

新聞資料 Media Information

For immediate release

NWS Hong Kong Geo Wonders Hike Grooms Young Ambassadors “Geo Classes” kick off full-year programme for students from 50 schools

(21 August 2012, Hong Kong) 180 students from 50 secondary schools in Hong Kong today completed their first phase of training as part of the Young Ambassadors for Geoconservation Training Programme jointly organized by NWS Holdings Limited (“NWS Holdings” or “the Group”; Hong Kong stock code: 659) and the Association for Geoconservation, Hong Kong (“AGHK”). Started this month, the ‘Geo Classes’ training integrates theoretical courses and field trips to broaden students’ knowledge of earth science and geoconservation.

Following the first-phase training, the students will apply what they have learnt by promoting geoconservation in their schools and helping on guided tours and community service. A total of 30 outstanding students, along with their advisory teachers, will be invited to join a learning and exchange tour to Danxiashan Global Geopark in Guangdong Province.

As the flagship programme of the NWS Hong Kong Geo Wonders Hike, the Young Ambassadors for Geoconservation Training Programme aims to nurture conservation-minded young people by teaching them about geoconservation and imparting leadership skills. It also helps senior high school students meet the requirements of ‘Other Learning Experiences’ under the New Senior Secondary Curriculum. As the programme enters its second year, it has received applications from close to 300 students from 53 schools, far exceeding its target of 180 students.

Public awareness of and participation in geoconservation has been on the rise in recent years, as shown by the popularity of this programme and the activities of the NWS Hong Kong Geo Wonders Hike. Figures from the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department show that public participation in educational activities related to nature conservation rose to around 360,000 people in 2011-12 – about 30% increase on previous year. The Young Ambassadors for Geoconservation Training Programme helps to instill geoconservation concepts in our young generation, supporting environmental protection and conservation efforts in the long run.

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(incorporated in Bermuda with limited liability)

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NWS Hong Kong Geo Wonders Hike, a joint effort between NWS Holdings and AGHK, celebrates its fifth anniversary this year. With the aim of encouraging geoconservation, the campaign has attracted over 20,000 participants in a wide range of activities. This year's guided tours will be held between November 2012 and January 2013. Tour information will later be available at <http://geo.nws.com.hk> or on our Facebook page www.facebook.com/geo.nws.hk.

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This press release is also available at the Group's website (www.nws.com.hk).

NWS Holdings Limited

NWS Holdings Limited ("NWS Holdings", Hong Kong stock code: 659), the infrastructure and service flagship of New World Development Company Limited (Hong Kong stock code: 17), embraces businesses in Hong Kong, Mainland China and Macau. Its **Infrastructure** portfolio includes Roads, Energy, Water and Ports & Logistics projects. Its **Services** division comprises Facilities Management (*the management of Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre and Free Duty*), Construction & Transport (*Hip Hing Construction and bus and ferry services*) and Strategic Investments (*Tricor, Haitong International, Newton Resources and securities investments*).

Association for Geoconservation, Hong Kong

Association for Geoconservation, Hong Kong ("AGHK") is a charitable institution composed of volunteers with mission to preserve Hong Kong's landforms and rocks; to disseminate earth sciences; to promote sustainable geotourism and ecotourism and to make Hong Kong a better place to live in. AGHK organizes seminars, geoappreciation tours and campaigns, publishes articles and books to promote geoconservation; closely monitors developments and projects which might destroy our invaluable heritage and cooperates with government and conservation bodies to conserve our rocks and landforms.

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Photo 1: Students from the Young Ambassadors for Geoconservation Training Programme are introduced to the features of Hong Kong's unique landscape and the principles of Geotourism. They will take part in guided tours and community service in the full-year programme.



Photo 2: The Youth Ambassadors take a closer look at the rock features during a field trip to Hong Kong Global Geopark of China, which is formed by Sai Kung Volcanic Rock Region and Northeast New Territories Sedimentary Rock Region.

