









**MARCH 2024** 

# BEC E-NEWSLETTER

Connecting · Nurturing · Creating for a Sustainable Environment



# THE FIRST HONG KONG CLIMATE FORUM -GREATER BAY AREA CLIMATE ACTION AND COOPERATION

Co-organised by the Institute for Climate and Carbon Neutrality of The University of Hong Kong and BEC, "The First Hong Kong Climate Forum – Greater Bay Area Climate Action and Cooperation" held on 25-26 March gathered climate experts, business leaders, and government officials from Mainland China and overseas to discuss and offer high-level insights on climate policy, climate finance and carbon markets, and clean technology innovation. This forum represents a significant milestone in highlighting Hong Kong's pivotal role as a hub for climate research, green innovation, and sustainable finance, while fostering connections between the Greater Bay Area and the global community.

As a special event of the Forum, a Business Leadership Breakfast organised by BEC and sponsored by Swire Properties Limited was held on 26 March, bringing together government officials and VIPs from Mainland China, as well as local business leaders representing various sectors, for a high-level conversation on climate policy and action plans, sectoral decarbonisation strategies, and Bay-to-Bay collaboration. Our mainland VIPs include Ms Zhou Guomei, Director General, International Affairs, Ministry of Ecology and Environment; and Mr Tian Chengchuan, Director General, FECO of Ministry of Ecology and Environment.







#### **BEC Shenzhen & Foshan Technical and Exchange Tour**

BEC Shenzhen & Foshan Technical and Exchange Tour took place on 13-14 March. A delegation of 25 participants gained a deeper understanding of the development of green energy, electric vehicles and hydrogen technologies in Mainland China through this two-day tour.

On Day One, delegates first attended the HSBC Environmental Technology Industry Exchange Forum at the Hong Kong Science Park Shenzhen Branch. The forum was kick-started by the opening remarks from Mr Huifeng Zhang, Regional Head of Corporate Sustainability Asia Pacific of HSBC. Then, Ms Shitong She, Senior ESG Analyst of CECEP Environmental Consulting, presented the latest HSBC Greater Bay Area ESG Index, which reached a new high of 127.29. Mr LIN Zhikai, Director of the Shenzhen Financial Authority, along with representatives from HSBC and environmental technology companies, shared valuable insights and experiences on the sustainability ecosystem and energy transition development in GBA.









In the afternoon, the delegation had the opportunity to visit the renowned BYD Worldwide Headquarters, an industry leader in electronics, automotives, new energy and rail transit. Mr Raymond Cheung, Chief Operating Officer of BYD Hong Kong and representatives from BYD introduced their cutting-edge innovations. Delegates also had the unique experience of riding the BYD SkyShuttle, the world's only battery electric, medium capacity, driverless people mover for urban transit application.

On Day Two, the delegation headed to Foshan and first visited the Foran Energy Nanzhuang integrated energy station. Representatives from Foran Energy introduced the hydrogen fueling station and production facilities, highlighting the advantages of integrating the fueling and hydrogen production at one single station.

Afterwards, the delegation traveled to the Sinosynergy showroom, an enterprise providing hydrogen fuel cell products and solutions. The showroom displayed the fuel cell models and e-platform. Representative of Sinosynergy provided insights into the worldwide development and position, strategy, and supply chain of hydrogen energy in Mainland China.

The last stop of the visit brought the delegates to the vehicle manufacturing factory of Feichi Technology, a vehicle company integrating R&D, production, and sales of new energy vehicles. Mr Maritin Guan, Secretary of the Board and Director of General Manager Office of Feichi Technology, introduced the Hydrogen Fuel Series Vehicles to the delegates.





A big thank you to our invaluable supporting organisations, including BYD, Feichi Technology, Foran Energy, Hong Kong Science Park Shenzhen Branch, HSBC, Sinosynergy and Towngas, for their incredible support and hospitality in arranging the event.

#### **BEC Net-zero Carbon Charter Annual Event 2024**

The BEC Net-zero Carbon Charter Annual Event 2024 was successfully held on 4 March. During the event, we welcomed new signatories and celebrated the progress made by current signatories. Esteemed representatives also offered insights on the CDP disclosure cycle for 2023 and shared about their experiences in the BEC Carbon Disclosure Programme.



