



Department of
Applied Social Sciences
Serves the Society

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CITY-YOUTH EMPOWERMENT PROJECT BRINGS CITYU'S 30th ANNIVERSARY TO THE COMMUNITY

To commemorate the 30th Anniversary of the University, City-Youth Empowerment Project has organized a number of special projects to promote the community spirit of CityU, all the projects are focused on enhancing students' social participation and to provide the help needed to those who are in our community through creative and innovative channels. All of these special projects are built upon existing regular and long-term CYEP services that operate in collaboration with our partnering -community organizations. In all of these services, CYEP volunteers will be active participants in leading and facilitating. Thus, with generous sponsorships from the *Community Services and Engagement Projects, CYEP has planned and organized 20 special 30th anniversary projects (*18 of them are sponsored by the Community Services and Engagement Projects /CSEP, a community-focused initiative with the aims to promote students' concern on the community needs):



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HIGHLIGHTS OF CITY-YOUTH EMPOWERMENT PROJECT



Happy Carnival 2014: Connecting Communities through Service & Learning

This year, the theme of Happy Carnival 2014 was "Global Village," with the aim of engaging different people including a broad base of grassroots communities and community partners (NGO) we serve and work with, and CityU local and non-local student volunteers, and students from hall. Additionally, to promote the community spirit, neighborhood groups of CityU were also a part of this event



Act Out! – Theatre Education Workshops on Parenting

Act Out! is a supportive workshop with a group of parents from low-income families and new arrival families in collaboration with Society for Community Organization. Through theatre education workshops, a space is created for the parents to have an open discussion on parenting in an interactive way, which aims at bringing positive changes to the parents themselves, their children and their family dynamics.

"I can do it!" – Pottery workshops for children from low income and new-arrival families

To aid children's personal development, a pottery workshop for children from low income and new-arrival families in collaboration with Society for Community Organization will aim to help children's creativity, concentration and patience.

Beyond Volunteering – Creative Art Workshops on Service Learning

A series of creative art workshops on service-learning will be organized

for CYEP volunteers to express their thoughts on volunteering and service-learning. During the creative process, volunteers may develop reflections they may not be aware of – as art is a powerful medium to channel thoughts and insights.

'Hall 1 Bread Angels': Redistributing bread surplus to the community in need

Of the million tons of food going to waste on a daily basis, much of it is quality food that can benefit people living in poverty. Fresh breads will be collected from major commercial bread vendors and Hall 1 x CYEP volunteers will help transfer, and distribute them to people in need in the community every week. Knowledge on environmental protection, sustainability, resource redistribution, food safety regulations, and poverty will be explored. An exhibition was held on 26th April, 2014 to demonstrate the work of the volunteers in order to promote the culture of volunteerism, resource re-distribution, sustainability and carbon footprint in CityU.

Care About The Society Through Soccer! Project

Jockey Club Humanity Hall (Hall 1) has formed a soccer team in collaboration with City-Youth Empowerment Project - 'City-Younited'. City-Younited has developed connections with Society for Community Organization (SoCO) to play several friendly football games with players who are currently or formerly homeless soccer team (Dawn Soccer Team). The Dawn team players shared their experience of being empowered, fighting against discrimination and striving for social justice with our students during their interactions. To continue this spirit, we plan to organize more friendly games in collaboration with different NGOs such as SoCO homeless soccer team, Baptist Oi Kwan Social Service Mental Rehabilitation soccer team, so as to cultivate our students' sense of community, civic engagement, and advocacy.

'The Rhythm Speaks My Soul': Integrating the children suffer from mentally-handicapped into our community through playing drum circle

City-Youth Empowerment Project volunteers have been providing daily care assistance to a group of mentally-handicapped children in the Cornwall School for a couple of years. In order to enhance their integration in the community, our volunteers brought them to our university to participate in an African drum circle, to provide an opportunity for the children to express themselves through sound and rhythm.

