



Heep Hong Society Integrated Service Complex Grand Opens

Providing one-stop whole-person education, training and support for children and youth



(From left) Ms Nancy Tsang, Chief Executive Officer of Heep Hong Society, Mrs Eleanor Chan, Vice-Chairman, Board of Directors, Mrs Carrie Lam, Chief Executive of HKSAR, Mr Peter Wan, Chairman, Board of Directors, and Mr Robert Foo, Vice-Chairman, Board of Directors, unveil the plaque of the Heep Hong Society Integrated Service Complex.

The Heep Hong Society Integrated Service Complex (ISC), which is the first of its kind in Hong Kong providing one-stop education, training and support, has come into service. The Hon Mrs Carrie Lam Cheng Yuet-ngor, the Chief Executive of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region and Dr Eric Li Ka-cheung, Steward of The Hong Kong Jockey Club officiated at the Grand Opening Ceremony held on 17 March. About 300 guests from the Government of the HKSAR and social welfare, medical, education and business sectors attended.

Located in Sandy Bay, the ISC was formerly the Catherine Lo Centre, which launched its services in 1971 and became the first Special Child Care Centre in Hong Kong. The centre was demolished in 2014 and redeveloped in-situ into the 10-storey ISC. It provides a comprehensive range of services at one stop for over 2,500 children and youth with special needs from pre-school to adulthood as well as their families.

From preparation to the completion of the building, the redevelopment project was a 10-year effort and cost HKD\$160 million. It was the first project to complete under the "Special Scheme on Privately Owned Sites for Welfare Uses", through which the Lotteries Fund subsidised 90% of the construction expenses. Various government units offered their tremendous support for the project. The Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust generously sponsored the non-government-funded construction works, special equipment and the youth employment support programme.



The Chief Executive, appreciates the children's performances and the ISC for providing one-stop services for children and families. (Source: Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government Press Release)

Chief Executive's compliments, commitment and touching moments

In her address at the ceremony, the Chief Executive Mrs Carrie Lam mentioned that the mission of Heep Hong Society was in line with her personal philosophy and commended the Society for its determination, innovation and caring spirit. She said, "Sometimes, before we take action, Heep Hong Society has taken upon itself to find the resources and ways to develop and pioneer new services with utmost determination. They show the public and the government that these service models are applicable and feasible. One of the great examples was that, I visited Heep Hong Society in 2015 to observe their pre-school rehabilitation services in kindergartens. After that I discussed with other organisations and launched the 'Pilot Scheme on On-site Pre-school Rehabilitation Services' (OPRS) to provide early intervention for children during their 'golden period' for training. Children need not waste 18 months in waiting. Just now the children's wonderful performances brought tears of joy to my eyes because it is a valid testimony

that as long as we are willing to provide timely training, every child can lead a healthy and normal life. Now, the OPRS has reached a tipping point.... I would like to tell everyone, I am still resolute in bringing the waiting time down to zero. It does not matter that over 7,000 places or over HKD\$460 million are needed. For the healthy development of children, the Government is willing to make the effort."



The guests officiate the Heep Hong Society 55th Anniversary lighting ceremony.



(From second to left) Mr Richard Lo and Mr Daniel Lo — the sons of one of the founders of Heep Hong Society, Mrs Catherine Lo; representing the S.H. Ho Foundation, Dr Ho Tzu-leung, Dr Ho Hing-lan and her daughter receive souvenirs from the Chief Executive.



The officiating guests unveil the plaque acknowledging the donation by The Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust.



The current and past chairpersons of the Heep Hong Parents' Association receive souvenirs from the Chief Executive on behalf of over 700 parents who donated to the ISC.



Over 20 professionals in Mainland China congratulate the Society, including Professor Zou Xiaobing of the Third Affiliated Hospital of Sun Yat-sen University (second from left), Dr Tong Meiling of the Nanjing Maternity and Child Healthcare Hospital (fourth from left) and Professor Wu Lijie of Harbin Medical University (fourth from right).



The Chief Executive presents souvenirs to the generous organisations and donors.



The government officials of the Labour and Welfare Bureau and Social Welfare Department tour the facilities.



The children's performances bring vibrancy to the ceremony. They are widely praised by the audience.



A base for innovative services and training

Well equipped with innovative facilities and offering a wide range of services, the ISC acts as the base for pioneering new services and professional training. It houses the largest Special Child Care Centre as well as Early Education and Training Centre in Hong Kong. The latter began operation in late 2017, bringing relief to the long waiting queue.

In addition to government-subsidised pre-school services, the ISC is the support centre for school-based services ranging from kindergarten to secondary school. Service users can participate in a variety of training and activities offered by the Supportive Learning Project. The ISC also provides internship and employment opportunities for youth, while parents can receive support at the Parents Resource Centre.

