

Hong Kong Productivity Council¹ (HKPC) was commissioned by the Swire Pacific Group (Swire Pacific) to verify the Sustainable Development Section and relevant sections covering sustainability aspects (The SD Section) in its Annual Report 2012. The SD Section covers the sustainability performance with respect to environmental, social and economic aspects of Swire Pacific during the calendar year 2012.

Objectives

The objective of HKPC's verification work is to provide an independent assurance on the completeness, accuracy and reliability of the information presented in the SD Section of Swire Pacific's Annual Report 2012 and, more specifically, to:

- assess whether the scope of the SD Section covers all significant aspects in relation to Swire Pacific's sustainability performance;
- check whether the SD Section conforms to the Level C+ requirements of the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) G3.1 Guidelines;
- evaluate whether the selected statements and data presented in the SD Section are accurate;
- review whether the data collection and information management mechanisms used to prepare the SD Section are reliable; and
- provide recommendations for future reports.

Approach

Our verification procedures² comprised a comprehensive review of the SD Section followed by the selection of a representative sample of statements and data in relation to Swire Pacific's significant sustainability aspects for verification. Through the interviews with Swire Pacific's representatives on 27 February 2013, we reviewed and examined the data collation systems and supporting materials relating to the selected statements and data as well as Swire Pacific's relevant management practices and initiatives.

Results

Report Completeness

The SD Section conforms to Level C+ requirements of GRI G3.1 Guidelines. It presents a structured overview of the environmental, social and economic performance with respect to the key services, activities and initiatives of Swire Pacific and its major subsidiaries. In response to the recommendations mentioned in the Assurance Statement of the 2011 report, Swire Pacific has presented more information on the progress and achievements against the sustainability objectives established in 2011 in this Annual Report 2012.

Report Accuracy and Reliability

The selected sample of statements and data examined during the verification process are consistent with the source materials reviewed and reflect a fair account of Swire Pacific's environmental, social and economic performance. The data collation and information management systems adopted are generally considered to be reliable.

Recommendations for Future Reports

We encourage Swire Pacific to consider the following areas in the preparation of its future reports:

- To present information with reference to readers' interest such as the investment returns and achievement of environmental initiatives;
- To provide concrete information on the medium and long-term sustainability aims and measurable targets;
- To include views from different stakeholder groups on Swire Pacific's sustainability performance and Swire Pacific's response;
- To consider extending the coverage of appropriate performance indicators and disclosures with reference to the latest GRI Reporting Guidelines and to prepare for the adoption of the upcoming GRI G4 Guidelines.



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¹ HKPC is a multi-disciplinary organization established by statute in 1967. HKPC's mission is to promote productivity excellence for industry to enhance competitiveness and sustainability through the provision of integrated support across the value chain of Hong Kong enterprises.

² Our verification work did not cover data and information which have already been published in the press releases of the Swire Pacific Group and its subsidiaries, the EHS/Sustainable Development Report produced by relevant subsidiaries of the Group as well as the financial data presented in the Group's Annual Report.