

# HKQAA's Green and Sustainable Finance Certification Scheme: Selected as an Excellent Case by SAMR

The Hong Kong Quality Assurance Agency's (HKQAA) Green and Sustainable Finance Certification Scheme has been selected by China's State Administration for Market Regulation (SAMR) as an "excellent" example of "Special and Sophisticated" International Collaboration on Mutual Recognition of Quality Certification.

It is a great honour that HKQAA's Scheme was selected as one of the outstanding cases, especially since this is the first evaluation programme of its kind organised by SAMR. The result was announced on September 6, 2023 at the Forum on Conformity Assessment Serving Trade Facilitation in China.

The programme aims to promote the achievements of international collaboration on mutual recognition of quality certification. It seeks to facilitate domestic and international economic flows, promote openness, cooperation and trade facilitation, and provide a set of successful models that can be replicated when building new systems for a higher-level open economy.

It is a major move for SAMR to advance international collaboration on quality certification of broader scope, higher standards and greater depth.

Green and sustainable finance serves as a strategic tool for promoting economic development in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area and along the Belt and Road. In alignment with the Government's policies, HKQAA launched the Green Finance Certification Scheme in 2018 and further expanded our efforts by introducing the Green and Sustainable Finance Certification Scheme in 2021. The Scheme aims to enhance the credibility of green and sustainable finance while directing capital towards environmental protection and community development.

The Scheme has received a positive response and issuers have come from many different sectors including banking, real estate, public utilities, agriculture, culture, energy and manufacturing. HKQAA has certified green and sustainable bonds issued by the HKSAR Government, the People's Government of Guangdong Province, the People's Government of Hainan Province and the Shenzhen Municipal People's Government, among others.

The selection of the Scheme as one of the inaugural "excellent" cases highlights HKQAA's notable contribution to the development of green and sustainable finance, as well as our efforts in smoothing domestic and international economic flows. Looking ahead, HKQAA remains committed to providing a diverse array of innovative and professional services, which will serve as catalysts for progress within the business community and society, and contribute to our country's high-quality economic and social development.

## Hong Kong Quality Assurance Agency

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