



MEDIA RELEASE 新聞稿

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Australian know-how behind new Corporate Sustainability Index

Australian innovative know-how and expertise is behind the Hang Seng Indexes' Corporate Sustainability Index, which today listed its constituent companies.

The index tracks the performance of 30 leading Hong Kong and 15 mainland China companies that are mitigating environment, social, and governance (ESG) related risks.

The Hang Seng Corporate Sustainability Index series is the first index series of its kind to focus exclusively on Hong Kong and mainland China.

Established in 1999, in Melbourne, Australia, Reputex has become the foremost knowledge source in Asia for companies seeking to understand, track and price emerging exposures, notably carbon risk, climate risk and traditional ESG exposures.

The company is the only firm of its kind operating directly in the region via its offices in Melbourne and Hong Kong, catering to local and global companies and investors.

Selected as the research partner to Hang Seng Indexes, Reputex analysed the ESG performance of 538 Hong Kong and China (A share) companies – 264 China A share, and 274 Hong Kong companies (dual-listed companies classified as Hong Kong stocks) to determine which companies would constitute the index.

ESG risk is a relatively new concept to local markets, but one that has increasing relevance, especially in the wake of global crises such as the BP oil spill, and increasing local pressures such as such as, air quality, drought, and worker safety and remuneration.

These concepts are having more impact on company performance, particularly as global and local investors begin to consider broader risk parameters in their decision-making models.

Australian Consul-General, Mr Les Luck, says Reputex's international expertise in understanding ESG is a good example of Australia's capabilities in innovative knowledge based industries.

"It reflects the Australian financial services industry strength – an industry that generates around 8.1 per cent of the nation's annual GDP," said Mr Luck.

Australia has the fourth largest economy in Asia Pacific (after Japan, China and India).

Reputex data and analytics are applied into recognisable risk benchmarks, indices, and advisory services for clients in over 30 markets globally.

Major clients include the Australian Government's Department of Climate Change, the Shanghai Stock Exchange, Russell Investments as well as numerous top 500 companies, assets managers and pension funds globally.

Hong Kong companies comprising the new index include HSBC, Bank of China, Cathay Pacific, Hopewell Holdings, HK Electric and Henderson Land.

CONSULATE-GENERAL MEDIA CONTACT:

Mr Gavin McDougall Tel: +852 2585 4418 or 6473 8885

Ms Simmy Lam Tel: +852 2585 4482 or 9211 8937

Email: PublicAffairsHK@dfat.gov.au