



For immediate release

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Every Day “No Plastic Bag Day” at Major Retailers

Starting on March 3, 2009, every day will be ‘No Plastic Bag Day’ at about 2,000 stores of 18 major retailers to encourage further reduction in plastic bag usage.

The Hong Kong Retail Management Association (HKRMA) expects that this programme will help reach the industry’s voluntary target of reducing plastic bag distribution by more than 400 million at the participating retailers. This will represent a 50% decrease from the 820 million plastic bags distributed in 2005, the baseline on which the voluntary target was set.

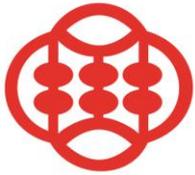
Members of the public have responded enthusiastically to ‘No Plastic Bag Day’, which has been conducted once-a-week by most retailers. According to the Environmental Protection Department, voluntary efforts helped reduce 150 million plastic bags in 2006 alone.

“The retail industry is confident that the launch of ‘Every Day No Plastic Bag’ will further reduce usage of plastic bags significantly. HKRMA will continue to encourage other retailers to join the programme to help protect Hong Kong’s environment ,” said Ms Caroline Mak, Chairman of HKRMA.

Ms Mak added, “We believe that voluntary scheme, coupled with consumer education, is the most effective way to reduce plastic bag usage, and therefore more time should be given to the retail industry and customers to prove that voluntary efforts are effective.”

Participating retailers of the ‘Every Day No Plastic Bag’ include: 7-Eleven, China Resources Vanguard, **city**’super, Fusion by PARKnSHOP, GNC, Gourmet, GREAT, International by PARKnSHOP, Mannings, Market Place by Jasons, Oliver’s the Delicatessen, PARKnSHOP, TASTE, ThreeSixty, Vango, VOle’, Watsons Your Personal Store and Wellcome.

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**HONG KONG
RETAIL MANAGEMENT
ASSOCIATION**

香港零售管理協會

About Hong Kong Management Association

The Hong Kong Retail Management Association (HKRMA) was founded in 1983 by a group of visionary retailers with a long-term mission to promote Hong Kong's retail industry and to present a unified voice on issues that affect all retailers. Established for 25 years, the Association has been playing a vital role in representing the trade, and raising the status and professionalism of retailing through awards, education and training.

Today, HKRMA is the leading retail association in Hong Kong with membership covering more than 5,000 retail outlets and employing about half of the local retail workforce. HKRMA is one of the founding members of the Federation of Asia-Pacific Retailers Associations (FAPRA) and is the only representing organization from Hong Kong. FAPRA members cover 17 Asian Pacific countries and regions.

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大型連鎖超市 推日日無膠袋

零售業界一直對政府徵收膠袋稅有保留，連同惠康、百佳在內的10多間龍頭大型連鎖超市出招，下月3日起舉辦「日日無膠袋日」，參加活動的2000間店舖不會主動派發膠袋，但市民如有需要，仍可免費索取，希望藉此改變市民的生活習慣。據了解，業界希望透過活動，每年減少約4億個膠袋，約佔整體一半。

不主動派發可免費索取

政府爭取最快今年中實施徵收膠袋稅，《產品環保責任（塑膠購物袋）規例》小組委員會明日召開首次會議，而零售業界舉行「日日無膠袋日」，將為業界增加阻止法例上馬的「籌碼」。那邊廂，環保界亦出招，多個環保團體明日會在立法會外請願，以及向議員提交公開信，促請盡快推行膠袋稅。

據悉，業界設下每年減少派發一半膠袋的目標，亦希望透過計劃帶出業界實際派發膠袋的數量，遠較政府在堆填區做的調查為少。政府委託顧問在堆填區實地調查，得出在新法例下受規管的大型超市、便利店及個人護理用品連鎖店，每年棄置在堆填區的膠袋近20億個，指徵收膠袋稅可減少10億個膠袋。

目標年減4億個

但根據業界自行統計，20億個膠袋中，只有約8億個是「手挽袋」，其餘是裝載新鮮糧食的「平口袋」。由於「平口袋」在新法例下獲豁免，換言之，即使減少所有「手挽袋」，亦難以達到政府預期每年減半的目標。業界估計透過「日日無膠袋日」，每年足以減少4億個膠袋。

團體：圖推遲膠袋稅不可接受綠領行動總幹事何漢威對「日日無膠袋日」不表樂觀，認為在缺乏經濟誘因下，難以大幅削減膠袋用量。他強調不接受任何以圖延遲收費計劃上馬的方案，「（膠袋稅）已拖了多年，影響所及，連整套產品責任計劃亦嚴重延誤」。明報記者馬耀森