"Draw in a Circle" Community Project

"Draw in a Circle" is an expressive art workshop involving CityU students and a group of hidden elderly in the community. In this collaborative art

workshop of circle painting, the aim is to connect the young and the seniors in a "circle" community, and to enhance the creative collaboration between these two groups. The meaning of 'circle' is especially highlighted in the goal to promote social inclusion when people of all ages can come together to work on creative and community-based projects.



English is Fun@CityU – English Camp for children and youth from low income and new arrival families

The project provides a 3-day overnight English Camp for children and youths from low income and new arrival families in collaboration with student residents in Summer 2014, with the aim to enhance their English in everyday usage.

Ethnic Minority Soucial Inclusion Festival

Social Inclusion and anti-discrimination start from mutual understanding. This project aims at embracing cultural diversity between different ethnicities through a series that consists of exhibition, seminars, and a one-day carnival to invite CityU staff, volunteers, CYEP's partner agencies and service recipients. The Soucial Inclusion Festival is a project aims at fostering cultural integration and active participation of ethnic minority youth groups.



Special Education Need (SEN) Service Symposium

This is a symposium that provides a platform for frontline social workers who serve children and youth living with SEN and academia in CityU to share their knowledge and experiences. The project aims at working on public education (social advocacy) for the SEN population. An exhibition and a symposium will be held at CityU inviting teachers from primary and secondary schools, frontline social workers, prospective teachers and CityU students to raise the awareness and understanding of SEN children.

Carbon Trading Game –Together We Serve and Learn, Protecting the Earth

Collaborating with Tenghoi, CityU volunteers will be responsible for holding the Carbon Trading Games with different organizations. Through the service, volunteers and the participants from various backgrounds would learn about the importance of environmental protection, and more specifically, what they can do to offset their own Carbon Footprints. In addition, both volunteers and the participants

would also learn about some communication and negotiating skills when encountering a conflict of interests between different parties.

The Voice of CYEP – The Voice of Equality, Serving by Singing the Song of Humanity

Music is universal, it is therapeutic and everyone is born to be able to make music, with their hands, their feet, their mouths, etc. No matter how educated or how old one person is, there is neither difference nor discrimination in making music. Everyone is equal. A group of 40 City-Youth Empowerment Project volunteers will gather together to form an ensemble, aiming to serve the under-privileged people (homeless, people in prison, elderly, ethnic minority, etc.) by singing songs to support them. At the same time, the interactive elements would require the participation of the recipients as well, to create music-jam sessions.



Barrier-free Read – From the words to the world

Reading is one of the important ways we learn about the world. This project is going to build an extensive barrier free on-site library for youth who are physically disabled and residing at the Red Cross Princess Alexandra School Residential School, as an extension of the pilot library project that our alumni volunteer developed at this school.



Apart from the above local services, a number of overseas service-learning trips will take place to help reinforce CityU's belief in humanistic values through providing services in countries where education and community development are severely under-resourced. Volunteers in these services will take up the role of the organizers, to strategize and organize services that will best serve the need of the local communities. Through providing services with specific learning goals, including underlying social issues, identifying community resources, and effective helping skills – students can expand their social awareness and empathy toward underprivileged groups to a global level.

See Globally, Serve Locally: 3rd Annual Volunteer Service in Cambodia 2014

Since 2012, CYEP has been going to Phnom Penh Cambodia to serve orphaned children living with disabilities and HIV/AIDS. It is also our intention to build an ongoing working relationship with the partner-organizations and the local communities in Phnom Penh, to ensure our services have more sustainable and long-term impact. And we are grateful to say that due to our decision to return every year, we do have

a strong relationship with our local community partners. We recognize the importance of providing holistic services to underprivileged children – and to make sure that their holistic development is not undermined as a result of their limited resources. In addressing the alarming global phenomenon of children living in poverty, our program aims to embrace a wide range of work with children & youth.

