



關育材工程師
Ir James KWAN Yuk-Choi

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Ir James Kwan is not yet a household name. But he ought to be one. For over 36 years since joining The Hong Kong and China Gas Company Limited (commonly known as 'Towngas'), he has been at the heart of the operation that brings gas to tens of thousands of Hong Kong households. In fact, his professed mission in life is to provide customers with a safe, reliable supply of gas that comes with caring service, while working hard to protect and improve the environment. The customer base has grown from just 50,000 in the early days to 1.7 million today. On the Mainland, the market is far bigger, with 12 million household users all over China during the last 10 years.

Two major issues that have riveted global attention today are energy and the environment, and Ir Kwan is right in the thick of both. That is why he is an important player in our society, and is destined to play an even bigger role in China's 12th 5-year plan with its emphasis on energy conservation and emissions reduction. Locally, he has launched the 'Low Carbon Action' lifestyle educational campaign, inviting our young people to make a personal pledge in leaving a low-carbon footprint.

What he has done for his company, for Hong Kong and for the country may not be headline-grabbing, but it is durably significant. He is the man behind many of the innovative measures adopted at his company. Although he started out in gas distribution, he was the one who set up the company's first Marketing Department in 1987. Subsequently, he became the first Chinese to ascend to the powerful position of General Manager of Engineering. Though trained as an engineer, he has an uncanny sense of what marketing is. To Ir Kwan, the secret of effective marketing comes down to observing and understanding customer behavior, so as to provide products and service to improve the quality of life. The no ordinary 'Towngas Avenue' is one of his ingenious marketing successes that blends fusion food, gas appliances, and lifestyle products in one store. By the beginning of 2003, he was promoted to his present position as Towngas' Executive Director and Chief Operating Officer.

As chief architect of the magnificent supply chain, he applied his technical know-how to bring about many engineering breakthroughs, including the development of the so-called 'trenchless technology' for underground pipe installation, resulting in reduced disruptions of roadwork throughout the territory. He is an eager champion of new technologies and strategies friendly to the users and the environment. For his many outstanding contributions to the engineering profession, he was inducted into the Hong Kong Institution of Engineers Hall of Fame in 2010.

But he was more than just an outstanding engineer. His foresight was responsible for helping to lock in a 25-year contract for the supply of natural gas that has translated into huge savings for local consumers. Gas is a green energy. Most people in talking about renewable energy, think only of wind

關育材工程師的名字雖然未算家傳戶曉，他對社會的貢獻卻是廣為人知。關先生加入香港中華煤氣有限公司(煤氣公司)超過36年，一直是公司的核心人物，為香港數以萬計家庭提供燃氣服務。事實上，他致力為客戶供給安全可靠的煤氣，提供關懷備至的服務，同時致力保護及改善環境。煤氣公司在香港的客戶數目由早年的僅5萬戶增至今天的170萬。在過去10年，煤氣公司開拓中國內地龐大的市場，為1,200萬個住宅用戶提供服務。

能源及環保是全球備受關注的兩大課題，關先生的工作與此息息相關，在社會上發揮重要的作用；而隨著中國「十二五規劃」將節能減排列作重點範圍，他的角色將更形重要。在香港，他推展「低碳Action！」生活教育計劃，邀請年青人作出個人承諾，減少碳足印。

雖然關先生為煤氣公司、為香港，以至為國家作出的貢獻未必得到廣泛報道，其影響卻十分深遠。他是煤氣公司的幕後功臣，構思不少創意十足的活動計劃。關先生最初負責燃氣輸配，於1987年為煤氣公司成立首個市務部。其後，他成為煤氣公司首位擢升至工程部總經理的華人。儘管他是工程師出身，他對市場的觸覺卻極為敏銳。對關先生來說，有效的市場推廣秘訣在於觀察及了解客戶的需要，讓公司的產品和服務能夠提升客戶的生活質素。集美食、爐具銷售與時尚家居精品於一體的「名氣廊」，就是他的創意結晶之一。2003年初，他獲擢升為煤氣公司執行董事及營運總裁。

身為這龐大供應鏈的總設計師，關先生運用工程專業技術屢次取得突破，包括研發「非開挖技術」配合鋪設地下管道，從而減少路面工程造成的不便。他亦積極推動對用戶及環境有利的新技術及新策略，對工程業貢獻良多，於2010年躋身香港工程師學會工程界翹楚之列。

關先生不但是一位出色的工程師，更憑遠見為煤氣公司取得長達25年的天然氣供應合約，為本地用戶節省煤氣費用。天然氣是綠色能源，大部分人談到可再生能源時，只會想到風能或太陽能，可是香港只有一些小規模的風力和太陽能項目，其實大型的再生能源是堆填區的沼氣。為處理技術問題，關先生努力向外尋求專才協助。他提倡業界與大學及社區群策群力，鼓勵商界與學術界衷誠合作。煤氣公司與香港科技大學已就生物質能轉化為燃氣項目簽訂協議。香港科技大學是全港唯一設

or solar power. Surprisingly, in Hong Kong, they are only small scale projects. The big projects here are from landfill gas. In tackling technical problems, he is unafraid to seek expertise from outside his company. A strong believer in the dictum that "Industry must work with the university and with the community" he has promoted collaboration between the two. His company has worked with HKUST on a biomass-to-gas project, as HKUST is the only local university with a chemical engineering department, and Towngas is the only company with a gas production plant.

