



# BEC E-NEWSLETTER

Connecting · Nurturing · Creating for a Sustainable Environment



## FROM 25 TO 30

***BEC's Chief Executive Officer Mr Adam Koo reminisces about his colourful tenure at Business Environment Council ahead of his retirement at end December 2021.***

At the end of this month and calendar year, I shall be retiring and leave BEC after five years leading the organisation. I could still remember my first week on the job. The realisation of the magnitude of expectations ahead totally overwhelmed me to the point that I considered resigning right then. With hindsight, I was glad that my rational side won out and I was able to enjoy my happy tenure at BEC.

2022 marks the 30th year of BEC's establishment. Thinking back to 2017 when I joined, it was coincidentally, also a milestone year as BEC celebrated its 25th anniversary. During my five years here, there had been many ups and downs (fortunately more ups). Here, I would like to recall a few that I am most proud of.

Among important accomplishments was the development of BEC's first three-year strategic plan with the support from BEC Board. The strategy was needed to help define key organisation priorities and focus our sustainability work for greater impact over the three fiscal years of 2019-22. Advisory Group structure was also re-organised for better facilitation of the strategy. Over the past two plus years, implementing the plan had propelled BEC further forward in Hong Kong's corporate sustainability realm.

One sustainability initiative particularly worthy of mention is the BEC Low Carbon Charter. Started in 2019 with only the property & construction sector, now after two years it has grown to nearly 110 signatories covering multiple industries,

all of which have signed up to commit to setting and achieving carbon reduction targets. This is a good example of critical sustainability issues receiving priority attention in Hong Kong's business sector. As a signatory, BEC itself is in process of setting science-based targets and will be ready in 2022.

While the "product engine" of the organisation was making strong progress, it was important our "hardware" were capable to support the positive changes. Among my proudest achievements were renovations carried out for the first time in 25 years to BEC Auditorium and Exhibition Hall utilising the latest green designs and materials to help BEC "walk the talk", and better showcase our building as the "Green Lab".

The new look was well received by the business community and enhanced our position as a preferred event destination. Important improvements were also conducted in the BEC office space for well-being of colleagues, the most notable

was replacing carpets for the entire BEC office and surrounding floor areas for the first time in 20+ years with eco-friendly products made from recycled materials.

Although we have done what we could to prepare BEC to continue to thrive, nobody foresaw the unimaginable events that occurred in Hong Kong over the last two and a half years. First the social unrests followed immediately by the COVID-19 pandemic nearly stopped us all "dead in our tracks". The adverse macro-economic impact on Hong Kong's businesses was massive and resulted in hardship for many industry sectors, the effects of which were fully felt by BEC as our strong 2019 membership growth momentum was halted. As a corporate membership-based organisation, upholding member numbers is important for BEC to maintain its status. Through hard work by the entire BEC team over the past two years, we have successfully reversed the negative trend and I am pleased to see that I depart with BEC member



numbers reaching an all-time high. Like others in our global community, BEC found ways to regain our momentum and continue operations. This did not just apply to membership, but other areas as well. In the process, all of us at BEC continued to learn new things and adapt to ways under the "new normal".

This was only possible with a quality, passionate team and I will no doubt miss my colleagues the most in retirement. I had always enjoyed mingling with my colleagues whether casually in the office or at the many staff activities and gatherings. It allowed me to know my teammates better. Of the numerous staff events in past few years, my favourite was playing "war-games" in 2019. It was great fun for all to shoot at each other and in the process, built team spirit. I also enjoyed greatly the occasional Happy Hour at Dan Ryan's with my management team. Fortunately, this I can still come back for in future.



Looking forward to BEC stepping into its 30th year in 2022, I have a good feeling for the organisation despite the continuing effects of the pandemic restrictions. A solid foundation has been built over past years as a springboard for continued success. BEC is currently enjoying strong momentum as evidenced by the extensive number of collaborative opportunities with high profile local and international partners. So long as we continue to produce quality and impactful work, BEC will be a valued and sought-after counterpart.

I depart buoyed by the unlimited potential that BEC possesses to effect real and substantial sustainability impacts on Hong Kong's business sector as well as the wider community. While the road forward is not easy, I have every confidence BEC will succeed in its goals and in the process the organisation will achieve new heights in the years to come. My best wishes will always be with you. Good luck!

