

# HERA 2023 ENTRY BRIEFING



## ELIGIBILITY

HERA is open to all kinds of sustainability report by all types of organisations in Asia, including ESG report within an annual report, stand-alone ESG/Sustainability/CSR report and integrated report. We will be accepting entries for the most recent report published by an organisation.

## TIMELINE

|                 |   |   |
|-----------------|---|---|
| 30 June 2023    | ● | Early Bird Submission Deadline (10% off discount) |
| 31 July 2023    | ● | Final Submission Deadline                         |
| 26 October 2023 | ● | HERA Forum cum Awards Ceremony                    |

## APPLICATIONS

Submit your application via the website:

First-time registration: <https://judging.hkesgawards.com/register>

Login to complete the registration: <https://judging.hkesgawards.com/login>



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## AWARD CATEGORIES

### Best ESG Report

Recognises listed companies that showcase best practices within their industry on ESG reporting. This award is divided into large-, mid-and small-cap divisions according to market capitalisation as at the company's recent financial year-end date. (Large-cap: >HK\$30 billion; Mid-cap: HK\$5 billion–HK\$30 billion; Small-cap: <HK\$5 billion)

### Best Sustainability Report for Non-listed Company

Suitable for reports of non-listed companies, recognising their excellent performance on all criteria.

### Best GRI Report

Suitable for organisations that adopt the GRI Standards, showing excellence in adhering to GRI reporting principles and requirements, and displaying best practices in sustainability governance, materiality assessment, and stakeholder engagement, etc.

### Excellence in ESG Governance

Awarded to organisations with strong involvement and commitment from the Board of Directors in managing ESG risks and opportunities, setting and reviewing goals, and evaluating ESG performance.

### Excellence in Environmental Positive Impact

Recognises organisations that demonstrate comprehensive environmental disclosure, risk mitigation, and bringing positive impact to the environment-related SDGs at the operating location and the wider value chain.

### Excellence in Social Positive Impact

Awarded to organisations that go beyond social compliance, creating value to the members of the society including employees, suppliers, customers and the local community through business operations, demonstrating positive impact towards achieving social-related SDGs.

### Carbon Neutral Award

Awarded to organisations that demonstrate commitment and actions towards achieving net-zero carbon emissions.

### Newcomer Award

First-time HERA applicants are eligible. Awarded to organisations with outstanding performance in all core criterion.

### Outstanding ESG Improvement Award

Awarded to previous HERA participants that made an outstanding improvement on ESG disclosure and performance. Previous Grand and commendation winners of the Best ESG Report are not eligible for this award.

## WINNERS

All HERA winners will enjoy:

- Award trophy
- Distinct awards logo
- Digital and print media exposure on [ESGN.asia](https://www.esgn.asia) and HERA publications

## ENTRY FEES

Organisations can join up to FOUR categories. The entry fee covers the cost of the awards, the forum, and administrative costs. Entry fees are non-refundable. The fee structure is described below:

| No. of Entries | Entry Fee  | Forum and luncheon(s) |
|----------------|------------|-----------------------|
| Single Entry   | HKD 4,800  | 1                     |
| Two Entries    | HKD 10,800 | 2                     |
| Three Entries  | HKD 17,800 | 3                     |
| Four Entries   | HKD 25,800 | 4                     |

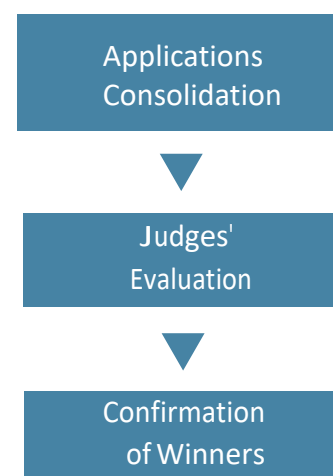
Entries will only be judged upon receipt of the entry fee. Payment instructions together with the invoice will be sent to you upon receiving your entry. Entries submitted on or before 30 June 2023 will enjoy an **early bird discount of 10% off** the total entry fee.

## JUDGING

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

We will take the information and supplementary materials provided in the Entry Form into consideration. ESG information that is not publicly disclosed or available will not be accepted as a basis for judging.

