



Hong Kong ESG Reporting Awards 2020 Entry Briefing

Hong Kong ESG Reporting Awards (HERA) are bestowed only to the most exemplary leaders in Corporate Sustainability. The Award winners serve to be benchmarks and epitome of sustainable business practices to other organizations, creating a network of professionals committed to accelerating the sustainability agenda.

Eligibility

The HERA are open to all kinds of sustainability reporting by all types of organizations in Hong Kong, Macau and Greater China. The types of reports eligible for the awards include:

- ESG report within an annual report
- Stand-alone ESG/Sustainability/CSR report
- Integrated report

Entries will be accepted for the most recent report published by an organization.

Categories

The 2020 Hong Kong ESG Reporting Awards have 6 categories. Participating organization may submit entries for up to **four** categories. Description of each category is detailed below.

Best ESG Report

The Best ESG Report award recognizes organizations that showcase the best practices within their industry on ESG reporting, with outstanding performance in all criteria, including a long-term ESG strategy that drives the company towards a sustainable business. This award is divided into large-, mid- and small-cap divisions¹ according to the market capitalization of the organizations.

¹ Large market capitalization: >HK\$30 billion

Middle market capitalization: HK\$5 billion – HK\$30 billion

Small market capitalization: <HK\$5 billion

Please note that the calculation should be as at your company's recent financial year-end date.

Should the date fall on a public holiday, please use the last working day before your financial year-end date.



Best Sustainability Report for Non-listed Company

This award is opened for reports of non-listed companies, recognizing their excellent performance on all criteria, including reporting on sustainability strategy, management approach and practices.

Best GRI Report

Best GRI Report is awarded to organizations that adopt the Global Reporting Initiative's (GRI) Sustainability Reporting Standards, showing excellence not only in adhering to GRI reporting principles and requirements but also displaying the best practices in sustainability governance, materiality assessment, stakeholder engagement, setting targets, reporting performance on supply chain, etc.

Excellence in ESG Governance (New category)

Excellence in ESG Governance is awarded to companies that has strong involvement and commitment from the leadership especially the Board of Directors in managing ESG matters, including managing ESG risks and opportunities, setting and reviewing goals, evaluating the company's ESG performance.

Excellence in Environmental Positive Impact (New category)

Replacing the "Excellence in Environmental Disclosure", this award recognizes companies that demonstrates not only have comprehensive disclosure on environmental performance and risk mitigation but also bringing positive impact to the environment at the operating location and the wider value chain. Winners should demonstrate outstanding future-looking strategies, actions taken and quantifiable results in contributing to resolve pressing environmental challenges locally or globally.

Excellence in Social Positive Impact (New category)

Excellence in Social Positive Impact is awarded to companies that goes beyond social compliance, making effort through the company's operation in creating value to the members of the society including employees, suppliers, customers and the local community. Winning companies should show how such opportunities were identified and how the initiatives bring quantifiable impact to the society and progress towards an inclusive, healthy and coherent society.



Judging

The HERA is committed to following the guiding principles which include Integrity, Objectivity, Impartiality, Transparency.

An independent panel of judges with distinguished backgrounds will assess the entries to decide the winners. The judging panel is completely independent of the organiser to maintain the highest possible neutrality and objectivity.

Judging Process

Entries will be evaluated in two rounds:

First Round

The judges will assess and score all eligible entries against the core and specific criteria.

Second Round

The judges will make collective and final confirmation on the winners' list. One Grand Award winner and up to three Commendations will be decided for each category. The list of winners will be finalized under the confirmation of all judges.

What will be Judged

Only publicly available report will be considered for judging the entry. Information and supplementary materials provided in the Entry Form will be taken into consideration. ESG information which is not publicly disclosed or available will not be accepted as a basis for judging.



Judging Criteria

All submissions will be evaluated by the panel of judges following criteria.