#### 10 Years+ Member Appreciation Ceremony 2024

BEC held its "10 Years+ Member Appreciation Ceremony" on 19 March to recognise and show appreciation to 15 member organisations who entered their tenth or twentieth year of BEC membership. The ceremony also marked a significant milestone as BEC proudly welcomed an increasing number of member organisations, resulting in a total membership count of over 290.

Mr Kevin O'Brien, Chairman of BEC, expressed his gratitude to all long-standing members for their enduring support, as their continued partnership and engagement with BEC have been instrumental in shaping BEC's success.



Click here to learn more

# **BEC IN THE SPOTLIGHT**



#### Podcast Interview with BEC CEO by "Unlock ESG"

BEC CEO Mr Simon Ng was invited to share his insights in Matters Academy's podcast programme "Unlock ESG", where he introduced BEC Net-zero Carbon Charter and discussed the challenges and opportunities around decarbonisation of the business sectors.

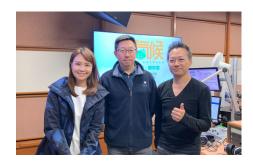
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#### Radio Interview with BEC CEO by RTHK "Climate Watcher"

BEC CEO Mr Simon Ng was invited to RTHK's radio programme "Climate Watcher" on 9 March to share about BEC's initiatives, ESG awareness among the business community, and local environmental policies such as MSW charging.

Click here to learn more



#### **BEC Opinion Article on Master Insight**

An opinion article on Sustainable Aviation Fuel written by BEC Head – Policy & Research Merlin Lao and BEC Assistant Manager – Policy & Research Clement Cheung was published on *Master Insight* on 18 March.

# **UPCOMING EVENTS** M

#### BEC CEO Dialogue - Accelerating Digital Transformation for a Net-zero Future

In the upcoming BEC CEO Dialogue, we will delve into the theme of "Accelerating Digital Transformation for a Net-zero Future". We are honoured to have Mr Erdal Elver, President and Chief Executive Officer of Siemens Hong Kong and Macao, as our distinguished guest. Together with our co-host Mr Andy Yeung, Board Director of BEC and Director and Head of Technical Services of Hongkong Land, they will engage in a thought-provoking discussion on the pivotal role of digital transformation in driving a net-zero future.

Click here to learn more

### **CEO DIALOGUE Accelerating Digital Transformation** for a Net-zero Future 17 April 2024 (Wed) **Q** BEC Auditorium

17 April



#### 23 April



#### **Expert Talk with David Gottfried**

Join us at the Expert Talk with David Gottfried on 23 April co-organised by the Hong Kong Green Building Council ("HKGBC") and BEC, and kindly sponsored by the U.S. Consulate General Hong Kong and Macau. With the theme of "Catalysing Green Building Movements at Scale: Think Global, Inspire Local", this event promises to be an enlightening experience for all green building professionals in Hong Kong that you do not want to miss.

During the event, Mr David Gottfried, renowned for his exceptional contributions to the global sustainable building movement, will draw upon his vast experience and insights and discuss the global trend of the green building movement, providing inspiration and valuable perspectives to further propel Hong Kong's development in this field. Mr Gottfried's presentation will be followed by an interactive Q&A session, allowing the audience to engage directly with him.

Click here to learn more

### **UPCOMING COURSES: BEC IEE TRAINING**

A new BEC IEE training programme with course offerings during the period from April to September 2024 will be available in early April. Please keep an eye on the BEC website: <a href="https://bec.org.hk/en/environmental-education">https://bec.org.hk/en/environmental-education</a>

# RETHINK HK CORNER (#



BEC is thrilled to share the exciting news of our ongoing collaboration with EnviroEvents (Rethink) Limited as the exclusive co-organiser of ReThink HK 2024. The upcoming edition will take place on 12-13 September 2024 at Hall 1, Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre, and will feature a brand new sector "Smart Mobility & Transportation".

Eight themed conference theatres and stages will cover all industries in Hong Kong and provide delegates with in-depth ESG-related knowledge and actionable strategies for achieving the SDGs. The BEC Business Transformation Theatre themed "Embracing Circularity for Sustainable Living" highlights the need to adopt circular economy principles and practices to achieve an environmentally more sustainable way of life.