Adam Koo



## BEC EnviroSeries Conference: Transforming Business for Sustainability



BEC held our flagship EnviroSeries Conference “Transforming Business for Sustainability” on 1 December in hybrid mode, attracting close to 900 in-person and online participants including business leaders, entrepreneurs, industry experts, academics and other interested participants from Hong Kong and around the world over the 4 sessions.

BEC Chairman Mr Richard Lancaster delivered a keynote speech on business transformation and sustainability, exemplified by BEC Council Member CLP’s 120-year journey. He emphasised that stakeholder collaboration is essential for sustainable development.



### Session 1: Transforming Buildings and Construction Towards Net-Zero Carbon

- Innovation tools can help monitor and save energy consumption.
- Change requires strong alignment with stakeholders. Therefore, identification of stakeholders and their concerns, and communication with them about sustainability are required. Companies cannot go alone without stakeholders’ support.
- Transforming Hong Kong’s building system is a big challenge but also a big opportunity benefitting all related sectors.
- Education can raise awareness to save energy. More people now pay attention to climate change and decarbonisation, care about the next generation, and aspire to a green and sustainable future.
- Setting clear and measurable decarbonisation target, for example SBTi’s embodied carbon target, is important. We also need to think about scope 3 emissions.
- Property developer should put together a smart energy strategy before starting any development.



### Session 2: Transforming Logistics and Supply Chain for Resilience

- Sustainable design is important in circularity development, by knowing what clients want and eliminate waste by innovative technology.
- To successfully promote sustainability in the whole supply chain, we cannot just tell the vendors to drive it, but actually communicate with them what the benefits are in the business cycle.
- To embed sustainability into business cycle, build up and communicate the linkage between sustainable investment and related benefits with stakeholders is critical.
- Most of the vendors do not understand sustainability. In order to increase transparency throughout the entire supply chain, companies need to provide more education, build up capacity and communicate in their language.
- Gender equality is also one of the ESG concerns for improving resilience in the logistics industry.





### Session 3: Transforming Manufacturing through Digitalisation and Circularity

- Data integration is one of the big challenges for manufacturers. A lot of data is available, but data are of no use until you can integrate and make use of them.
- Management philosophy needs to be changed; leaders should help stakeholders understand the concept of value creation.
- Hong Kong can become a total solution provider during Industry 4.0 as we possess knowledge and expertise in the entire value chain.



### Session 4: Transforming Financial Services for Green Growth

- Collaboration is essential; banks should co-create sustainable finance with their clients.
- Green and sustainable linked financing structures can help companies commit to their sustainability targets.
- The formation of the International Sustainability Standards Board (ISSB) during COP26 will see non-financial reporting becoming more standardised. Stricter standard and auditing are expected.



## BEC + InvestHK Leadership Forum Series #3 – Hong Kong's Climate Action Plan 2050: Energy Saving and Green Buildings



We were honoured to have Secretary for the Environment Mr K.S. Wong giving us a keynote speech on Hong Kong's Climate Action Plan 2050 in the third webinar of BEC + Invest Hong Kong Leadership Forum Series on 7 December. We were also grateful to Dr Vincent Cheng, Mr Jim Taylor, Mr Jonathan Chiu, Mr Arthur Lam, Ir Priscilla Wong, Ir Raymond Poon and Mr Andy Wong for their insights and visions on energy saving and green buildings.

#### Key takeaways:

- 65% of all energy used in Hong Kong is in residential and commercial buildings; reducing energy use in buildings is the easiest way crucial to reduce the reduction of carbon emissions.
- Despite space limitation, response to Feed-in-Tariff scheme has been very strong.
- Digital solution is important in optimising energy consumption and achieving decarbonisation goals. Stakeholders in the buildings industry like engineers, contractors and developers should adopt a digital mindset to overcome challenges.
- Collaboration and engagement with key stakeholders such as architects, design consultants to contractors are key.





## Briefing Session on Public Engagement on Control of Single-use Plastics

As a supporting organisation of the Council for Sustainable Development's public engagement on control of single-use plastics, BEC was pleased to have Ir Kenny Wong, Ir Prof Daniel M Cheng and Ms Suzanne Cheung sharing thoughts and practical actions at the briefing session on 10 December.

