

## News Release

7 September 2022

### **THE HONGKONG BANK FOUNDATION LAUNCHES THE FIRST GREEN REHABILITATION BUS SCHEME IN HK**

*Partners with The Conservancy Association to Promote Adoption of  
Electric Vehicles for Accessible Transport Services  
Three-Year Pilot Scheme Set to Benefit Over 80,000 Users*

The Hongkong Bank Foundation, established by HSBC, is partnering with The Conservancy Association to launch Hong Kong's first Green Rehabilitation Bus Pilot Scheme (Green Rehabus), which will help Hong Kong NGOs switch to electric vehicles when providing transport services for people with disabilities or mobility difficulties.

Seven local NGOs will be selected to participate in the three-year Pilot Scheme. Each will receive an electric bus – a Green Rehabus – with barrier-free facilities, as well as support in setting up charging facilities and optimising bus routes to conserve energy. During the Pilot Scheme, the Green Rehabus fleet is expected to serve over 80,000 users and reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions equivalent to planting 2,000 new trees.

**Mr TSE Chin-wan, Secretary for Environment and Ecology, Ms Luanne LIM, Chief Executive, Hong Kong, HSBC, and Dr CHUNG Shan-shan, Chairperson, The Conservancy Association**, officiated at today's launch ceremony at the CIC-Zero Carbon Park where a prototype of the Green Rehabus design was unveiled. Supporting organisations of the Pilot Scheme include CIC-Zero Carbon Park, CLP Power Hong Kong, Environmental Protection Department, HK Electric, Hong Kong Federation of Handicapped Youth, The Hong Kong Council of Social Service, and The Hong Kong Society for Rehabilitation.

Speaking at the ceremony, **Ms LIM** said, "Green Rehabilitation Bus is yet another move to drive wider adoption of electric vehicles in Hong Kong. Many NGOs are keen to reduce their carbon footprint but may not have the know-how. This Pilot Scheme aims to help NGOs gain practical knowledge about operating and financing electric vehicles, paving the way for more green rehabilitation buses on the streets of Hong Kong. HSBC is transforming our own operations and supply chain to achieve Net Zero by 2030. We hope more

like-minded organisations will join us and contribute to Hong Kong's carbon neutrality.”

**Dr CHUNG**, said, “Using electric rehabilitation buses reduces not only carbon emissions but also roadside pollution. This project gives regard to the underprivileged of the community and the environment at the same time.”

Currently, there are over 1,000 rehabilitation buses in Hong Kong, operated by different NGOs.

This Pilot Scheme aims to make long-term impact by helping accessible transport service providers transition to low-carbon operations. From the experience of this Pilot Scheme, a comprehensive guide will be prepared for other NGOs looking to switch to electric rehabilitation buses. In addition, an impact financing guidance tool will be developed to help NGOs gain access to financing for greening their fleets.

The Green Rehabus Pilot Scheme is part of the HSBC Climate Solutions Partnership which combines the Bank's financial and commercial expertise with the insights of NGO partners to deliver new climate solutions into reality. Backed by USD100 million in philanthropic funding from HSBC, the HSBC Climate Solutions Partnership is focused on energy transition initiatives and climate-related innovation.

HSBC is taking steps to contribute to the Hong Kong Government's Clean Air Plan for Hong Kong 2035 and the city's low-carbon transition. Apart from the Green Rehabus Pilot Scheme, the Bank launched the Clean Waterways Programme in 2021 to collect plastic waste in Victoria Harbour and Aberdeen with four zero-emission, solar-powered boats. In May 2022, the Bank also rolled out a sustainable taxi finance scheme to encourage taxi operators to switch to more environmentally-friendly vehicles.

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## Notes to editors:

### Photo caption



Mr TSE Chin-wan, Secretary for Environment and Ecology (centre), Ms Luanne LIM, Chief Executive, Hong Kong, HSBC (right), and Dr CHUNG Shan-shan, Chairperson, The Conservancy Association (left), officiated the Green Rehabilitation Bus Pilot Scheme launch ceremony today.

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#### The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited

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#### The Conservancy Association

The Conservancy Association (CA) is a local environmental NGO founded in 1968. The mission of CA is to be a major player in safeguarding the environment and cultural heritage through advocacy, partnership and community engagement. CA's vision is to create a society that prioritises environmental sustainability for the present and future generations.

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