BEC Members are entitled to exclusive benefits and perks at ReThink HK 2024. Join us and be part of the journey!



# **ESG CORNER**

#### **Exploring the Synergy Between ESG and Nature Positive for a Sustainable Future**

As the world faces environmental challenges and advocates for sustainable practices, a key concept called "nature positive" has emerged. According to the World Economic Forum, nature positive means enhancing the resilience of our planet and societies to halt and reverse nature loss.

In essence, nature positive goes beyond conservation efforts and seeks to restore and protect the natural environment while promoting human well-being. It emphasises actively enhancing the natural world instead of simply halting environmental degradation. Nature positive initiatives encompass various actions such as reforestation, habitat restoration, sustainable land management, and biodiversity conservation. The overarching goal is to ensure that human activities have a net positive impact on the environment.

ESG and nature positive are closely intertwined, with nature positive initiatives forming a significant component of the environmental aspect of ESG. By incorporating nature positive practices, companies demonstrate their commitment to environmental stewardship, sustainability, and biodiversity conservation. For example, reforestation efforts help sequester carbon, mitigate climate change, and protect biodiversity. Sustainable land management practices ensure the responsible use of resources and reduce ecological footprints, aligning with ESG's focus on environmental sustainability.

Moreover, stakeholder engagement is an important social aspect of ESG. Nature positive initiatives often involve collaboration with local communities, indigenous peoples, and environmental organisations. Such engagement fosters social cohesion and inclusivity, reflecting the social aspect of ESG.

Additionally, the governance aspect of ESG emphasises responsible leadership, transparency, and accountability. Nature positive initiatives require long-term planning, effective governance structures, and robust reporting mechanisms. By integrating nature positive practices into their governance frameworks, companies demonstrate their commitment to sustainable practices and responsible decision-making.

The synergy between ESG and nature positive extends beyond compliance and risk mitigation. It presents an opportunity for companies to unlock potential benefits and create positive impacts on multiple fronts.

Firstly, nature positive initiatives can improve a company's ESG performance, particularly in the environmental aspect. By actively enhancing the natural environment, companies showcase their commitment to sustainability, reducing reputational risks and attracting socially responsible investors.

Secondly, nature positive practices often require innovative solutions, technology adoption, and collaboration. Such endeavours foster resilience, enabling companies to adapt to environmental challenges and capitalise on emerging opportunities while aligning with the innovation and resilience aspects of ESG.

Lastly, combining ESG and nature positive creates a holistic sustainability approach. By addressing environmental, social, and governance factors, companies can forge a path towards a sustainable future that balances economic growth with environmental preservation and social responsibility.

Embracing the synergetic impact of ESG and nature positive is essential for the business community seeking to navigate the complexities of our ever-changing environment while leaving a positive legacy for our future generations.



### MEMBERS CORNER ~~~

#### **Council Members**

**Airport Authority Hong Kong ("AAHK")** is implementing a Fisheries Enhancement Fund ("FEF") to promote the sustainable development of the fishing industry in Hong Kong. With funding support from FEF, a team at The University of Hong Kong has developed a farming system for *Holothuria scabra*, a threatened sea cucumber species in Hong Kong, and has been training local fishermen to apply the aquaculture methods in sea cucumber farming. Additionally, the team has been helping local fishermen to explore market opportunities by putting them in contact with dried seafood companies, which have shown great interest in locally farmed sea cucumbers that cost less than imported or caught products.



**Chinachem Group** has achieved remarkable results in two prestigious sustainability ratings in 2023, including a B rating in the CDP Climate Change 2023 and a 4-star GRESB rating. These accomplishments reflect its commitment to creating better and more liveable places with heart and serving the communities. Chinachem Group's sustainability report will be launched soon, sharing more updates on its sustainability journey.

**CLP** has updated its Climate Vision 2050, which sets out the group's blueprint for powering an orderly transition to a net-zero greenhouse gas emissions business by mid-century. Following an extensive review, CLP strengthened its decarbonisation target for 2030 to bring it closer to the goal of limiting global warming to 1.5°C. It is maintaining existing commitments including phasing out coal before 2040. "We fully appreciate that we are at the front end of the value chain to enable reduced emissions to address climate change across a broad spectrum of the economy," CLP Chief Executive Officer Mr T.K. Chiang said.