Simply Love: A project for providing better language learning environment and community development for Cambodia

The idea of this project was born after a group of our volunteer working in a village school in Cambodia in summer 2013. Identifying the needs of the children who have no access to formal education and are receiving basic care from volunteers in the village school, this group of volunteers have decided to join force to organize a community project for this group of children with whom they have formed a very special relationship. The aim of the project is to provide better language learning environment and community development for rural village in Cambodia by hiring regular English teachers and improving on the village's infrastructures, especially around the school ground. Simply Love is set to start in July this year.



See Globally, Serve Locally: Volunteer Service in Nepal 2014 - Community Development

Since 2012, CYEP has been organizing volunteering services in developing countries. This year, CYEP plans to expand our partner network to include a community development project with PSD Nepal. PSD - Nepal believes educational development is only possible if society is aware of the importance of education and people possess the necessary knowledge and skills to deal with their educational problems. Thus, this service will focus on creating general awareness of educational development issues throughout an entire community in order to improve education of poor people. The project includes a pre-service training, followed by practical work in rural schools and communities. Volunteers will work with school students, youth groups, local NGOs and women's groups to raise awareness about education and development concerns; share knowledge, information and skills.

See Globally, Serve Locally: Volunteer Service in Myanmar 2014 – Myanmar Mobile Education Project (myME Project) & Youth Services

This project will involve working with a community educational program Myanmar Mobile Education Project (myME Project), organized by a group of community educators who want to empower local children with education. Volunteers will work closely with project staff and

volunteers in this unique education and outreach program that provides school and assistance to the teashop children via used buses that have been gutted and converted to mobile classrooms. Because these teashops are concentrated in cities and towns, the classroom stops are planned to maximize participation of many children in one area.

Documentary of a Barrier-Free City, From Hong Kong to Macau

The opportunity to travel is the dream of the group of disabled youth we work with. Volunteers and youths from Red Cross Princess Alexandra School Residential School will be embarking on a trip to Macau where they develop their own barrier-free routes to sightseeing, food tasting, and making a travel documentary of Macau featuring the participants themselves.

The Social Justice & Community Advocacy Project: Homelessness, Poverty, and HOPE (Homeless Outreach and Population Estimation) – A New York-Hong Kong Joint-Symposium and Service-Learning Exchange Tour (In collaboration with Silberman School of Social Work at Hunter College, City University of New York)

Through this joint-symposium on homelessness and community advocacy collaborated with the Silberman School of Social Work at Hunter College in New York City, where HOPE street count originated (also the co-organizer of the NYC's HOPE street count); we are bringing together outstanding Social Work students and CYEP volunteers who have been working with the homeless population in HK, social work professors, social workers from New York who serve the homeless, staff from the NYC Department of Homeless Services, CYEP staff members, and veteran social worker from Hong Kong - to facilitate exchanges on homeless services and policy between Hong Kong and New York, to help identify effective solutions on both the policy and community levels. Additionally, based on New York City's policy framework on addressing homelessness in the past three decades as a comparative reference, particularly the 10-Year Action Plan "Uniting for Solutions Beyond Shelter" under the Bloomberg administration that focuses on using various forms of supportive and affordable housing as the main solution to tackle chronic homelessness (i.e. the "Housing First" Model) - the aim is to gain insight into effective and sustainable solutions (e.g. supportive services, housing policy, and broader political economic measures) that will significantly ameliorate the problem of homelessness. The Social Justice & Community Advocacy Project is composed of 3 main parts – Joint-Symposium (July 8, 2014), Site Visits and Services, and Contributing Back to Local Community.

Conference



Inter-generational Symposium on Age-Friendly Society March 29, 2014, LT1, City University of Hong Kong

The Intergenerational Symposium on Age-Friendly Society was successfully organized by the Department of Applied Social Sciences (SS) on 29 March 2014 (Saturday) with the support of CityU Elderly Academy. The Conference has three main objectives: (1) To raise public awareness of Hong Kong as an ageing society, (2) to develop Age-Friendly communities initiated by the World Health Organisation, and (3) to celebrate the 30th Anniversary of CityU.

