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Press release

**Waste batteries: dispose legally, recycle locally**  
**The first WLAB recycling facility in Hong Kong**  
**Hong Kong Battery Recycling Centre commissioned**

Hong Kong Battery Recycling Centre (HKBR), the first fully automatic Waste Lead Acid Batteries (WLAB) recycling facility in Hong Kong, is commissioned today. The new HKBR plant is capable of treating all locally generated WLAB (standard per capita disposal volume in developed economies is around 3 to 4kg/annum) properly, and in an environmentally friendly manner which will greatly reduce the risk of contamination caused by improper disposal of this chemical waste while at the same time promoting recycling and reuse of local resources as well as the development of green industries in Hong Kong.

**Lead Acid Batteries are used everywhere**

Lead Acid Batteries are mainly used in vehicles, and are also widely used in telephone exchanges, mobile machineries, grid energy storage, uninterruptible power supply of computer servers and systems, emergency lighting and alarm systems in buildings, etc. Due to the rapid growth in Hong Kong's Information Technology industries, the volume of WLAB generated by data centres is rising rapidly.

Located at the EcoPark in Tuen Mun, HKBR is the first facility approved to recycle WLAB, turning WLAB into reusable materials locally, efficiently and safely. Mr Wong Kam-sing, GBS, JP, Secretary for the Environment (SEN), HKSAR and Ms Grace Hui, Managing Director, Chief Operating Officer, Listing Department, Hong Kong Exchanges and Clearing Limited (HKEX) officiated at HKBR's commissioning ceremony today with Mr Stanley Pong, HKBR Chairman.

Accompanied by HKBR Chairman Mr Stanley Pong, Mr Wong Kam-sing, SEN, visited Hong Kong's first facility approved to treat WLAB locally. "The Environmental Protection Department has been supporting and encouraging recyclers to adopt state-of-the-art and value-adding recycling technologies. To facilitate the sustainable development of local

recycling businesses, we provide land to recyclers at the EcoPark at affordable rental levels. We are pleased to witness the plant commissioning of another tenant which provides more comprehensive recycling of WLAB locally, and promotes Hong Kong's circular economy” said Mr Wong Kam-sing.

### **HKEX fully supports HKBR and calls for other corporates to follow suit**

HKEX is one of the first to send their WLAB to HKBR for proper and legal disposal. Ms Grace Hui remarked, “Environmental management is a core area in HKEX’s corporate social responsibility commitment. The proper management of the impact of one’s business on the environment not only enhances one’s brand image but also helps ensure that the business complies with the Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) best practices in its relevant disclosures. We are pleased that HKBR provides a final and comprehensive recycling solution to WLAB disposal to further enhance our environmental responsibility under the Basel Convention. With HKBR’s transparent service chain and traceability throughout the disposal process, waste production and transportation are reduced, and the risk of exporting hazardous waste is also avoided. We firmly believe that the collaboration between HKEX and HKBR will benefit not only our environment but also lead by example for all Lead Acid Batteries using corporates operating in Hong Kong to work together to support local disposal of waste batteries.”

### **A brand new solution in Hong Kong: local WLAB recycling**

WLAB is a toxic chemical waste under the purview of the Basel Convention. The Waste Disposal Ordinance (Laws of Hong Kong Chapter 354) also stipulates that lead acid battery users must ensure proper disposal and treatment of WLAB. HKBR Chairman Mr Stanley Pong said “ HKBR provides a brand new and most optimal solution to WLAB producers, including corporates of all sizes, to dispose of WLAB legally, and recycle them locally.” In the past, Hong Kong disposed of WLAB through landfill or export, posing potential risks or even hazards to the environment in the long term. As the Chairman of the first and only WLAB recycler in Hong Kong, Mr Stanley Pong supplemented, “Some visionary corporates committed to environmental protection have been supporting and encouraging us from the very beginning by sending us their WLAB for recycling, before we have any track record or publicity, and we are very grateful for the trust. Some of these far-sighted corporates have sent representatives to our ceremony today. They include the HKEX, which Grace, one of our officiating guests, represents, Hong Kong Broadband, Swire Coca Cola, HAECO as well as Turbojet. We pledge to properly record the entire treatment process of your WLAB, ensuring that every step complies with relevant laws and regulations. We hope that the Hong Kong SAR Government and other public institutions will take the lead in promoting local WLAB recycling by sending us their WLAB as well. Together, we can protect our environment and support local recycling industries.”

### **Free recycling and transportation of WLAB during promotion period**

To encourage more institutions and corporates to send in their WLAB (not lithium, alkaline, zinc or other common household batteries) for local recycling, service charge for the transportation and treatment of WLAB will be waived in 2019 and 2020. For details and enquiries, please visit us at [www.hkbr.com.hk](http://www.hkbr.com.hk) or email to [info@hkbr.com.hk](mailto:info@hkbr.com.hk) or call 28779800.

### **About HKBR**

HKBR is the first recycling facility in Hong Kong deploying state-of-the-art technologies to turn WLAB into reusable materials safely, efficiently and in an environmentally friendly manner. Since WLAB is a toxic chemical waste, its collection, treatment and recycling is strictly regulated by international treaties and local laws to avoid indiscriminate or improper disposal, which may lead to long-term devastating consequences for the environment. HKBR is the first and only licensed WLAB recycler in Hong Kong, allowing local corporates and institutions to dispose WLAB legally and recycle them locally.

### **EcoPark tenants form platform to invigorate local environmental and recycling industries**

Located in Tuen Mun, the EcoPark is Hong Kong's first recycling-business park specially constructed for the recycling industry. It is a facility of the Environmental Protection Department, and provides long-term land at affordable costs to collectors and recyclers. A number of sites at EcoPark have been leased for the recycling of waste batteries, waste cooking oil, waste metals, waste wood, waste electrical and electronic equipment, waste plastics, construction and demolition waste, waste glass, waste rubber tyres and food waste, etc. Tenants at the EcoPark share the same vision, which is to locally dispose, recycle and reuse waste. In order to promote these messages more effectively so as to encourage and educate Hong Kong citizens and corporates to recycle locally, some EcoPark tenants including but not limited to K. Wah Construction Products Limited, Champway Technology Limited and On Fat Lung Innovative Resources Limited have joined together to form a platform for exchange of information and ideas, in particular to advocate/ drive change in the less than robust recycling market by appealing for more support from the government and corporates.



Mr Wong Kam Sing (SEN, HKSAR) and Ms Grace Hui (Managing Director, Chief Operating Officer, Listing Department, HKEX) examined batteries from HKEX.



Mr Wong Kam Sing (SEN, HKSAR) and Ms Grace Hui (Managing Director, Chief Operating Officer, Listing Department, HKEX), accompanied by HKBR Chairman Mr Stanley Pong, visited HKBR's state-of-the-art facility.



Witnessed by Mr Wong Kam Sing (SEN, HKSAR), Ms Grace Hui (Managing Director, Chief Operating Officer, Listing Department, HKEX) called for other companies' support to local WLAB recycling.



Mr Wong Kam Sing (SEN, HKSAR) and Ms Grace Hui (Managing Director, Chief Operating Officer, Listing Department, HKEX), accompanied by Green Friends (Hong Kong Broadband Network, Swire Coca Cola, Haeco, and Turbojet), ready to place the waste lead acid batteries in the collection boxes.