

Hong Kong Biodiesel Association

For immediate release

Three Local Licensed Bio-diesel Manufacturers Join Forces

To Halt Used Cooking Oil Flowing into the Food Chain

And Encourage Recycling into Biodiesel Fuel

(September 25, 2014, Hong Kong) Following the Taiwan “gutter oil” news that recently hit Hong Kong and the disclosure that hundreds of local eateries were using this tainted oil, greater public spotlight has been directed on the sources of local cooking oil and the disposal of used oil.

Currently a large volume of local used cooking oil is converted legally into renewable energy like biodiesel fuel which is eventually used by the local public and commercial organisations. With this in mind, three local licensed biodiesel manufacturers have joined hands to form the *Hong Kong Biodiesel Association*, which aims to foster the further development of the industry, while supporting sustainable environmental protection efficacy and protecting citizens’ health.

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The three founding company members of the Hong Kong Biodiesel Association are *ASB (HK) Biodiesel Ltd.*, *Champway Technology Ltd.* and *Dynamic Progress International Ltd.*

“The main objective of the Association is to prevent the influx of used cooking oil into the local and neighbouring regions’ food chain,” says Steve Choi, the first chairman and spokesman of Hong Kong Biodiesel Association. “The hazards to public safety and hygiene should never be tolerated.”

“We encourage more restaurants to participate in waste management programmes which facilitate the recycling of used cooking oil into biodiesel fuel,” says Choi. “The Government should also take the initiative to promote the use of locally produced biodiesel fuel.”

According to Choi, less than 40% locally produced used cooking oil is converted into bio-fuel in Hong Kong. So there is still substantial room for development.

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Short- to long-term action plans have been devised to provide the Government authorities with the industry's viewpoints on policy planning. Choi emphasises that the Association supports a total ban on the export of used cooking oil until the Government is fully aware of the final destinations of all used cooking oil.

He further points out that the Government authorities should also announce which countries and cities have imported our used cooking oil over the past 18 months and inform authorities in these regions accordingly to ensure that no illegal transactions have been conducted.

“From a mid- to long-term perspective, we at the Association propose the set up of a *Harmonised System Code* to record all exports of used cooking oil for future tracing purposes,” says Choi. “The Government should also consider establishing a system resembling the GPS Tracking System adopted in Shanghai as well as the centralised collection scheme used in Taiwan and Japan to monitor industrial operations.”

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Choi also suggests a tax waiver on methyl alcohol, the main raw material for making biodiesel fuel, in order to cultivate continued development of the local biodiesel industry.

Moreover, he urges local restaurants, in response to calls by the Hong Kong Biodiesel Association, to temporarily stop providing used cooking oil to recycling companies for export purposes until proper Governmental control measures can be put in place. In addition, the Association encourages all retail food establishments to report to the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department any abnormal or unusual practices such as offering higher prices to buy used cooking oil. All these can prohibit the recycling of tainted oil into cooking oil to minimise the risk of damaging the health of diners and disrupting the business operations of the food and beverage industry.

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