

## Small Steps, Great Results



*(Photo courtesy of Sino Group)*

Many talk about “corporate social responsibility”, but a visit to the Skyline Tower and Olympian City last month demonstrated how the Sino Group realized this mission.

Sino Green is one of the group’s Corporate Social Responsibilities, offering services like reducing food waste, energy saving and creating a green lung in an urban environment.

No one can visit the tranquil roof garden with an organic farm on Skyline Tower without being impressed. The stone pathway metaphorically indicates the many small steps taken by Sino Group to do their part for a greener Hong Kong.

The highlight is the organic farm managed by Hong Chi Association, whose members have intellectual disabilities. Crops like organic corn and aloe vera are for sale and the profits are donated. This scheme provides equal job opportunities for a minority while the Sino Group staff and tenants can enjoy a more beautiful workplace. Michelle, who works there, said, “I always find these events meaningful and come to support with my children.”

Since the tower was built in 2004, it has won numerous accolades such as the Green Building Award in 2009-2010. Without the whole-hearted participation of the staff, tenants and the community, the goal to be “A Green Leader” would not have been achieved.

It is reassuring to see that a huge company would care so much for little things. While society is busy making big bucks, Sino Group is thinking small: how to be more environmentally-friendly, one step at a time. Just as Frank A. Clark once said, “Everyone is trying to accomplish something big, not realizing that life is made up of little things”.

Another worthy place to visit is Olympian City, which has won the Best Landscaping Award (Gold) and Grand Award in Facility Management in 2012 and 2013 respectively. Truth be told, they won so many awards because they dare to try. They introduced the prototype of a hydro-electric power generator and demonstrated the feasibility of power generation in the company. This remarkable step identifies them as the vanguard of a new era of energy saving in Hong Kong.

Most importantly, they inspire others to think out of the box: even the tap in washrooms run on self-sufficient electricity generated from the light above, with a small solar panel placed on top of the tap, replacing the use of batteries.

In addition, Olympian City has the first-ever Green Bridges in Hong Kong. “Utilizing natural sunlight, the bridges enhance indoor green features and enrich visitors’ visual enjoyment,” said Ivan Chan, the Property Officer.

His colleagues, Thomas Lau and Billy Wong said about the shopping mall’s vertical green wall, “The refreshing vertical green system lowers the indoor temperature slightly and we brought in auto irrigation to provide just enough water for the plants.”

The shopping mall has been turned into a green economic community centre, which calls attention to how little steps can enhance the overall environment in Hong Kong.

*Ko Tina Lok Sun (5B, 2014-15)*

*(Tina won the first prize in the Young Post, SCMP’s Sino Junior Reporter Programme 2014. Co-organized by the Young Post and the Sino Group, the programme integrated environmental protection with reporting skills, and inspired participants to live green.)*