Over 150 elderly and young people participated in the Symposium, and were placed in 8 different groups to work together and creatively design models and facilities with age-friendly features, both physical and social, for public housing estate, park, shopping centre, hospital, MTR station, market, restaurant and university campus. Very creative and innovative designs and suggestions were put forward by the younger and older participants. These suggestions, after consolidation, are now being published in a book and would be submitted to relevant government units and public bodies for their reference and necessary action.

Officiating guests at the opening ceremony were Professor Arthur Ellis, CityU Provost, Professor Lo Tit-wing, and Dr Alice Chong Ming-lin, Head and Associate Professor from the Department of Applied Social Sciences, respectively. They were joined by representatives from sponsor organisations, including the Rotary Club of the New Territories, the Rotary Club of Shatin and Charitable Foundation. The Symposium was also sponsored by CityU to celebrate its 30th Anniversary. Following the opening ceremony, Mr Ma Kam-wah, Convenor of the Active Ageing Task Force of the Elderly Commission; and Mr Benson Ng Yuk-ming, Convenor, Age-Friendly Hong Kong -



Task Force on Capacity Building and Good Practice Sharing (2013-2014) shared their experience of promoting an age-friendly city.

The symposium has provided an important platform for students to come into direct contact and dialogue with older people, to engage in fruitful exchange, so that the design could reflect the expectations of both the young and the old. The intergenerational exchange is in line with CityU's emphasis on serving the community. In promoting active and healthy ageing, we are contributing to the sustainable development of Hong Kong as a rapidly ageing society. The Symposium was rounded off with a light lunch, and it is delightful to see the students and the elders continued their discussion and exchange excitedly while sharing food together.

Dr Alice Ming Lin Chong
Associate Professor

Inaugural Conference of the new Springer Open journal "Bandung: Journal of the Global South (www.bandungjournal.com)": Envisioning South-South Relations and Development: Past, Present and Futures 20-21 May 2014

Thanks to the generous financial sponsorships from the Department of Applied Social Sciences and the Office of the Provost, the conference was able to gather nearly twenty distinguished international scholars who came to present their full papers at CityU. "Bandung: Journal of the Global South" serves as an Open Access platform for scholars and practitioners for and of the Global South to explore, experiment and discover new innovative ideas, perspectives and practices. We are privileged to have the following Keynote Speakers in this conference:

1. Mr. Chaerun Anwar, Ministry of Education and Culture, Republic of Indonesia
2. Professor N'Dri Assie-Lumumba, Cornell University, USA
3. Professor Gerald Chan, University of Auckland, New Zealand
4. Dr. Soosaipillai I. Keethaponcalan, Salisbury University, USA
5. Professor George Kieh Jr., University of West Georgia, USA
6. Professor Tukumbi Lumumba-Kasongo, Cornell University & Wells College, USA
7. Ms. Felia Salim, PT. Bank Negara Indonesia (Persero) Tbk, Indonesia

Based on the 2012 "The Small Powers in World Politics: Asian and African Perspectives" conference experience (which was also generously sponsored by the Department of Applied Social Sciences), this conference was intended to serve as a journey for the authors to engage into the following steps in order to enhance scientific innovation and discovery for the Global South:

1. To develop their own ideas and arguments by drafting the full conference papers.
2. To present their papers in the conference and receive feedbacks from the journal and other conference participants.

Conference

3. To revise their conference papers into publishable manuscripts with the help of the journal's reviewers' comments.
4. To eventually publish their papers in the inaugural issues of "Bandung: Journal of the Global South."

We are also privileged to be supported the first time by the Indonesian government's Ministry of Education and Culture and the Bank Negara Indonesia. Apart from generously providing financial sponsorships to the journal publications, our Indonesian partners are very pleased that the spirit of the 1955 Asian-African Conference held in Bandung, Indonesia is being re-activated, re-contextualized and invigorated as well as made relevant to the present world in the Hong Kong SAR. This is the spirit of de-colonization and human freedom, in which the peoples of the Global South will continue to look for and strive for alternative ways and strategies for fostering development and genuine independence.

