

**For immediate release
15 April 2008**

即時發佈



International experts warn Hong Kong business to consider the implications of a price being put on their carbon emissions in the future

(April 15th 2008, Hong Kong) Two leading UK based academics today urged Hong Kong businesses to take climate change seriously with the launch of the hard hitting Carbon Grill Series, a seminar organized by the Climate Change Business Forum (CCBF), which "grills" international experts on the economics and science of climate change.

It is widely acknowledged that climate change *is* happening, and that it is due to the greenhouse gases being emitted by our society. Whilst many companies see the impact of climate changes as a distant issue, avoiding the impacts that it will have on business, the environment and the economy in the future, requires action now. Governments from around the world are working on the issue as part of the process started in Bali last December to find a replacement for the Kyoto Protocol which expires in 2012. These regulations and the consequent 'carbon constraint' will have a big impact on businesses.

The Hon. Mr CY Leung, CCBF Patrons Committee Chairman and Asia Pacific chairman of DTZ, opened the interactive "Carbon Grill" seminar which is sponsored by Swire, by saying: "We should all be treating climate change with a far greater degree of urgency than is happening now. It's very important that Hong Kong businesses understand that it is likely their business will be affected and that there will be a significant cost involved".

Eminent UK Professor John Shepherd, of Southampton University, said "The scientific evidence on man-made global warming is now beyond reasonable doubt, and the consequences of "business-as-usual" will be intolerable. We now need to start making some serious reductions of carbon emissions, at around 2% per year globally for the next fifty years or so. However, the developed world needs to do significantly more than this, as soon as possible, to allow for continuing economic development elsewhere. This is going to be hard to achieve, but should not be impossible, if we get started right away."

Stern Report collaborator, Assistant Professor Simon Dietz of the London School of Economics, delivered a powerful economic message: that climate change threatens to be the greatest and widest-ranging market failure ever seen, creating a level of disruption to economic activity comparable with the First and Second World Wars. However he emphasized that it is still possible to avoid the worst impacts, with technologies that are already commercially available or are in the pipeline.

Dr Dietz, who recently helped the UK Government factor in 'Shadow Carbon Pricing', also spoke of a growing awareness of the importance of "putting a price on carbon". He said that while debate continues over the two basic ways to do this, a carbon tax or cap-and-trade, the advantages are becoming increasingly clear and should be taken seriously by business.

Both Professors were 'grilled' by Hugh Chiverton, Head of Radio 3, and Professor Bill Barron an Environmental Economist at HKUST for details on their subjects.

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Professor Barron said "We must reduce carbon emissions. But prices today do not reflect the damage being done and so carbon emissions continue to rise. A cap and trade system is the most efficient way to put a price on carbon and much of the trading would involve China, the world's manufacturing hub. Hong Kong, as the bridge between China and the rest of the world, is well positioned to become the regional carbon trading centre."

The event was moderated by Dr. Andrew Thomson, CEO of the Business Environment Council (BEC). Dr Thomson highlighted that it is "critical to bring this message of action to businesses in the region, and dispel any view that this is just an issue for western economies."

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Notes to Editors: About the Climate Change Business Forum

The Climate Change Business Forum (CCBF) is an initiative of the Business Environment Council (BEC). Its purpose is to be a platform that brings together industry leaders and climate change specialists, to engage in research; to develop and communicate best practices, and to assist in the development of sound climate change policies for Hong Kong. Membership of the CCBF comes from five key sectors, namely, power, transport, property, manufacturing, and finance. These sectors have been chosen as significant users of energy or producers of products whose use results in substantial emissions of greenhouse gases; some will have assets or investments that will be adversely affected by changes in climate; all face the prospect of increased regulation in one form or another.

The CCBF is chaired by the Hon. Mr. LEUNG Chun-ying GBS JP, Chairman, DTZ, Asia Pacific and Convenor of the Executive Council and Mr Tony Tyler, Chair of the Executive Committee and Chief Executive of Cathay Pacific. The CCBF is founded by five high profile Patron companies: Cathay Pacific, Hang Lung Group Ltd., HSBC, Sino Group, and Standard Chartered Bank (Hong Kong). Plus, twelve founding Gold members: Bank of East Asia, Chevalier Group, CLP Holdings Ltd, DTZ, Hong Kong Electric Company Ltd., Hong Kong Jockey Club, Hong Kong Land Holding Ltd, Lai Sun Group, MTR Corporation, Towngas, Sun Hung Kai Properties Ltd., Swire Pacific Ltd., plus support from the British Consulate-General.

