

HERA 2025 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 2025 | Early Bird Submission Deadline (10% off discount) |
| 10 August 2025 | Final Submission Deadline |
| 24 October 2025 | HERA Presentation Ceremony - Hong Kong |
| December 2025 | ESG Leadership Awards - Shen Zhen |

APPLICATIONS

Submit the application form via the website:

Registered firstly: <https://judging.hkesgawards.com/register>

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





AWARD CATEGORIES



HERA

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 capitalization 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, recognizing their excellent performance on all criteria.

Best Sustainability Report for International Companies Award

Open to international companies, aiming to recognise the best performing companies in ESG reporting and will be assessed against HERA's eight core 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.



HERA

AWARD CATEGORIES

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.

Excellence in Climate Transition Finance & Investment

Highlighting leadership in green bonds, sustainability-linked finance, and other instruments driving decarbonization

Excellence in Workplace Well-Being and Growth

Recognizing organizations that excel in fostering employee well-being and professional development

Best Digital ESG Disclosure

Honoring companies that leverage digital platforms like interactive dashboards and real-time data to enhance transparency and engagement

GRESB x HERA: Standing Investment Benchmark Award (Mainland China / Hong Kong)

Recognising the excellence in ESG performance of real estate investors, companies with standing investments are eligible.

GRESB x HERA: Development Benchmark Award (Mainland China / Hong Kong)

Awards for the real estate developers who demonstrate outstanding ESG performance, companies with development projects are eligible.

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 | Ceremony Event Ticket(s) |
|----------------|------------|--------------------------|
| Single Entries | HKD 5,800 | 1 |
| Two Entries | HKD 11,800 | 2 |
| Three Entries | HKD 18,800 | 3 |
| Four Entries | HKD 27,800 | 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 2025 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.

Applications
Consolidation



Judges'
Evaluation



Confirmation
of Winners

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 organization 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 organization'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

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 the long-term strategy in making an impact in achieving UN SDGs (e.g. resolving environmental challenges or progressing toward 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



HERA

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.**

HERA FORUM CUM AWARDS CEREMONY

All participating organisations are invited to be part of the Award Ceremony to be held on 21 October 2024 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.

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.

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.

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 Eleanor at +852 3990 0790 or apply@hkesgawards.com

ENQUIRIES

Application and Membership
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Partnership, Sponsorship and Events
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