Click here to learn more

China State Construction Engineering (Hong Kong) Limited aims to be a market leader by excelling in site management with innovative technology. Its "7+2+1" Smart Construction Site Standard have led to the development of the C-SMART system for the construction industry. The C-SMART suite contains over 40 modules, enabling safety management, mechanical equipment management, environment and energy consumption management through Al-based passage and floor surveillance, smart locks, drainage water level sensors, etc. The newest version, C-SMART 4.0, is the first digital platform to 100% satisfy the Development Bureau's 4S requirements. C-SMART is now applied in over 200 construction sites across Mainland China and Hong Kong.

Hang Lung Properties has achieved recognition in the prestigious S&P Global Sustainability Yearbook, which acknowledges the top 15% ESG performers in the Real Estate Management & Development industry. Following the 2023 Corporate Sustainability Assessment of over 9,400 companies, only 759 were selected for the 2024 Sustainability Yearbook. This marks the second consecutive year that Hang Lung Properties has been included, underscoring its unwavering dedication to sustainability practices, and solidifying its position as a leader in the field.











# MEMBERS CORNER ~~~

Innovation is an important driving force behind **Henderson Land**'s sustainable development and business growth. The company's efforts are recognised by the China Smart Building Precertification Accreditation. Awarded the highly prestigious Three Star Pioneer Rating, Henderson Land's new flagship commercial development The Henderson is the first office building in China to be given this accolade and the first project to achieve an assessment mark of over 100. Ahead of its opening, The Henderson has already garnered a number of awards, attesting to its dedication to deploying cutting-edge building technologies to shape a greener city.

**Kerry Properties** is included in the S&P Global Sustainability Yearbook 2024 for the first time, recognised as a corporation that excels in ESG and sustainability within the global real estate sector. The group has also achieved the second highest A- rating in the CDP Climate Change 2023, improving from its previous B rating, and the highest GRESB 5-Star Rating for three consecutive years. The accolades underscore its progressive efforts in enhancing climate management and commitment to sustainability. Kerry Properties is steadfast in its commitment to engaging stakeholders in promoting sustainable practices, exemplified by the launch of the "Dark Green Lease" initiative and the implementation of the "Supplier Low Carbon Stewardship Scheme".





Photographer: Virgile Simon Bertrand



Sun Hung Kai Properties Limited ("SHKP") is included in the S&P Global Sustainability Yearbook 2024 for the second consecutive year, standing out as one of the 759 outperforming companies over 9,400 peers across 62 industries in the 2023 Corporate Sustainability Assessment. This international distinction recognises SHKP's outstanding ESG performance, positioning the group among the top 15% of companies in the Real Estate Management & Development industry worldwide. The company will remain dedicated to fostering a sustainable future that mutually benefits all its stakeholders, while continuously upholding its strong commitment to ESG practices.

Click here to learn more



**Swire Pacific** has once again been recognised in the S&P Global Sustainability Yearbook. The Yearbook, which is based on the 2023 Corporate Sustainability Assessment, acknowledges the top performers in corporate sustainability. Out of over 9,400 assessed companies, only 759 were selected for inclusion. This inclusion highlights the company's continuous commitment on building long-term, sustainable value for its shareholders and stakeholders.



# MEMBERS CORNER ~~~

Swire Properties has been recognised by the financial industry for its pioneering efforts in promoting green financing in the real estate industry, especially the successful launch of Hong Kong's first and largest-ever corporate public RMB3.2 billion green bonds in 2023. The company received several awards, including the "Best ESG Issuer in Asia" at the FinanceAsia Achievement Awards 2023 – topping over 680 high-calibre organisations. The green dim sum bonds offering also received three awards at the FinanceAsia Achievement Awards 2023, IFR Asia Awards 2023 and The Asset Triple A Awards 2024. Swire Properties will continue to pursue its target in achieving a minimum of 80% of bond and loan facilities from green financing by 2030 to support the HKSAR Government's master plan on green transition and carbon neutrality.