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 decision of the judging panel is final.





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## JUDGING CRITERIA

### Core Criteria

8 core criteria are applied to Best ESG Report, Best Sustainability Report for Non-listed Company, Best GRI Report, Excellence in ESG Governance, Newcomer Award and Outstanding ESG Improvement Award.

#### Strategy

Forward-looking ESG/sustainability strategy integrated with business strategy

#### Governance

Strong involvement and commitment from the board of directors in leading the organisation to manage sustainability risks and opportunities and achieve its sustainability goals

#### Performance targeting

Set measurable and time-bound targets on important KPIs and reported on plans, initiatives, and progress in achieving them

#### Disclosure of management approach

Relevant management approach, initiatives, results achieved, and its evaluation, presented in a balanced and coherent manner, going beyond minimum disclosure level.

#### Materiality and stakeholder engagement

Describe the process and address the most significant impacts and issues concerned by stakeholders

#### Transparency

A transparent, honest account on the organisation's ESG performance including risks, shortcomings and non-compliance, with plans and solutions towards improvement

#### Communication

Concise and easy to understand, with appropriate use of graphs, links and innovative presentation approach

#### Sustainability standards and initiatives

Extra points awarded to reports that seek third party assurance, adopted <IR> Framework, UN SDGs, TCFD Framework and/or other international sustainability standards and initiatives

### Specific Criteria

#### Excellence in Environmental Positive Impact

#### Excellence in Social Positive Impact

- Identified risks and opportunities within its operations and along its value chain where value can be created
- Demonstrated long-term strategy in achieving UN SDGs (e.g., 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

#### Carbon Neutral Award

- Publicly available statement committing or declaring towards carbon neutrality
- Performed carbon audit, reflecting on its carbon emissions
- Disclosed actions taken to reduce carbon emissions and set a target along with a carbon management plan



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## HERA COMMUNITY

The [HERA Community](#) is a new membership and engagement programme with members comprising of listed companies and trusted advisors offering ESG-related professional services. The Community aims to bring together corporates and professionals who advocate and exercise best practices in ESG, serving as a platform for facilitating events and partnerships, experience sharing and inspiring businesses to create positive impacts. **All HERA applicants will enjoy a 2-year HERA Community Membership and have access to a wide range of services, resources and benefits from HERA and its supporting organisations.**

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## HERA FORUM- CUM-AWARDS CEREMONY

All participating organisations are invited to be part of the Award Ceremony to be held on 26 October 2023 in Hong Kong. It will be a half-day event with panel discussions and a networking luncheon. More information about the Awards Ceremony will be announced in due course.

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## ABOUT THE ORGANISER

HERA (Hong Kong ESG Reporting Awards) is a not-for-profit initiative, aiming to build trust among stakeholders. HERA is judged by an independent panel of judges with distinguished backgrounds. The Awards represents the most prestigious form of recognition for companies in Hong Kong on Corporate Sustainability. HERA are open to listed and non-listed companies in Hong Kong that have exceptional practices in sustainability reporting. Whether you are a small organisation or a large conglomerate, the HERA will be able to showcase your corporate sustainability initiatives.

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## SUPPORTING ORGANISATIONS

Supporting Organisations usually come from institutional, industry and political backgrounds supporting HERA for its sustainability initiatives. These organisations help promote the initiative by sharing HERA news to its followers and attending the event to network and discuss its own sustainability agendas with attendees and guests.

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## PARTNERSHIPS AND SPONSORSHIPS

Partners and Sponsors are looking to support HERA and the sustainability initiative by providing resources either in the form of services or event sponsorships. Partners and sponsors add value by providing the community products and services to increase sustainability in the Greater China Region. To learn more about partnerships and sponsorships, please contact Tony at 3990 0793 or [tony@hkesgawards.com](mailto:tony@hkesgawards.com)

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## ENQUIRIES

Application and Membership  
[apply@hkesgawards.com](mailto:apply@hkesgawards.com)  
+852 3990 0792

Partnership, Sponsorship and Events  
[tony@hkesgawards.com](mailto:tony@hkesgawards.com)  
+852 3990 0793