### Key takeaways:

- The Government is determined to control single-use plastics.
- Changing customer behaviour and lifestyle is the key to reducing single-use plastics – learning from consumers' angle, thinking of the reasons behind, and launching user responsibility scheme are good starting points.
- Procurement staff should be properly briefed regarding eco-alternatives and whether it is applicable and suitable to be used in Hong Kong.
- Switching to alternatives may lower productivity and increase cost. We need to strike a balance between business viability and sustainability.
- More information and mass education should be provided to better engage the public.
- Adding recycling label and guideline on the packaging on local and imported goods would support consumers to make informed buying decisions.
- Waste management plays a big part in achieving the 2050 carbon neutrality goal.



## BEC Seasonal Cocktail

BEC was pleased to stage our first Seasonal Cocktail in 2 years in our Exhibition Hall on 16 December. Chairman Mr Richard Lancaster expressed his sincere thanks to all our members and partners for their unwavering support to BEC during the pandemic.

Next year marks our 30th anniversary. BEC will continue to facilitate dialogues between the business sector and the government, and strive to be a reliable partner on our members' decarbonisation and sustainability journey. Please stay tuned for our celebration activities in 2022!



## Science in the Public Service

BEC continued our support to Hong Kong Observatory's Science in the Public Service this year, with the aims of promoting climate change and sustainability to the general public. We have welcomed a public tour to BEC Building last month to introduce green building features and their contributions to carbon reduction to the participants. Our Director – Policy & Research Mr Simon Ng also hosted a talk at Science Museum with the topic of “Low Carbon Transport in Hong Kong” in December to share green transport solutions including electric vehicles and change of commuting habits, so as to transform Hong Kong to a more liveable city.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

**BEC Spring Lunch** 24 February

Save the date! BEC is pleased to invite you all to our Spring Lunch in February where BEC members, business leaders and industry experts will gather and celebrate the New Year of the Tiger. Registration details will be announced in due course. Stay tuned!

## Not a BEC Member yet?



Join us now to enjoy member exclusive rights and benefits! Please visit [HERE](#) or contact **Membership Team** (T. 2784 3960 | E. [membership@bec.org.hk](mailto:membership@bec.org.hk)) to explore more.

Want to share your company's latest green news with over 6,000 BEC newsletter subscribers from various industries? BEC Council, Corporate and General Members are welcomed to submit their exciting news/ technology/ activities related to sustainability and environmental excellence to us. Please contact **Ms Jaz Chan** (T. 2784 3912 | E. [jazchan@bec.org.hk](mailto:jazchan@bec.org.hk)) for submissions and enquiries.

## UPCOMING COURSES: BEC IEE TRAINING



The BEC Institute of Environmental Education (“BEC IEE”) offers a variety of courses for business professionals, including senior executives and managers, to advance their knowledge and skill sets. Click on the course titles below for more details:

[How to Set Science Based Targets \(SBT\) and Net Zero](#)



12 January

[Carbon Audit Step by Step](#)



11 February

[GRI Professional Certification Program: 3-day Standard Training](#)



16-18 February



# MEMBERS CORNER

## Council Members

**Airport Authority Hong Kong (“AAHK”)** unveiled in December the target and strategy to achieve net zero carbon by 2050 at Hong Kong International Airport, with a midpoint target of 55% reduction of absolute emissions by 2035 from a 2018 baseline. To achieve the target, AAHK has formulated a carbon management action plan to reduce both direct and indirect emissions. Major reduction measures include electrification of airside vehicles, a ground services equipment pooling scheme, piloting of renewable diesel and implementation of energy efficiency initiatives.



The Sai Sha Road Widening Works project, a joint venture by **Gammon**, was awarded Gold Award (Construction Industry) at the 2020 Hong Kong Awards for Environmental Excellence. The project team carried out holistic tree management digitally by using tree-health sensors onsite. A 180-tonne giant twin tree was relocated using remote controlled twin bogies, reducing transplanting time and increasing the chance of survival in a Hong Kong first. Besides, the overall carbon footprint was reduced through early site electrification, using a design for manufacture and assembly approach for drainage construction and installing a solar PV system. Sustainable construction was further enhanced through the use of a Hybrid Reality Platform and 3D visualisations, which enabled better planning, engineering solutions development and environmental risk identification.