Click here to learn more

**Towngas** and its subsidiary both received an upgrade in the CDP Climate Change 2023 score from "B" to "A-", recognising their leadership in environmental transparency and best practice in strategy and action on climate change. Towngas is committed to achieving carbon neutrality by 2050 through energy transition and innovation, including the development of renewable energy, waste-to-energy, green hydrogen, energy efficiency improvement, methane reduction, and other collaborative projects with universities and research institutes. To enhance Scope 3 carbon emission quantification and raise awareness on climate change issues, Towngas also engages suppliers to quantify and reduce carbon emissions.



#### **Corporate Members**

Inspired by the elegance of paper planes and built with advanced engineering practices and sustainability in mind, 11 SKIES is a one-of-a-kind infrastructure that is set to transform the urban experience in Hong Kong. **AECOM**'s multidisciplinary team worked with partners in the industry to deliver the city's biggest retail, dining and entertainment destination to date. This project has achieved an impressive sustainability milestone with triple Platinum certifications from BEAM Plus, LEED and WELL. It can generate around 200,000 kWh of energy, reducing 1.8 million kg of carbon emissions annually, and can save approximately 7,700 m³ of potable water each year.



Click here to learn more

**ATAL** continued to support "Green Run", an annual charity sports event organised by a local green group to raise public awareness of environmental stewardship. As an active part of the community, ATAL supports green living initiatives within its workplace and in the broader environment. Demonstrating the competitive spirit found in long-distance runners for environmental responsibility, the ATAL team secured the second runner-up position in the 10k Green Corporate Team Race.



# MEMBERS CORNER ~~~

Hong Kong's first-ever hydrogen double deck bus has commenced service on **Citybus** Route 20 in late February, with many customers on board sharing the joy of this historic moment. The hydrogen bus will expand its operations to two additional routes in the next phase, enabling the company to gather further invaluable operational insights into real-world scenarios. Citybus stands as an industry leader in zero-emission transformation, being the sole franchised bus company in Hong Kong with extensive experience in research and development by its skilled engineering team and valuable real-world operating experience of both double deck electric and hydrogen buses.



DynaSys Solutions supports fellow BEC member Nan Fung Group's endeavours by implementing the smart waste management system GreenBird across Hong Kong. The adoption of Greenbird solutions has been extended from shopping malls and commercial buildings to residential sites under Nan Fung's property management. DynaSys' smart waste management solution enables Nan Fung to collect waste weight data for different waste types, including recyclables, from these diverse residential locations at the source. The data is then transferred to the Cloud database for further analysis. Through the benchmarking module in the system, Nan Fung's property management team can measure the KPIs for each site in waste management. These valuable insights facilitate strategic decisions, empowering DynaSys' client in effectively achieving its ESG goals.



The **Great Eagle Group**'s Champion REIT achieved a significant milestone with Three Garden Road becoming Hong Kong's first "triple platinum" Grade-A office building in Existing Buildings certification. By steadily upgrading the complex with new systems and technologies, it successfully reduced carbon emissions by 32% and energy usage by 17%. Team efforts also resulted in LEED "v4.1 Operations and Maintenance: Existing Buildings" Platinum, WELL Healthy Building Standard v2 Core Platinum, and BEAM Plus Existing Building v2.0 Comprehensive Scheme Final Platinum certifications. These accolades set the standard for existing buildings and align with the group's Climate Leadership Strategy for net-zero impact by 2045.



Click here to learn more

Hike for Future is **HAECO**'s signature environmental event that aims to enhance staff's environmental awareness through trail cleanup. Celebrating World Wetlands Day this year, over 35 staff members and their family members joined to clean up Tung O Ancient Trail and protect Tung Chung Wetland. Along the 15-km route, participants collected a total of 105 kg of trash. Participants were introduced to the rich natural and cultural assets, as well as the wetland biodiversity, wrapping up the day with increased awareness of mangrove species, its environmental importance and the vital connection between wetlands and humans' well-being. Looking forward, HAECO will introduce further initiatives engaging its staff to conserve the beautiful nature in the neighbourhood of Hong Kong International Airport.



# MEMBERS CORNER ~~~

**SGS Hong Kong Limited** organised its Global Softlines Forum with the theme "Embracing Supply Chain Revival – Steering Towards Resilience and Growth", exploring the future of the sector through discussions on production, technology, and trade aspects. This session brought together more than 100 representatives, including industry experts, global lead brands and retailers, textile manufacturers and academia, demonstrating the company's commitment to supporting business partners on their journey toward sustainability and technological advancements.

