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FHKI & Hong Kong Green Manufacturing Alliance jointly launch
“Supporting Industries to Achieve Readiness
for European Union’s Regulation REACH” Project

The Federation of Hong Kong Industries (FHKI) and the Hong Kong Green Manufacturing Alliance (HKGMA) today (Monday) announced the launching of a 24-month project – “Supporting Industries To Achieve Readiness for European Union’s Regulation REACH” supported by the Small & Medium Enterprises Development Fund of HKSAR Government. Co-organisers include the Hong Kong Polytechnic University and the Hong Kong Productivity Council.

The European Union’s new law on chemicals, REACH (Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals), entered into force on 1 June this year. Under the regulation, manufacturers and importers are required to submit technical report for manufacturing or importing over one tonne of chemical substances per year. A Chemical Safety Report has to be submitted for safety management measures if the quantities are above 10 tonnes per year. The European Chemicals Agency (EChA) and its competent authorities are responsible for the evaluation and approval of registration information and chemical substances. Chemical substances which are proved to be hazardous to humans and environment must be authorised before they enter the market. Restrictions on manufacturing, sales and usage will come into force if unacceptable risk is perceived.

The implementation of REACH prominently influences chemical industry and trading, especially toys, clothing and electronic products which carry various chemical substances. For the most concerned chemicals, registration with the EChA is required, irrespective of its capacity. Therefore, the chemical industry and SMEs are most affected by this new law.

With the funding from the Government, the FHKI and HKGMA will organise a series of activities in the next two years, including four seminars and four workshops, in order to assist SMEs to comply with the REACH regulation. Experts and officials from the European Union will be invited to take part. The first seminar will be held at Macro Polo Hong Kong Hotel on 2 August 2007. Tim Harris, Policy Advisor of the Health & Safety Executive of the UK - the competent authority of REACH in the UK - will be there to explain the implementation of REACH.

In addition, to provide further technical support, the website of HKGMA (www.gma.org.hk) offers the latest and complete information about REACH, including the regulation, timetable, operation mechanism and preparation procedures for SMEs. Visitors are welcome to raise questions about REACH on the web forum. Leaflets will be published to introduce the procedures and operation of REACH. This project is dedicated to assist the Hong Kong industry to understand and prepare for REACH.

About Hong Kong Green Manufacturing Alliance:

The Hong Kong Green Manufacturing Alliance (HKGMA) was established in December 2004. Its founding members comprise seven trade and industry associations,



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including the Federation of Hong Kong Industries, the Federation of Hong Kong Watch Trades & Industries Ltd, the Hong Kong Electrical Appliances Manufacturers Association, the Hong Kong Electronics Industries Association, the Hong Kong Toys Council, the Hong Kong Watch and Clock Council and the Hong Kong Watch Manufacturers Association. It is also supported by a number of statutory bodies and research institutions. The HKGMA endeavours to encourage industrial innovation which will introduce green compliant standards at the heart of the manufacturing processes and products. It intends to stimulate a new culture in green practices that run through the chain of industrial processes, thereby maintaining the competitive edge through complying with global legislations and market demands.

In the past two and a half years since its establishment, HKGMA continuously provides information to industries by uploading regulation and information of environmental industries onto the website, and organising various activities such as seminars, workshops, missions, exhibitions, international conferences and so forth, in order to assist the industry to implement green manufacturing by different approaches. With the support of the Industry and Trade Department's Small & Medium Enterprise Development Fund in 2005, the HKGMA organised over 10 seminars and workshops for the industries to take abreast of the influence of WEEE and RoHs of the European Union. Experts from various countries were invited to share with the industry their professional advice which indeed benefited the participants.

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