[Click HERE to learn more](#)

In support of its long-term sustainability ambition and 2030 Sustainability Goals and Targets, **Hang Lung Properties** has taken another big step forward by setting out 25 Sustainability Targets to be achieved by the end of 2025. These 25 x 25 Sustainability Targets address the company’s four Priorities under its Sustainability Framework, namely Climate Resilience, Resource Management, Wellbeing and Sustainable Transactions. These targets define concrete and quantifiable measures Hang Lung will pursue to address significant sustainability challenges, providing all employees with a clear agenda over the next four years and ensuring the company is on track to achieve its long-term ambition of becoming one of the most sustainable real estate companies in the world.



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**Kerry Properties** is honoured to attain a Five-star rating in the Global Real Estate Sustainability Benchmark (“GRESB”) in 2021. The company ranked 1st in terms of Public Disclosure scores under the China-HKSAR/Diversified comparison group, overall GRESB scores ranked 2nd in Eastern Asia and 3rd globally in the Diversified Listed category. As a new entrant to this international benchmarking scheme, Kerry Properties is encouraged by the improvement it has achieved, recognising its dedication to sustainability. Through aligning with its Sustainability Vision 2030 and UNSDGs, Kerry Properties will strive to play its part as a socially responsible company in creating a sustainable future.



## MEMBERS CORNER

**Swire Properties** has once again taken global leadership positions in three of the world's most recognised sustainability indices and benchmarks. For the fifth year in a row, Swire Properties was the only constituent company from Hong Kong to be listed in the Dow Jones Sustainability World Index ("DJSI World"). The company was ranked 7th globally and 1st in Asia. The company also retained its Global Sector Leader title in the Global Real Estate Sustainability Benchmark ("GRESB") for the fifth consecutive year and ranked 1st in the Hang Seng Corporate Sustainability Index ("HSSUS") for the fourth year in a row – achieving the highest total score among all assessed companies.

[Click HERE to learn more](#)

In December, **HK Electric** received award labels under the CarbonCare Label scheme launched by a local green group for its efforts on reducing greenhouse gas ("GHG") emissions at its headquarters Hongkong Electric Centre. To reduce GHG emissions, various ongoing mitigation measures have been implemented in its headquarters such as streamlining commuting bus schedule to reduce oil consumption, increasing usage of electric vehicles, optimising the operation of air conditioning system, recycling the used refrigerants of chillers, adopting green printing solution at workplace to save paper and supporting environmental campaigns to raise employees' awareness of low-carbon lifestyle.

### Corporate Members

A project site of **China Harbour Engineering Company Limited** in Shatin joined the "No Air Con Night 2021" in October where over half of its staff and workers pledged to support low carbon living. The project site also supported the "Plastic-Free HK 2021" campaign by promoting the recycling and reduction of plastic bottles on site.

Based on the judging criteria on uniqueness, effectiveness, and dynamism, **CN Logistics ("CNL")** won the National Business Awards 2021 - Logistics and the Corporate Environmental Leadership of the Year (Logistics) in October and November, respectively. These accolades demonstrated the group's pioneering efforts and commitment to offer a forward-thinking initiative with global recognition and international quality standards on reducing the impact of our business practices in the logistics sector.

[Click HERE to learn more](#)

The annual sustainability event at **Hactl** - Green Week took place in December to promote the theme "Be Greener" through an online platform and Green Market. The company revamped its signature Green Market this year by recruiting employees as booth owners to advocate nine sustainability themes. The staff co-worked with NGOs to ascertain the sustainability message behind the products and thereby formulate marketing and education strategies. Hactl's social inclusion and upcycling projects were also showcased to walk the participants through the company's sustainability journey. Hactl would like to create momentum and be a greener terminal with its staff and the community.





## MEMBERS CORNER

In November, **JLL** was pleased to announce its Net Zero 2040 Target certified by the Science Based Target initiative (“SBTi”) as meeting their Net-Zero Standard – one of the only seven companies to get certified. The target commits JLL to reduce its scope 1, 2 and 3 carbon emissions by 51% by 2030 and 95% by 2040 from a 2018 base year. JLL has also committed to reach net-zero greenhouse gas emissions across the value chain by 2040.