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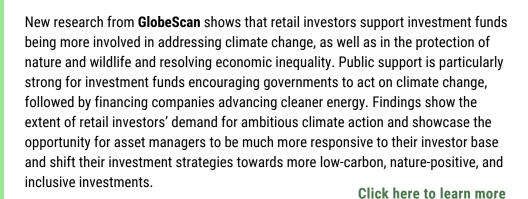
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#### **General Members**

**AP Power** provided continuous green power supply at LIV Golf Hong Kong 2024 by deploying its green power supply solution Smart System in Mobile Electricity ("SSME"). The system fulfils the pre-requisite condition of environmental protection, such as super sound proof and carbon emission reduction, for this outdoor event that requires continuous power supply for professional services like live broadcasting, air-conditioning, food catering, and children amusement area.



**GF Technovation** collaborated with an event management company to promote vegetarianism and green living at the 10th Vegetarian Food Asia held from 8-10 March. The company's smart bin showcased during the expo demonstrated how it enhances sustainable lifestyles, reduces waste, and contributes to a greener future. The company also shared valuable tips with the retail and F&B industry on cost reduction under the Municipal Solid Waste Charging scheme. By leveraging technology and reducing costs, GF Technovation aims to incentivise the public and commercial sectors to embrace the new waste charging scheme, fostering a greener and more sustainable future. **Click here to learn more** 







# MEMBERS CORNER ~~~

**Negawatt**'s ZERO2 has partnered with a leading catering group in Hong Kong, to initiate an ESG staff engagement campaign fostering community building through the ZERO2 app. Over 80% of employees actively engage daily on the app, undertaking carbon reduction actions in various facets of life. Additionally, more than 160 restaurants have committed to eliminating plastic tableware, tracked via ZERO2. The collaboration introduced Hong Kong's first "Zero-carbon Milk Tea," subject to rigorous carbon audits. To offset carbon footprints, ZERO2 planted trees in Tanzania. A marketing redemption campaign via the app saw 4,000 cups of "Zero-carbon Milk Tea" redeemed, boosting shop traffic within three weeks.



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In March, **Sustainable Office Solutions** published an article entitled "Navigating The Green Revolution: Sustainable Asset Management Trends And Circular Office Furniture In The Journey To Net Zero" on SG Green Magazine that identified trends and the importance of circularity in furniture management. The article elaborated on how embracing circular practices in office furniture can reduce carbon footprints, minimise waste, give back to the community and contribute to a more sustainable future.



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#### **Recently Published Sustainability Report**

• CLP



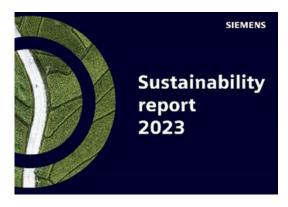
2023 Sustainability Report Kum Shing Group



Sustainability in action



Siemens Limited



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### **WELCOME NEW BEC MEMBERS**

#### **General Members**

- AS Watson Retail (HK) Limited
- Chung's Recycle International Limited
- Easeca Trading Company Limited
- IP&E GBA Limited



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- The 22nd China International Environmental Protection Exhibition and Conference (CIEPEC) 2024 Hong Kong Pavilion | China Association of Environmental Protection Industry | 10-12 April 2024
- Technical Conference 2024 Decarbonisation Challenge for the Built Environment | ASHRAE Hong Kong Chapter | 12 April 2024
- Creative Collision 2024 | Shared Value Initiative Hong Kong | 18 April 2024
- The 25th IE Expo China 2024 Hong Kong Pavilion | Chinese Society for Environmental Science, China Environment Chamber of Commerce, Messe Muenchen GmbH, Messe Muenchen Zhongmao Co., Ltd. | 18-20 April 2024
- Green in Prop+Con | Hong Kong Science & Technology Parks Corporation | Now till 24 May 2024
- The 25th Annual Corporate and Regulatory Update (ACRU 2024) | The Hong Kong Chartered Governance Institute |
  7 June 2024
- The 2nd Greater Bay Area ESG & Sustainability Exhibition | Coastal International Conference & Exhibition Co., Ltd. |
  21-23 June 2024

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