Core criteria

Strategy Forward-looking ESG/sustainability strategy integrated with business strategy	Performance targeting Set measurable and time-bound targets on important KPIs and reported on plans, initiatives and progress in achieving them
Governance Strong involvement and commitment from the board of directors in leading the organization to manage sustainability risks and opportunities and achieve its sustainability goals	Communication Concise and easy to understand, with appropriate use of graphs, links and innovative presentation approach
Materiality and stakeholder engagement Describe the process and address the most significant impacts and issues concerned by stakeholders	Transparency Transparent, honest account on the organization's ESG performance including risks, shortcomings and non-compliance, with plans and solutions towards improvement
Disclosure of management approach Relevant management approach, initiatives, results achieved, and its evaluation, presented in a balance and coherent manner, going beyond minimum disclosure level.	Bonus Bonus points for reports that seek third party assurance, adopted <IR> Framework, UN SDGs, TCFD Framework and/or other international sustainability standards and initiatives

Specific Criteria

Apply to entries for Excellence in Environmental Positive Impact and Excellence in Social Positive Impact.

- Identified risks and opportunities within its operations and along its value chain where value can be created
- Demonstrated the long-term strategy in making an impact in resolving environmental challenges or progressing towards a socially just, coherent and healthy society
- Disclosed actions taken with quantifiable results, scope of impact, targets and future plans of the initiatives



Timeline

Entry submission deadline: **31 July 2020**

Awards ceremony cum luncheon event: **November 2020**

Entries

Entries must be submitted by filling in the [Online Entry Form](#) and the [Entry Description Form](#). Please attach the Entry Description Form at the end of Online Entry Form. Entry forms without submitting the Entry Description will NOT be accepted.

Entry Fee

Companies can join up to **four** categories. The entry fee is meant to cover the cost of the awards ceremony and luncheon event, as well as the administrative cost. Entry fees are not refundable. The fee structure is described below:

No. of Entries	Entry Fee	Ceremony event ticket(s)
Single entry	HKD 1,800	1
Two entries	HKD 2,500	2
Three entries	HKD 3,500	3
Four entries	HKD 5,000	4

Entries will only be judged upon receipt of entry fee. Payment instructions together with the invoice will be sent to you upon receiving your entry. Entries submitted on or before **30 June 2020** will enjoy an early bird discount of 10% off the total entry fee.

HERA Community

Organizations that submitted an entry to HERA 2020 will automatically become members of the HERA Community. HERA Community members will enjoy a range of special promotions offered by our partners. Please visit <https://www.hkesgawards.com/hera-community/> for details.



Winners

All HERA winners will enjoy:

- Award trophy
- Distinct awards logo
- Interview and media exposure on [ESG Newswire](#) and HERA publication

Awards Ceremony

All participating companies are invited to be part of the Award Ceremony to be held in **November 2020** in Hong Kong. It will be a half-day event with panel discussions and networking luncheon. More information about the Awards Ceremony will be announced in due course.



About the Organizer

The HERA is organized by Alaya Consulting, a specialist consultancy focusing on ESG disclosure, pre-assurance and GRI certified training. With offices in Hong Kong and Shenzhen, we advise clients spanning numerous industries including real estate, environmental services, utilities, renewable energy, pharmaceuticals, etc. We are the first ESG consultancy in Asia to receive approval from Science Based Targets Initiative regarding our carbon reduction target.

Supporting Organizations

The HERA is supported by a diverse number of public, social and private organizations to promote sustainability disclosure and corporate responsibility. Please visit our [website](#) for the updated list of supporting and partner organizations.

For Partnership and Sponsorship

We warmly invite organizations and companies to be a partner of the HERA. Partners get to enjoy a range of benefits, networking opportunities and a chance to showcase sustainability initiatives. Sponsorship enquiries are welcome. Please contact us to know more about the sponsorship opportunities.

For enquiries:

Hong Kong ESG Reporting Awards Organizer

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