The CCBF aims:

- To identify and communicate the opportunities and risks businesses will face from climate change
- To commission research on the impacts of climate change to business, relevant to Hong Kong on both a local and international level
- To influence the business community to take concrete steps to reduce emission and share best practice on the carbon intensity of businesses
- To engage with other key local and international organizations with an interest in the climate change issue

國際專家警告 香港商界必須正視碳排放 避免未來代價沉重

(2008年4月15日，香港) 碳排放「烤」問系列 (Carbon Grill Series) 講座活動將於今天展開。兩位英國權威學者藉此機會，促請香港商界認真研究氣候變化問題。講座活動系列由氣候變化商界論壇 (論壇)主辦，透過向國際專家進行「烤」問，闡述氣候變化的科學及經濟學，以及兩者的關連。

眾所周知，人類社會不斷釋出溫室氣體，氣候變化不容忽視。商界或視氣候變化為遙不可及，可是要避免問題不致在日後對商業、環境及經濟造成重大打擊，大家必須立即採取積極行動。去年12月，世界各國政府雲集峇里島共同研討，就2012年屆滿的《京都協議》尋求替代方案。因此，全球政府現正努力處理氣候變化問題，以開展峇里島會議所訂下的工作。有關法規及因而衍生的「碳限制」，勢必對商界造成莫大影響。

氣候變化商界論壇贊助人委員會主席及戴德梁行亞太區主席梁振英先生，為太古集團贊助的碳排放「烤」問 (Carbon Grill) 講座作開幕致辭。他表示：「我們應以更迫切的態度看待氣候變化問題。香港企業必須明白其業務勢將受到影響，而且必須付出龐大代價。」

英國南開普敦大學 (Southampton University) 著名教授John Shepherd表示：「有關人類引致的全球暖化的科學證據，已經無庸置疑。假如我們不作出改變，長此下去後果將不堪設想。因此，我們應立刻大幅降低碳排放量，在未來的50年，全球每年應減排約2%。然而，發達國家的減排幅度必須高過這個數字，而且時間愈快愈好，致使其他國家能有空間繼續發展經濟。雖然這個目標不易達到，但是絕非不可能。只要我們現在行動，還是有希望的。」

有份參與撰寫《Stern Report》的倫敦經濟學院助理教授Simon Dietz也提出發人深省的經濟問題，就是氣候變化有機會成為重大及影響廣泛的市場危機，且規模將前所未見，其對經濟活動所造成的打擊，甚至可與一次及二次世界大戰相提並論。然而他強調，人類仍有機會避免這個災難，因為我們已具備多種經濟上許可的條件，以及不斷推陳出新科技。

近日曾協助英國政府評估「影子碳價格」影響的Dietz教授還表示，世界各國正開始重視「給碳排放標上價格」。他表示，儘管大家仍在對此機制的兩種基本做法爭論不休（即「碳稅項」及「限額與交易」），但此機制的優點日益明顯，商界應認真考慮。

負責就有關課題「烤」問兩位教授的嘉賓，分別是香港電台第三台主管許偉圖先生 (Hugh Chiverton)，以及香港科技大學環境經濟學家柏尉元教授 (Bill Barron)。

柏尉元教授表示：「我們必須減少碳排放。但現今社會還沒有受碳排放代價的實質影響，所以碳排放量依然持續上升。『限額與交易』系統是限制碳排放最有效的方法，而亦因為中國乃世界工廠，製造業蓬勃，所以肯定牽連甚廣。香港作為中國與世界各地的橋樑，非常適合擔任區內碳交易中心的角色。」

(背頁繼續)

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商界環保協會行政總裁譚安德博士強調：「商界的積極行動至為重要，同時必須摒棄氣候變化僅為西方國家問題的錯誤看法。」

如欲了解詳情，請瀏覽www.bec.org.hk或聯絡：

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編輯備忘：有關氣候變化商界論壇

氣候變化商界論壇

(CCBF)

是商界環保協會(BEC)所推行的一項計劃。論壇旨在作為一個平台，匯聚各界關注氣候變化的學者、商界領袖及專家彼此交流，共同參與研究，並發展及宣揚最佳實務模式，以及協助香港制訂良好的氣候變化政策。CCBF的成員來自五大行業，即電力、運輸、地產、製造及金融。揀選這些行業的原因，是它們耗用大量能源，或其產品的使用或導致大量的溫室氣體排放。其中部分行業的資產或投資將會受到氣候變化的打擊；而所有行業均面對各種的嚴格規管。

CCBF的主席同時為戴德梁行亞太區主席及行政局召集人梁振英GBS太平紳士，而執行委員會主席是國泰航空行政總裁湯彥麟先生。CCBF乃由五家著名的贊助人公司成立，即國泰航空、恆隆集團、匯豐銀行、信和集團及渣打銀行

(香港)。此外，論壇還有十二位金級成員，包括東亞銀行、其士集團、中華電力、戴德梁行、香港電燈、香港賽馬會、香港置地、麗新集團、港鐵公司、煤氣公司、新鴻基地產、太古股份有限公司。論壇並獲得英國駐港總領事館鼎力支持。

CCBF的宗旨：

- 認清商界因氣候變化而面對的機遇及風險，並把有關訊息廣泛宣揚。
- 委託機構就氣候變化對商界的影響進行研究，以探討香港在地區及國際層面上會遇到的變化。
- 鼓勵商界採取具體的減排行動，並分享有關商界碳排放的最佳實務模式。
- 與其他關注氣候變化的本地及國際著名組織緊密合作。