Next year 2015 will be celebrating the 60th anniversary of the 1955 Bandung conference in Indonesia. Mr. Chaerun Anwar of the Indonesian Ministry of Education and Culture has initially extended an invitation for "Bandung: Journal of the Global South" to co-host the 2015 Bandung Conference in its place of origin - Bandung, Indonesia.

Dr. Bryan Pak-nung WONG
Assistant Professor

2014 Conference on Social Work and Social Sustainability in Asia

June 19 to 20, 2014, Wai Hing Theatre, CityU.

To celebrate the 30th Anniversary of our social work programmes, and the 30th Anniversary of CityU, the Department of Applied Social Sciences (SS) will organize a 2-day Conference on **Social Work and Social Sustainability in Asia from June 19 (Thursday) to June 20 (Friday), 2014**. With the collaboration of CityU Social Work Alumni Association, Hong Kong Social Workers' Association and Hong Kong Academy of Social Work, the Conference invites experts from USA, Australia, Japan, Singapore, Vietnam, Taiwan and Hong Kong to share their insight on promoting sustainable development in various Asian communities. Social work alumni and faculties of CityU are also invited to share their good practice / teaching and state-of-art research in promoting social sustainability in various social work fields.

The Conference is consisted of three major components. The first will be **4 Keynote Speeches** delivered by world class experts on the theories, development and practice approaches in promoting social sustainable development in social work practice and social work education.

1. Social Work & Sustainable Development: Theories and Concepts
2. Neoliberalism and Globalization: Trends Shaping Sustainable Social Work Practice

3. How a University May Approach Social Sustainability in the Current Context of Hong Kong
4. Advancing Social Sustainability: Transforming the Social Work Curriculum through Community Partnerships

The second component consists of **7 round-table style Plenary Presentations** which provide an interactive platform for overseas and local experts to exchange views and to discuss on sustainable development in various areas of social work practices in different Asian communities; including

1. From Practice to Advocacy: The Case of Children and Youth Practice in Hong Kong
2. Building Sustainable Ageing Communities in Japan and Hong Kong
3. Spirituality Practice Development In Taiwan and Hong Kong
4. Recovery of Youth Offenders' Capacity in Singapore and Hong Kong
5. Empowering People with Physical Impairments in Vietnam and Hong Kong
6. Capacity Building in Practice Learning in Australia and Hong Kong
7. Challenges in Social Work Development in China

The third component will be **8 Practice-focus Workshops** lasting for 2-hour each with the aim to acquaint participants with clinical and practice competence on important social work practices. All workshops are to be conducted in Cantonese, with the exception of Workshop 8 on mindfulness practice which will be conducted in Mandarin. The content of the Workshops are as follows:

1. Working with Ethnic Minorities - Macro Social Work Practices
2. A New Form of Youth-at-risk Service in Hong Kong
3. Good Practice in Social Sustainability Projects
4. Person-Centered Approach in Dementia Care
5. Narrative Therapy: Reconstructing Stroke Survivors and Caregivers Meaning of and Purpose in Life
6. Writing as a Cost-Effective and Sustainable Way to Conquer Depression: From Disease Burden to Capacity Building
7. The Role of Service-Learning in Sustainable Social Development and Learning: City-Youth Empowerment Project
8. Mindfulness Practice Workshop

The Conference is **free of charge**. Since space is limited, registration will be on a first-come, first-served basis. The application form and detailed programme schedule can be found in our website: <http://ssweb.cityu.edu.hk/conferences/swconf/>. For enquiry and application, please email Miss Alice LAI (swconf@cityu.edu.hk).