The 10-storey ISC occupies a site area of 707 sq.m. with a gross floor space of 4,300 sq.m.. Its advanced facilities include the Adventure Land, the first hydrotherapy pool of the Society, a vocational assessment and training room, a computer room, a multi-purpose dancing room, the STAR Café, the Fun World, the 3-storey high outdoor climbing wall and the outdoor playground.

Mr Peter Wan, Chairman, Board of Directors of Heep Hong Society said, "We are grateful for the Hong Kong Government for showing concern and support for the disadvantaged and The Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust for their generous sponsorship. We will capitalise on the strengths of the ISC to innovate new service modes and develop more evidence-based training approaches. We aspire to be a model for the Greater China region."

Service quotas and beneficiaries



Special Child Care Centre

120



Early Education and Training Center

180



Supportive Learning Project & Parents Resource Centre

1000+



Youth Vocational Training & Community Support

1200+



The Chief Executive tours the facilities and services in the ISC and interacts with children.



The S.H. Ho Hall sponsored by the S.H. Ho Foundation acts as a venue for ceremonies and performances, as well as social adaptation training which helps children integrate into the community.



Mr Caspar Tsui Ying-wai, Under Secretary for Labour and Welfare (fourth from left), and Ms Carol Yip Man-kuen, Director of Social Welfare (fifth from left), cut the celebration cake at the STAR Café.

Jockey Club sponsors several facilities and programmes

The Society's long-standing partner, The Hong Kong Jockey Club, donated HKD\$25 million through The Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust to sponsor part of the construction expenses and a diversified range of facilities of the ISC. The Jockey Club STAR Café cum Community Support Centre on the 8th floor is equipped with a professional kitchen and baking facilities to provide training and internship opportunities in food and beverage services for youth. It also provides catering service for the building. The Jockey Club Sky Garden on the rooftop provides a green space for relaxation. The Trust also sponsored the Society to launch the new Jockey Club StarTER Project in March to provide career support for youth who are aged over 15 with high-functioning autism spectrum disorder, attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder or specific learning difficulties, as well as their families. For details, please refer to P.8.



The Chief Executive wrote a few words to encourage the youth.



Youth trainees prepare drinks for visitors.



Visitors can enjoy a delightful view in the Jockey Club Sky Garden.



Children enjoy playing in the Jockey Club Supportive Learning Fun World.



The Jockey Club Hydrotherapy Pool provides parent-child hydrotherapy classes.



The multi-purpose room in the Community Support Centre offers a variety of activities.



The Adventure Land



Father of Tin-oh



Mother of Pak-kin

Parents' support and sharing

Parents' unfailing support for the Society has always been strong and reliable. The redevelopment project of the Catherine Lo Centre received donations of over HKD\$1.6 million from more than 700 parents.

At the ceremony, two parents of the Society shared their experiences of raising children with special needs. Tin-oh's father recalled the difficult time while his son waited for pre-school rehabilitation services. When Tin-oh was accepted to the Catherine Lo Centre, he finally saw a glimpse of hope. Tin-oh now studies in a famous local primary school and participates regularly in the Junior Gateway Club activities at the centre. The vice-chairperson of the Heep Hong Parents' Association (HHPA), mother of Pak-kin, looked back on the anecdotes of her son growing in Heep Hong. She was pleased that Pak-kin now works as a programme assistant at the ISC and is appreciated by his colleagues for his effort and sense of responsibility. After the ceremony, the parents joined the Chief Executive at the STAR Café to discuss recent service development. They thanked the government for the special care given to the children and the families.

The ISC open day was held in the afternoon on the same day and welcomed the children and graduates of the Heep Hong centres, as well as their parents. They were excited to try out the new facilities and praised the facilities for catering to the diverse needs of children and youth. They looked forward to taking part in the activities offered at the ISC and visiting again.

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The Chief Executive of HKSAR enjoys a lively discussion with the parents and Chief Executive Officer of Heep Hong Society.



Children and parents enjoy the facilities at the open day.

55th Anniversary celebration activities

The ISC opening ceremony kicked off the Society's 55th Anniversary Celebrations. The Society will organise a series of events, including seminars, centre open days, sports days and family fun days, to celebrate this service milestone with the sector, parents, children, youth and the public. Please stay tuned on the Society's website.

Heep Hong
Society website



<https://www.heephong.org>



Think Bright: Guiding teachers to unlock children's learning potentials

In recent years, the primary school curriculum demands more abstract thinking, higher reasoning and problem-solving skills of students. Training of thinking skills for pre-schoolers is essential to laying a good foundation and their subsequent adjustment and learning at mainstream schools.

