

23 November 2015

HSBC hosts 'Plant for the Ocean International Forum' to combat ocean desertification

HSBC Korea hosted 'Plant for the Ocean International Forum' in partnership with the United Nations Environment Programme National Committee for the Republic of Korea (UNEP National Committee of Korea) on 20 November, 2015 in the Conference Centre at The Federation of Korean Industries.

This event was designed to provide an open forum to discuss conservation efforts to protect marine ecosystem in Asia-Pacific, sustainable use of marine biological resources and sustainable development of the marine environment. Marine eco system experts from Korea, Japan, Thailand and Australia participated to share their expert views on this global issue. About 200 college students and environmentalists attended.

Martin Tricaud, President and CEO, HSBC Korea, stated, "Ocean desertification is a serious global environmental threat. We hope that this forum provides an opportunity to raise the awareness of the seriousness of ocean deserts and to restore and reinforce the marine ecosystem in the calcified ocean area."

This Forum is part of the activities carried out under the 'Plant for the Ocean Programme' for which HSBC Korea and the UNEP National Committee of Korea signed an MOU in September this year to protect Korea's marine environment. 'Marine Forest Creation Camp' and awareness campaigns are planned for 2016 and 2017.

This year, to mark its 150th anniversary, HSBC is making an additional global fund of US\$150m over three years (2015-2017) available to selected local charities. For this, HSBC Korea have partnered with Junior Achievement (JA) Korea and UNEP National Committee of Korea to deliver "Company Programme," an entrepreneurship programme targetted at high school students and "Plant for the Ocean." These projects will be implemented with grants from the 150th anniversary fund.

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HSBC in Korea

HSBC has had a long presence in South Korea for over 115 years entering the Korean market in 1897 in Jemulpo (Incheon). HSBC is the leading provider of Global Banking and Mmarket services in Korea, and is one of the largest foreign banks in Korea. HSBC Korea was awarded 'Best Foreign Commercial Bank' in Korea by FinanceAsia in 2015, and was voted the 'Best Domestic Cash Management Bank' in Korea for the sixth consecutive year in Euromoney Cash Management Survey in 2015.

UNEP National Committee for the Republic of Korea

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) National Committee for the Republic of Korea conducts various environmental protection activities which reflect UNEP's environmental values to achieve 'sustainable development'. In close cooperation with UNEP headquarters and regional offices, the committee strives to encourage public awareness and support for environmental protection through education, campaigns, forums, publishing, and projects in various fields.