HERA 2026 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 2026	Early Bird Submission Deadline (10% off discount)
31 July 2026	Final Submission Deadline
October 2026	HERA Presentation Ceremony - Hong Kong

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 demonstrate leading ESG reporting practices within their industry. Winners are assessed on the overall quality of reporting, including governance, strategy, materiality, performance management, and transparency.
Divisions: Large-cap (>HKD 30bn), Mid-cap (HKD 5bn–30bn), Small-cap (<HKD 5bn).

Best Sustainability Report for Non-listed Company

Recognises non-listed organisations with strong, well-structured sustainability reporting and credible performance disclosure across HERA's assessment criteria, demonstrating clear governance, material topics, targets, and measurable progress.

Best Sustainability Report for International Companies Award

Open to international companies operating in Asia. Recognises organisations that demonstrate high-quality ESG reporting aligned with leading practices, assessed against HERA's core criteria, including governance, strategy, materiality, performance, and transparency.

Best GRI Report

Recognises organisations adopting the GRI Standards that demonstrate strong adherence to GRI reporting principles and requirements, including robust materiality assessment, stakeholder engagement, governance disclosure, and clear, decision-useful reporting.

Excellence in ESG Governance

Recognises organisations that demonstrate strong board-level leadership and accountability for ESG—covering oversight structures, risk and opportunity management, goal setting and review, and how ESG performance is monitored and integrated into decision-making.

Excellence in Environmental Positive Impact

Recognises organisations that provide comprehensive environmental disclosure and demonstrate credible actions to manage environmental risks and deliver measurable positive outcomes—across operations and, where relevant, the wider value chain—contributing to environment-related SDGs.

Excellence in Social Positive Impact

Recognises organisations that go beyond social compliance to create measurable value for people and communities—employees, suppliers, customers, and local communities—through strong management practices, responsible operations, and outcomes that contribute to social-related SDGs.

AWARD CATEGORIES

Carbon Neutral Award

Recognises organisations that demonstrate a credible pathway toward net-zero, including clear commitments, emissions measurement and management, decarbonisation actions, and transparent reporting of progress.

Newcomer Award

Open to first-time HERA applicants. Recognises organisations that deliver outstanding overall performance across HERA's core criteria, demonstrating strong fundamentals in governance, materiality, disclosure quality, and performance management.

Outstanding ESG Improvement Award

Open to previous HERA participants. Recognises organisations that demonstrate significant improvement in ESG disclosure quality and/or performance since their prior submission. (Previous Grand Award and Commendation winners of Best ESG Report are not eligible.)

Excellence in Climate Transition Finance & Investment

Recognises leadership in climate transition finance and investment, including the use of instruments such as green bonds, sustainability-linked finance, and other mechanisms that credibly support decarbonisation and transition outcomes, supported by transparent disclosure.

Excellence in Workplace Well-Being and Growth

Recognises organisations that excel in building a workplace that supports employee well-being, capability development, and growth, evidenced through policies, programmes, outcomes, and transparent disclosure.

Best Digital ESG Disclosure

Recognises organisations that enhance transparency and stakeholder engagement through effective digital ESG disclosure, such as interactive reporting, dashboards, or timely data publication, with clear structure, usability, and credible information.

WINNERS

All HERA winners will enjoy:

- Award trophy
- Distinct awards logo
- Digital and print media exposure on 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 2026 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

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Judges' Evaluation

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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

AWARDS CEREMONY

All participating organisations are invited to be part of the Award Ceremony to be held around 13 October 2026 in Hong Kong. It will be a half-day event with panel discussions and a networking tea break. 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 Sida at +852 6572 6421 or apply@hkesgawards.com

ENQUIRIES

Application and Membership
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