Dr. Alice Ming Lin Chong
Associate Professor



New Trends in Well-being Studies: Contribution of Cognitive and Bio-Neuropsychological Sciences

13-15 Nov 2014

The conference will be held in collaboration with Deans/Chairs of the Psychology Schools/Departments of Peking University, Tsinghua University, Beijing Normal University, and the Institute of Psychology of Chinese Academy of Sciences. Four responsible persons from each institution will be invited to come to deliver a keynote speech at the Conference. Colleagues and students of the SS Department are all invited to contribute to and to participate in the Conference.

The Conference is to be held on basis of the observation that studies of happiness and well-being have become increasingly popular in Chinese societies, with the rapid social and cultural changes brought about by globalization in modern China. As such, psychological constructs like creativity, hope, flow, forgiveness, gratitude, humor, optimism, resilience, subjective well-being have all been heavily examined in relation to individual and social well-being. Thus conceived, this conference will provide a platform for addressing these issues from an interdisciplinary perspective and integrating existing knowledge generated by scientific research on issues specific to various life domains in Chinese society and around the world, with a focus on the contribution of cognitive and bio-neuropsychological sciences to well-being studies. It is expected that the interflow of ideas will stimulate thinking on the role that psychology should play in addressing psychosocial issues confronting modern cities. In fact, our SS Department has been strengthening its research expertise in areas/issues to be addressed in the conference.

With inputs from some of the best minds in the field, it is expected that the SS department will benefit greatly from hosting the conference, and ideas conducive to the development of new promising lines of research will emerge as well. Subthemes include cognitive and neuropsychological sciences, resilience and positive ageing, subjective well-being and emotional intelligence, etc. More specifically, our conference will provide an international platform for

1. discussing the recent studies of individual and social well-being in Chinese society,
2. integrating existing knowledge of well-being studies, particularly in areas of cognitive and bio-neuropsychological sciences, and
3. exploring the possibility of new promising lines of research

It is worth emphasizing that a large number of SS Department colleagues have conducted studies related to the theme of the Conference. It is also worth mentioning that the five institutions invited not only have the best psychology faculty in China, they have been providing summer internship for our psychology students as well. It is also expected that hosting the conference will serve to publicize our SS Dept.'s image as an internationally well-known center of

interdisciplinary studies in Asia as well as to provide the establishment of our SS Department's new laboratory. Above all, it is expected that hosting the conference will serve to generate new initiatives and plans for collaborative researches among participants of the Conference.

Dr Xiaodong Yue
Associate Professor

Alumni & Student Mentoring Activities

The Department continues with its mentoring activities with our students through Project X with Year II students and in collaboration with the CityU Social Work Alumni Association with the graduating social work students. The Graduate Mentors Scheme for Social Work Students included a Kick-off ceremony cum sharing with alumni (with 3 SS and ARO staff, 23 alumni and 31 students attending) and an individual mock interview for students (with 5 alumni and 13 students joining) in addition to a workshop on writing application letters and resume in April.

The Department has also sponsored two workshops organised by the CityU Social Work Alumni Association on death education and personal development for alumni. The Department has also made a joint appeal with CityUSWAA to the staff, students and alumni and successfully raised fund to acquire a powered wheelchair for a social work graduate suffering from multiple sclerosis

For Psychology, we had a Christmas party on Dec 23, 2013. There were 44 students, 6 SS staff, and a few alumni participated in the event. On Jan 3, 2014, we had a Psychology Alumni Sharing - Further Studies. 7 alumni shared in this event. Around 30 students attended the sharing session. On March 28, 2014, we held a Psychology Graduate Mentoring Kick-off cum Career Workshop. The event attracted 26 students, 12 graduate mentors and 4 SS staff.

The Department has also organised the first Outstanding SS Alumni Award for all our graduates in celebration of the 30th Anniversary of the University. This is to acknowledge our alumni's outstanding achievement, personal qualities and public recognition in their personal, academic and professional development as well as their social contribution and dedication. A Selection Committee composing of the members of Departmental Advisory Committee, Agency head and alumni association representatives will select the candidates in August and make its announcement in September. The prize presentation will be made in the Home Coming Dinner for all SS alumni in October. This will be a big celebration for the whole department and invitation will be made to all alumni later.