Expert-developed programme fills service gap

Ms Flora Mok, Regional Manager of Heep Hong Society, said, "We have encountered a lot of children at mainstream kindergartens who showed mild delay in cognition and language through the 'Pilot Scheme on On-site Pre-school Rehabilitation Services' (OPRS). There was a lack of locally developed, evidence-based thinking skills programmes in Hong Kong for pre-schoolers. In

view of this, our professional team of educational psychologists and special education teachers has developed this 'Think Bright' programme, aiming to strengthen the cognitive and language abilities as well as the higher order thinking of such children, giving them a greater chance to succeed at mainstream primary schools."

Strong emphasis on teaching approach

"Think Bright" is the first-of-its-kind, evidence-based thinking skills programme which is culturally appropriate for pre-schoolers aged 4 to 6 in Hong Kong. Not only is it a training programme of higher order thinking, but it also puts a strong emphasis on the teaching approach. "Think Bright" requires teachers to conduct dynamic assessment and provide mediation with respect to children's cognitive dysfunctions during the input, elaboration and output phases. Through teachers' mediation, children are inspired to think logically and encouraged to express their thoughts and views. In the process, children will learn how to solve problems effectively and adopt a positive attitude towards challenges.

Significant improvement in six months

Dr Kathy Sum Kar-man, Assistant Professor, Department of Psychology, University of Hong Kong, and her research team provided support in assessing the effectiveness of the "Think Bright" programme. The findings revealed that the children who had received six months of individual training through the "Think Bright" programme showed significant improvement in cognitive, language and logical reasoning, problem solving skills. Ms Flora Mok said that given the positive results of the "Think Bright" programme, it would be implemented gradually in the kindergartens under Heep Hong's OPRS. It is hoped that the programme will be adopted in all kindergartens across Hong Kong to benefit more children.

Examples of training activities

1. Find the friends



Training children's analogical thinking skills: by observing and analysing the relationship, children have to pair up two objects.

2. Strange scenario



Training children's logical reasoning: by observing the details, children have to spot the anomalies in the pictures through the use of comparison, description, proof and explanation skills.



Sharing expertise with peer practitioners

Heep Hong Society's Academy for Professional Education and Development (APED) held the "Think Bright Higher Order Cognitive Training Project - Seminar on Early Childhood Education and Effectiveness of OPRS" on 28 April 2018, and over 400 teachers, principals, practitioners and parents attended.

The Society will hold the "Think Bright" (Individual Training) Accredited Teacher Course in May and June 2018. Participants who completed the course and training requirement will receive a complimentary set of "Think Bright" training package and become a certified teacher.

* The "Think Bright" Project is sponsored by the Alfara Charitable Trust

For more APED professional and parents' courses, prospectus and online enrolment, please visit APED's website.

APED 8th cohort



aped.heephong.org

JC A-Connect extends to 2021

Heep Hong Society collaborated with the University of Hong Kong, the Education Bureau and five fellow NGOs to launch the “JC A-Connect: Jockey Club Autism Support Network” in 2015, under the sponsorship of The Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust. The programme has been extended for three years to cover 2018-2021 school years. The Society supported students with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) at 81 mainstream primary and secondary schools by providing group training on social communication and emotional regulation; organising peer activities to foster inclusion on campus; and supporting teachers and parents through consultation, talks and workshops. The programme also provides family support. As of January 2018, it has benefited over 1,770 students and 11,986 family members.



During 2018-2021 school years, the Society will adopt a more flexible support model and reinforce its family support services. It is expected to provide 750 training programmes to benefit 2,100 students. The number of beneficiaries of family support services will increase to 17,000.

Government officials visit three centres to observe pre-school, youth and parent support services

It is stated in the 2017 Policy Address that the “Pilot Project on Strengthening Support for Persons with Autism and their Parents/Carers” will be regularised. Mr Patrick Nip Tak-kuen, Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs, and Mr Caspar Tsui Ying-wai, Under Secretary for Labour and Welfare, visited the Jockey Club STAR Resource Centre on 11 November 2017 and 1 March 2018, respectively, to observe the one-stop services for individuals with ASD and their families. They commended the services for being comprehensive and providing the much needed community support. They also wrote a few words in to encourage our youth.

In addition, Dr Choi Yuk-lin, Under Secretary for Education, visited the Healthy Kids Nursery School on 5 December 2017 to observe the class and shared her own experience with the teaching staff. Dr Choi commended that the nursery’s balanced and well-planned curriculum was able to offer whole-person and enjoyable learning experience for children. She also praised the teaching staff for their professionalism and devotion to education, and she encouraged them to continue with their excellent work in early childhood education.



Mr Patrick Nip Tak-kuen, Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs (right), observes the vocational assessment for autistic youth.



Mr Caspar Tsui Ying-wai, Under Secretary for Labour and Welfare (third from left), highly recognizes the comprehensive service and community support provided by the Jockey Club STAR Resource Centre.



