

**Alfred Chan, Managing Director of Towngas and Chairman of Towngas China, becomes the first outstanding Chinese business leader to win the Leadership Award in the Gas Industry Awards 2015**

The Gas Industry Awards, organised jointly by the Institution of Gas Engineers and Managers (IGEM) and the Energy and Utilities Alliance (EUA) of the United Kingdom, were held in London on 14 May this year. IGEM, a chartered professional as well as academic body founded in 1863, is licensed by the United Kingdom Engineering Council and is one of the standard-setting bodies for the gas industry in the European Union. EUA, a non-profit organisation founded in 1905, plays a leading role in shaping the future development of the United Kingdom’s energy and public utilities sectors. It was at the hands of these two internationally prestigious professional bodies that Alfred Chan, Managing Director of the Hong Kong and China Gas Company Limited(Towngas) and Chairman of the Towngas China Company Limited(Towngas China), received the Leadership Award at a grand ceremony this year, making him the first leading Chinese businessman to be so honoured.



Towngas Managing Director Alfred Chan (centre) took a group photo with Chris Clarke, President of IGEM, Dermot Nolan, Chief Executive of Office of the Gas and Electricity Market(Ofgem), Phil Jenkins, Director of Gas Assessment and Training Centre(GATC) and Ian Hughes, President of EUA(from left to right) after receiving “Leadership Award” in “Gas Industry Award 2015”.

The Gas Industry Awards honour enterprises and individuals that are committed to the advancement of the industry and have made outstanding contributions to its development. Towngas was honoured with the Company of the Year award in both 1999 and 2006, while its subsidiary Towngas China won the same award in 2014. These are eloquent tributes to their outstanding governance and operational practices under Alfred Chan's leadership.

Alfred Chan joined Towngas in 1992 and was appointed the Managing Director in 1997. Under his direction Towngas has developed from a local, Hong Kong-based company engaged in a single business into a considerable, nationwide, multi-business group focused on environmental protection and energy ventures. The company currently runs more than 200 projects in 25 provinces, municipalities, and autonomous regions in mainland China. These range from upstream, midstream, and downstream gas projects to water supply and wastewater treatment, natural gas refilling stations, and new environmentally-friendly energy businesses. As the head of a leading gas group, Alfred Chan is a highly qualified professional in the gas industry. He is a Chartered Engineer, and a long-standing Fellow of IGEM, Fellow of the Energy Institute of the United Kingdom, Fellow of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers, and Fellow of the Hong Kong Institution of Engineers. He has also served, among other capacities, as the Vice Chairman of the China Gas Association for many years.



Towngas Managing Director Alfred Chan interviewed by BBC Correspondent Michael Collie

As safety has always ranked first among Towngas' priorities, Alfred Chan has set the safety target of "zero accidents" instead of "zero accountability accidents". He visits Towngas China's project sites for safety inspections in person every year and has made safety a key criterion in performance appraisal of project general managers. While Towngas is a long-established enterprise with 150 years' history, its hallmark is an enduring and vigorous creativity. A recent example of this is Alfred Chan's introduction of the concept of "Growth = Innovation x Implementation", under which he has proclaimed 2015 the company's "Year of Enterprise Innovation and Development". This encourages all staff to apply their minds more actively and think out of the box to come up with creative solutions to problems, which can be implemented to provide customers with an even better and safer service. "As a time-honoured enterprise with a spirit of creativity, we have introduced to the mainland and followed to the letter there the principles we observe in Hong Kong," said Alfred Chan. "That is one major reason why we have been able to win the trust of the public."