[Click HERE to learn more](#)



**MTR Corporation (“MTR”)** was awarded the Hong Kong Sustainability Award and other special recognition awards in the “Hong Kong Sustainability Awards 2020/21” in December. These awards recognised MTR’s outstanding ESG performance by embedding sustainability into its business and operations. MTR is the only company this year to receive the Hong Kong Sustainability Award and all five special recognition awards. With the aspiration of “Keeping Cities Moving”, MTR will continue to implement various initiatives to advance its social objectives: fostering social inclusion, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and providing opportunities to empower people and communities.



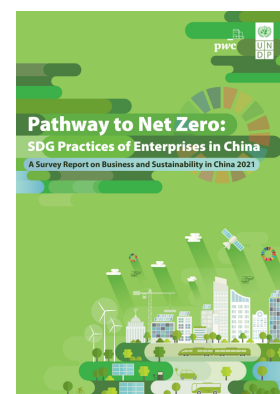
**Arup** claimed a double win at the HKGBC Advancing Net Zero Ideas Competition, scooping the top awards in both the “Future Building” and “Existing Building” categories for its “Taikoo Green Ribbon” and “The Living Lab” projects, respectively. Taikoo Green Ribbon is a unique and innovative workplace that introduces an entirely new urban eco-lifestyle concept addressing the needs of a future workplace; The Living Lab adopts a holistic design approach to reduce energy demand and increase on-site renewable energy generation. The accolades underline Arup’s strong commitment to sustainable development and expertise in delivering net zero buildings, contributing to Hong Kong’s 2050 carbon neutrality pledge.

[Click HERE to learn more](#)

# ARUP

In December, **PwC** China co-published “Pathway to Net Zero: SDG Practices of Enterprises in China” with an international organisation and a business chamber to provide an overview of how companies in China are engaging with the SDGs. The report includes a review of current practices and key trends across time, as well as discussions of future opportunities and common challenges. It also provides actionable recommendations alongside case studies which showcase best practice to assist the corporate sector in China to better align their business practices with the SDGs.

[Click HERE to learn more](#)



At the 4th China International Import Expo in November, **SGS** announced a partnership with a multinational technology corporation to launch the industry's first dual-standard S-Carbon digital carbon management intelligent cloud platform. It helps companies achieve carbon neutrality goal by identifying the most suitable area, reference data, and methods while calculating enterprise carbon emissions, with results compliant with Chinese regulatory authorities and requirements of international ISO 14064-1 guidelines on quantification and reporting.

[Click HERE to learn more](#)



## MEMBERS CORNER

**Swire Coca-Cola HK ("SCCHK")** was awarded Diamond Enterprise in GS1 Hong Kong's 1st edition of "Quality Food Scheme+", recognised as one of the top companies that demonstrated outstanding performance in food safety management, control and traceability. Despite the pandemic posing continuous threat to the food industry, consumer confidence can be boosted with SCCHK's stringent internal protocols on operations and strong compliance to internationally accredited food safety standards.

[Click HERE to learn more](#)



Reducing greenhouse gas emissions demands decarbonisation efforts across all sectors. **WSP** released a whitepaper in October on how intelligent transport system can accelerate the decarbonisation of road transportation. Harnessing the collective know-how of in-house professionals and project experience around the world, this analysis is a "greenprint" to help make the rapid transition to solutions that minimise and ultimately eliminate carbon impacts. The company proposed a holistic perspective – one that considers people, processes, places, infrastructure, vehicles, technology and associated data – to advance comprehensive change as societies set targets and form pathways to achieve net zero ambitions.

[Click HERE to learn more](#)



### General Members

In November, **Canvest Environmental Protection Group Company Limited** was named an ESG Leading Enterprise in Category II at the ESG Leading Enterprise Awards 2021. Winning the award is a testament to the professional recognition Canvest enjoys for its performance in corporate management and ESG. Canvest will continue to strengthen corporate management, implement its sustainable development strategies and maintain close communication with investors and analysts.

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**Cornerstone Technologies** is developing a software system to support 1,800 EV chargers under different brands across 70 government car parks. Available by early 2022, this system is supported by a mobile app for EV drivers to locate nearby vacant public chargers, both the availability and type of chargers. This service is another avenue to encourage more people to switch to emission-free vehicles.