Words from the Head

The Department of Applied Social Studies will be retitled to Department of Applied Social Sciences on 1 July 2014, while the Chinese name “應用社會科學系” will remain unchanged. We started to use the current name, Applied Social Studies, in the 1980s. It is now regarded as being outdated and does not resonate well internationally for purposes of student recruitment, faculty recruitment, student exchanges and research collaboration. The Department has undertaken a review and concluded that the new title can effectively accommodate all the core activities of the department, including social work, sociology, psychology, counselling and criminology. The new name will project a clear and distinct image of the department internationally.

Our veteran, Dr. Elaine Au, was awarded the Teaching Excellence Award by CityU in April 2014 for her quality teaching in a number of social work courses and effective leadership in the City-Youth Empowerment Project. Launched in 2005, the Project was a positive youth development response to the needs of the students, and throughout the past nine years with approximately 11 million of accumulative teaching and learning grant, it has evolved into the largest service-learning and social awareness project at CityU open to all students, greatly benefiting the community by tapping into the students' reserve of resources, as well as opening up the vast channels of student learning on civic engagement and community development.

Professor M. J. Holosko, Pauline M. Berger Professor of Family and Child Welfare, School of Social Work, University of Georgia, USA, started his visiting professorship in our department at the end of May 2014. The employment is to strengthen our social work programmes and give advice to junior faculty members in teaching, research and publications. As an endowed research chair at a major Division 1 University in America and serving on the editorial review boards of six international journals, Professor Holosko would bring instant credibility to the teaching seniority at the department.

With the launch of the 334 curriculum, a one-day symposium on this theme was held on 28 April 2014, involving all front-line teaching staff involving in the implementation of the 334 curriculum. It started with an insightful talk by Dr. Eric Chui, Associate Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences of the University of Hong Kong, who shared with us the HKU Experience of implementing the 334 Curriculum. Staff discussion involved a review of the implementation of the 334 curriculum and projected the way forward. Two of our Teaching Excellence Awardees addressed the participants on how to enhance colleagues' competence in teaching and learning. The

progress and research findings of our departmental research project on students' character and career development was reported.

The Department also organized a staff retreat at the university's Shenzhen campus on 19 May 2014 with a focus on research and China development. It devised strategies in strengthening research in the department, and recruiting and providing quality education for research students. It also considered strategic plan for collaboration with mainland Chinese universities on research, programme development and student exchange.

In line with the 30th anniversary of CityU, the Department is celebrating its anniversary on the inception of the social work programme, one of the oldest programmes of CityU, launched 30 years ago. Our celebrating activities include four regional and international conferences with the following themes: age friendly society, social work education, sociology, and new trends in psychological well-being. The Inaugural Conference of Bandung: Journal of the Global South was held on 20 and 21 May 2014, and the Conference on Social Work and Social Sustainability in Asia was held on 19 and 20 June 2014, attending by experts and practitioners from the USA, UK, Europe, Africa, Australia, Japan, South-East Asia, Mainland China, Taiwan, and Hong Kong.

The Department has also organized 20 special local and international social services projects, ranging from “Act Out! – Theatre Education Workshops on Parenting”, “Care about the Society Through Soccer Project”, to “Ethnic Minority Soulcial Inclusion Festival”. For the international “See Globally, Serve Locally” service series, we organized service-learning trips to Cambodia, Nepal, Myanmar, and New York.

The 30th anniversary of CityU is a busy year to all of us. One way to recognize the achievement of CityU over these 30 years is to strengthen our connection with alumni. An Outstanding Alumni Award has been launched to award 30 graduates in recognition of their outstanding accomplishment and contributions to the community. Please support us and make the nominations.



Prof. Wing Lo
Head, SS Dept