occupying 10,000 square feet can implement that would annually reduce energy consumption by 120,000 kilowatts, eliminate 84 tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions and save HK\$120,000 on operating costs.

These measures include cleaning air conditioner dust filters regularly, switching off the air conditioner half an hour prior to the end of office hours, using a split air conditioner system, changing to T5 fluorescent lighting and using notebook computers in place of desktop computers. (For details of the energy-saving measures, please refer to the Table 1)

Dr William Yu, CEO of WGO, said, "Small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) make up over 98% of commercial enterprises in Hong Kong and form an important part of the local economy. However, their knowledge of Green Office Best Practice is limited. The GOALS programme includes green training and sharing sessions, both conducted by large corporations who have successfully undergone similar changes within their organisations. It will help SMEs to implement an applicable green best practice, and reduce operation cost in the long term. GOALS is beneficial to everyone. For instance, university students studying in a related field will participate in the scheme as green auditors, an experience that will increase their

environmental awareness and employability even further and encourage them to contribute proactively in the future.”

GOALS offers applicants quality environmental training as well as access to the latest knowledge and skills for environmental best practices in office space. Trained university students will carry out green audits for participating enterprises and prepare a full assessment report, including categories such as energy and water savings, waste reduction and green procurement. Qualified companies will be granted the use of the WGO Green Office Label and the United Nations – UNMDG’s Better World Company Label after successful nomination and verification. For more details about GOALS, please find the link below to the official website:
<http://www.thewgo.org/website/eng/goals-green-office/>

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Today’s photos can be downloaded from the following links:

File Name: WGO-20130513-001

Download link:

http://www.thewgo.org/download/2013/20130513_event/WGO-20130513-001.JPG

Photo caption: Dr William Yu, CEO of WGO said the GOALS programme includes green training and sharing sessions. It will help SMEs to implement an applicable green best practice, and reduce operation cost in the long term.

File Name: WGO-20130513-002 / 003

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http://www.thewgo.org/download/2013/20130513_event/WGO-20130513-002.JPG

http://www.thewgo.org/download/2013/20130513_event/WGO-20130513-003.JPG

Photo caption: WGO together with the Core Supporting Organisation JCI North District celebrated the launching of the Green Office Awards Labelling Scheme (GOALS). Mr Wong Kam-sing, JP, Secretary for the Environment, was an Officiating Guest of Honour at the ceremony.

Table 1: Low carbon tips for offices

Low Carbon Opportunities	Electricity tariff saving (\$/per year)	Electricity Saving (kWh/per year)	Carbon Emissions Saving (kg/per year)
Desktop computers to be replaced with Laptop computers	41,548	41,548	29,084
T8 lighting tubes to be replaced with T5 lighting tubes	33,434	33,434	23,404
Windows-type air-conditioners to be replaced with split-type air-conditioners	21,535	21,535	15,074
Cleaning filters for the air conditioners in your office regularly (at least once a month)	15,382	15,382	10,767
Switching off the air conditioners half hour before the end of office hours	8,190	8,190	5,733
Total amount	120,089	120,089	84,062

Assumption: Office area: 10,000 sq.feet, Electricity tariff : \$1/kWh, Carbon emissions: 0.7 kg/kWh

If this 10,000 sq. feet office without implementation of above mentioned five energy saving measurements, the annual usage will be 439,521 kilowatts. After implementing these measurements, 27% of energy can be saved which is equal to 120,089 kilowatts and HK\$ 120,089 per year.

Source: World Green Organisation and Intertek Testing Services Hong Kong Ltd

Note to Editors

The World Green Organisation (WGO)

The WGO is an independent non-government organisation (NGO) concerned with

environmental conservation and environmentally related livelihood and economic affairs. It provides a holistic approach to a totally integrated three-pronged solution that combines social, environmental and economic aspects for a green revolution.

Junior Chamber International (JCI) North District

JCI North District, founded in 1985, is affiliated with Junior Chamber International Hong Kong. Junior Chamber International is a partner of the United Nations. In recent years, Junior Chamber International has put great effort in promoting active citizen and the United Nations Millennium Development Goals (UNMDGs & UN Global compact). The purpose of Junior Chamber is to contribute to the advancement of the global community by providing the opportunity for the young people to develop their leadership skills, social responsibility, entrepreneurship, and fellowship necessary to create positive changes.

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