Other measures friendly to the environment include the recycling of consumers' discarded gas appliances. This program has kept 1,700 tonnes of scrap metal from our landfill sites in the last 3 years alone.

Ir Kwan has a heightened sense of corporate social responsibility. Under his leadership, Towngas is the leading utility company in organizing volunteers, not just from its own ranks but also, unexpectedly, from its customers. It even has its own girl guides, formed by the daughters of its employees, to teach them to become good citizens. He is a proud honorary member. We don't often associate utility companies with charity. And yet, under his guidance, his company has been distributing rice dumplings, moon-cakes, hot soup and turnip cakes to the elderly and the needy.

A celebrated professional engineer, Ir Kwan helped establish the Gas Discipline of the Hong Kong Institution of Engineers which he headed as President in 2004-05. In fact he is the founder of its Gas and Energy Division. On the strength of his professional reputation in bringing Hong Kong gas industry to an international platform, he was the first Chinese to be elected as the President of the UK-based Institution of Gas Engineers and Managers in 2000/01. By honoring him, this international body is honoring Hong Kong standards in gas engineering.

Educated at the University of Hong Kong with an honors degree in Mechanical Engineering, Ir Kwan obtained an MBA degree from the Chinese University of Hong Kong. Later, when he had the chance to further his technical education, he chose to go to Harvard University for its Advanced Management Program, believing that in his leadership role, his ability to 'think out of the box' may serve him and his company better than mere technical expertise. His leadership in environmental protection is bearing fruit. Out of 144 entrants and a total of 555 environmental projects, his company has walked away with the Grand Award in the Pearl River Delta Environmental Awards competition, jointly sponsored by Hang Seng Bank and the Federation of Hong Kong Industries. With him at the helm, his customers and the community can feel perfectly safe about their energy future, for he is a man with a caring corporate heart with his eyes firmly on the big picture.

Mr Pro-Chancellor, on behalf of the Council of The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, I have the high honor of presenting to you Ir James Kwan Yuk-Choi, Executive Director and Chief Operating Officer of the Hong Kong and China Gas Company Limited, for the award of Honorary Fellowship.

有化學工程學系的大學，而煤氣公司則是全港唯一擁有燃氣生產設施的公司。

煤氣公司其他環保項目包括回收舊爐具。單在過去三年，該計劃成功回收1,700噸金屬，讓它們不至被棄置於堆填區。

關先生十分重視企業社會責任。在他的領導下，煤氣公司積極組織義工活動，更鼓勵員工與客戶一起參與，甚至設立一隊由員工的女兒組成的女童軍，教導她們成為良好公民，而關先生正是女童軍隊伍的榮譽會員。在關先生的領導下，煤氣公司經常向長者及有需要人士派發糉子、月餅、愛心湯、蘿蔔糕等以表達關懷。

作為專業工程師，關先生在業界舉足輕重，他在2004至2005年出任香港工程師學會會長，期間創立燃氣及能源分部。他更將香港燃氣業推上國際舞台，於2000/2001年度成為首位擔任英國燃氣專業學會會長的華人。這項榮銜，見證香港的燃氣工程標準已獲得國際認同。

關先生畢業於香港大學，獲得機械工程榮譽學士學位，並取得香港中文大學工商管理碩士學位。其後，雖然他有機會深造以進一步提升專業技能，卻選擇前往哈佛大學修讀高級管理課程，因為他相信自己作為公司領導人，能「突破思想框框」將會為自己及公司帶來更大裨益，比技術專長更為重要。他領導的環保項目正在發揮成效，帶領煤氣公司在恒生銀行及與香港工業總會共同主辦的珠三角環保大獎中勇奪冠軍。這項活動有144家公司參賽，參選的環保項目共達555個。在關先生的領導下，公司的客戶及廣大社群對節能減排的前景充滿信心；關先生領導公司克盡企業公民責任，盡顯對社群的關懷，高瞻遠矚，處處以大局為重。

副監督先生，本人謹代表香港科技大學校董會，恭請閣下頒授榮譽大學院士予香港中華煤氣有限公司執行董事暨營運總裁關育材先生。