[Click HERE to learn more](#)



**Crown Gas Stoves (Holdings) Company Limited** has, through cooperation with its business partner, developed a IoT compatible weighing scale for LPG gas cylinders and rubbish bins. If the remaining LPG in the gas cylinder is below a certain pre-set weight, the device will transmit an alert message to the user. This IoT technology can monitor the waste level and help with a better waste collection plan, creating a greener office or home. This can also help corporates prepare their annual ESG audit report.





## MEMBERS CORNER

**Energys Spectrum Limited** has seen a technological breakthrough in LED products with the launch of a redesigned LED Backlit Panel Light in Q4 2021, which provides maximised savings for carbon footprint conscious users with an impressive 100,000-hour lifetime and 125lm/W efficacy. The light can save up to 70% energy compared to traditional lamps.

[Click HERE to learn more](#)



**GlobeScan's** latest public opinion research in December shows that 39% of retail investors around the world say they have invested with ESG in mind and another 39% say they have considered it. Shareholders in Asian markets, especially China, Thailand and Vietnam, are most likely to have already bought or sold shares because of the company's social and environmental responsibility approach. In addition, Asian shareholders, especially in China, South Korea, Thailand and Vietnam, are the most likely to have increased ESG investments or plan to do so.

[Click HERE to learn more](#)



In November, **GreenCo ESG Advisory Limited** received a certificate from Environmental Campaign Committee for its pursuit of environmental initiatives in the 2020 Hong Kong Green Innovations Awards. Last year, GreenCo brought its two innovative ESG solutions, namely Corporate Carbon Management & Climate Target-Setting Model, and ESG Policy Integration & Performance Evaluation, to empower companies especially SMEs, to integrate ESG concepts and tools into corporate management.

[Click HERE to learn more](#)



On 26 November, **Humans Matter** held a Climate Fresk workshop where change makers from various industries, NGOs and universities played this serious game in 3 teams. Through collective intelligence, the participants enhanced their understanding and knowledge of climate change causes and effects. More than an educational tool, the game develops participants' sense of agency and boost their ability to drive collective action. The event helped raise funds to support a local green group's climate action and advocacy.

[Click HERE to learn more](#)



In December, **Intertek** presented at the Sustainable Development, Renewable Energy, and Waste Management Webinar Series in honour of India's 75 years of independence. During the webinar, Intertek shared with the audience the importance of net-zero emissions, ways companies can become net-zero and the emergence of scope 3 emissions, to help develop strategic portfolio initiatives and aiding them in net-zero emission journey.

[Click HERE to learn more](#)



## MEMBERS CORNER

**TÜV Rheinland** has debuted the first “Real-time Carbon Footprint Simulation and Optimisation Design System based on Life Cycle Assessment” in the testing inspection and certification (“TIC”) industry. The project subverts the traditional operation process in the TIC industry, bringing forward the rectification stages and applying the “Real-time Carbon Footprint Simulation and Optimisation” from the product development and design stage. It proceeds from data integration, builds a model, calculates carbon emissions, and finally puts forward a product optimisation plan, providing a visualised and accurate carbon emissions calculation system to help enterprises explore potential carbon emissions problems in R&D and design.



### Recently Published Sustainability Report

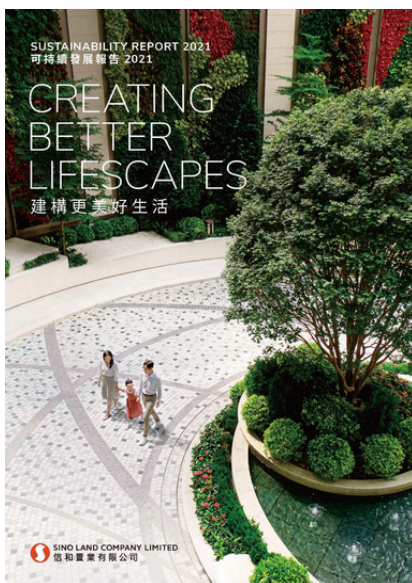
#### Airport Authority Hong Kong



#### Sun Hung Kai Properties Limited



#### Sino Land Company Limited



## WELCOME NEW BEC MEMBERS

### Corporate Member

- Jones Lang LaSalle Limited



### General Members

- Greentins Technology Limited
- HUMAN(S) MATTER
- Livehome (Hong Kong) Limited

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