

Winners of the ECCK Sustainability Awards Announced at the ECCK GALA Event



(From left: **Per Stenius**, Vice Chairperson of ECCK, **Eunjeong Lee**, Director of Communications & Corporate Social Responsibility of Mercedes-Benz Korea, **Mathias Vaitl**, CEO of Mercedes-Benz Korea, **David Taeseung Yoo**, CO-CEO of Copenhagen Offshore Partners Korea, **Taegoan Bae**, CEO of Oysterable co.ltd, **Frank Rijsberman**, Director of GGGI / Courtesy to ECCK,)

November 13, 2023, Seoul - The ECCK announced the winners of its second annual Sustainability Awards on the 10th of November during the ECCK Gala attended by distinguished guests especially the H.E. Georg Schmidt, the German ambassador to Korea and other diverse companies.

The award ceremony was held to acknowledge efforts made by European and Korean companies to create a better, more sustainable future, and to encourage and motivate other companies to do the same.

Following the evaluation of a total of 37 applications received this year, 3 grand prize winners were selected by an expert panel of 5 jury members. All applications were evaluated on the performance of their sustainability initiatives across 5 areas: vision, innovation, investment, collaboration, and impact. To qualify,



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applicants also had to show how their initiatives were connected to Korea. From the 9 companies selected as top finalists, 6 companies received a certificate of recognition and 3 were appointed as grand prize winners.

The 'Green Steps' Award for SME and startup companies that demonstrate the best sustainable activities was given to the climate tech startup 'OysterAble' for paving the way for the implementation of accessible and enjoyable ways for citizens to recycle by offering brand discounts and other incentives via recycling units distributed in neighbourhoods across the country and a dedicated app.

The 'Blue Horizon' Award, given to companies that excel in carbon reduction, air purification, and clean energy activities, was awarded to the global offshore wind power development company Copenhagen Offshore Partners Korea (COP Korea). Copenhagen Offshore Partners is an exclusive partner for Copenhagen Infrastructure Partners (CIP), one of the largest global investors dedicated to greenfield renewable energy development. For this award, the organization's efforts to develop state-of-the-art offshore wind farms, knowledge sharing with domestic industry and academia, green job creation, and environmental protection were recognized.

Finally, the 'Golden Stars' Award, presented to companies that demonstrate the most outstanding ESG and multifaceted sustainability initiatives, was awarded to Mercedes-Benz Korea. Representative of one of Germany's automobile companies, Mercedes-Benz Korea has shown exceptional commitment to the promotion of education and local engagement on a wide range of sustainability matters in Korea through the development and implementation of various CSR activities, such as education programs on traffic safety and environmental awareness programmes.

During his opening remarks, ECCK Vice Chairperson Per Stenius mentioned that although the domestic and international environment is undergoing rapid changes, all companies today must consider sustainability for the future. He further stressed that unless we act now, we may miss opportunities to reverse the effects of climate change and that, without a doubt, government initiatives can only be realised through strong collaboration with and contributions from the private sector.

The ECCK has put sustainability as a key area of focus from 2021 onwards and is actively advocating for the development, promotion, and implementation of improved sustainability policies and practices locally. The 'ECCK Sustainability Awards' was first held in 2022 to this end and seeks to support, celebrate, and encourage European and Korean companies as they make moves towards a brighter, better, and more sustainable future for all.



[Reference]

1. Winners of 2023 ECCK Sustainability Awards

Green Steps: Oysterable

Oysterable is a climate tech startup that solves global plastic and waste problems with AIoT circular economy infrastructure and carbon tracking solution. Lalalooop AIoT resource circulation solution is a cutting-edge, self-serve, resource-circulating, Reverse Vending Machine (RVM) and infrastructure that creates a closed loop cycle of recyclables and reusables as a viable alternative to the use of single-use waste. It automates the collection of recyclables and reusables anytime and anywhere, without the need for human assistance. Oysterable's AI and IoT technology for plastic circulation lead the circular economy in Korea with more than 12 patent applications. With its innovative solutions and growing user base, Oysterable is playing an instrumental role in promoting sustainable practices in the region and beyond.

Blue Horizons: Copenhagen Offshore Partners (COP) / Copenhagen Infrastructure Partners (CIP)

COP Korea was established in 2018 as the Korean branch office of COP and is actively working on offshore wind projects, developing up to six GW projects across Korea. It aims to support the Korean government's green initiatives in the journey of the energy transition by creating job opportunities in the offshore wind industry and pursuing a win-win relationship with local communities. Working exclusively for Copenhagen Infrastructure Partners (CIP), one of the largest global investors dedicated to greenfield renewable energy investments, COP offers services related to development, construction, and operation of CIP's offshore wind projects. Headquartered in Denmark, COP has been involved in the development of approximately 50 GW of offshore wind projects across 15 countries. Additionally, it has established strong partnerships with various global companies for more than 15 large-scale offshore wind projects.

Golden Stars: Mercedes-Benz

Mercedes-Benz Korea Ltd. (President & CEO Mathias Vaitl) was founded on January 1, 2003 as a local subsidiary of Mercedes-Benz Group, the leading global automaker of the best luxury cars. Mercedes-Benz Group AG was created in 1926 when the predecessor companies of Carl Benz and Gottlieb Daimler were merged with the aim of revolutionizing automobile production. In the spirit of its founding fathers Gottlieb Daimler, "The best or nothing", and Carl Benz, "The love of inventing never dies", Mercedes-Benz Group is creating a systematic portfolio for efficient powertrain development and transition to the era of electric vehicles. Mercedes-Benz Korea offers customers a diverse selection of cutting-edge products and differentiated services at 64 showrooms and 77 service centers across the country. Contributing to Korean society with long-term endeavors to fulfill its corporate social responsibility on a sustainable scale, Mercedes-Benz Korea, in partnership with 11 authorized Mercedes-Benz dealer companies in Korea, is actively engaged in its corporate social responsibility program, 'Mercedes-Benz Promise'.

2. About the ECCK Sustainability Awards 2023

Both in Europe (2019) and Korea (2020) the Green Deal policy became an important commitment. The success of sustainability policy depends on a strong collaboration with and contribution by



private enterprises. The ECCK representing almost 400 companies also has set Sustainability as a key focus area since 2021.

In 2022, the ECCK launched its Sustainability Awards open for European and Korean companies to apply for and therefore acknowledging their considerable efforts Sustainability. This year, the application was open from July to mid-October 2023 and total 37 companies participated in these awards. There are three categories as below.

- Green Steps – Awarded to the SME/Start-up with the best sustainability initiatives.
- Blue Horizons – Awarded to the company demonstrating the best Co2 Reduction, Clear Air, and/or Clean Energy initiatives.
- Golden Stars – Awarded to the company with the best ESG/multifaceted sustainability initiatives.

3. About the ECCK

Established in 2012, The European Chamber of Commerce in Korea (ECCK) is a business association of European companies in Korea, representing the common voice of the European business community, the ECCK provides its members with information, communication, and access pertaining to the business and regulatory environment of Korea. Currently, the Chamber consists of 390 member companies and approximately 50,000 employees in Korea.