Dr Choi Yuk-lin, Under Secretary for Education (left), interacts with children and exchanges experience with the teaching staff of the Healthy Kids Nursery School.

Heep Hong Society charity raffle 2018

The Charity Raffle is an annual fundraiser for the Society. Thanks to the continued support from generous donors, a sizable donation is recorded every year, which is the major source of our non-subservent services. We thank every donor on behalf of our children and families who benefited from those services.

The Heep Hong Society Charity Raffle 2018 is held from 3 April to 25 May 2018. The tickets, HKD\$20 each, is now available for sale at all Heep Hong centres and over 20 public venues, including MTR stations and shopping malls. Tickets can also be purchased online. Thanks to our donors and corporate partners for their generous support, the total value of all prize amounts to over HKD\$80,000. The lucky draw will take place on 25 May 2018 at the Head Office of Heep Hong Society, and the results will be announced in newspapers and on Heep Hong Society’s website on 1 June 2018.



*Please support our
Charity Raffle!*

**Purchase
raffle tickets**



<https://www.heephong.org/raffle2018>

Heep Hong Society commits to building China's first early childhood development center

Heep Hong Society reached a cooperation agreement with Guangzhou Women and Children's Medical Center, Central China Normal University and Beijing Huanyu Wanwei Technology Co., Ltd. in establishing the first centre of technology and research in pre-school children development. Harnessing the expertise and research studies of the four parties, the centre will specialise in promoting children development, conducting scientific research, innovating technology and standards, developing products and services. It will capitalise on the internet and data technology to promote children development across China.

The Society was delighted at the invitation to be part of the centre. We anticipate the sharing of our knowledge and experience in early intervention for children with special needs. We will participate in the research of the centre in full force in an effort to raise the standard in technology, professional training and parent education.



Heep Hong Society reached a cooperation agreement with Guangzhou Women and Children's Medical Center, Central China Normal University and Beijing Huanyu Wanwei Technology Co., Ltd.

Our Partners

78 Partners conferred the "Caring Company" logo

On top of the concerted efforts of our staff, the Society's also relies on the participation of its corporate partners to bring even more novel experiences and opportunities to the children, youth and families. On 16 March, the Hong Kong Council of Social Service presented the Caring Company/Caring Organisation logos for the year 2017/18. This year, 78 companies and organisations nominated by the Society received the recognition. The Society expresses its heartfelt gratitude for the enthusiastic support and care for children with special needs from companies and organisations.



Phoelia (Far East) Co Ltd



Island Shangri-La, Hong Kong

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C S Surveyors Limited	Harbour Plaza North Point	Manulife (International) Limited	Pro-Technic Machinery Limited
Charter Queen Limited	The Hong Kong Golf Club	The Marco Polo Gateway	Renaissance Harbour View Hotel Hong Kong
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Grand Hyatt Hong Kong	Kowloon Harbourfront Hotel	PCCW Limited	

*In alphabetical order

Parent Resource Centres host “Tomorrow is Another Day” screening and sharing

Parents experience stress and challenges nurturing their children with special needs. Thanks to the sponsorship of Mr Peter Kwan, the Society's Parents Resource Centres hosted a screening of “Tomorrow is Another Day” at The Sky cinema at Olympic City in February. A hundred parents and carers attended the screening and offered mutual support to one another in the parent sharing session which followed immediately.



Three parents share their stories of nurturing their children.

At the end of the film, parents applauded enthusiastically. Three parents were invited to share their stories of raising their children. One of them resigned from his job to take care of his autistic son full-time. He noticed that his son showed care towards family members when they were sick, which made him realise that children with autism have the ability to change, and that parents should accompany their children to learn and grow.

Corporate partners support the Society to launch diverse services

Shanghai Fraternity Association

Shanghai Fraternity Association held the donation ceremony 2017 on 23 January and presented the cheque to Heep Hong Society for sponsoring the Society's Shanghai Fraternity Association Yau Lai Centre for purchasing innovative training facilities, such as the creative art room and parent-child information corner. The Association also sponsored six centres to conduct social adaptation activities and interest class to enhance children's experience with the community, self-care skills and social communication skills. The centres also support the parents in nurturing their children and helping them relieve stress. Recently, the Association also devoted more resources to early childhood education by sponsoring the new Healthy Kids Kindergarten at Kwai Fong.



The Shanghai Fraternity Association presents the cheque to Heep Hong Society for sponsoring the Heep Hong Society Shanghai Fraternity Association Yau Lai Centre.

Sun Hung Kai Properties Limited

The Society launched the three-year “A Holistic Employment Support Scheme for High-functioning Adolescents and Young Adults with Autism Spectrum Disorders” in 2014 under the sponsorship of The Community Chest. The scheme supported a total of 170 cases. Thanks to the sponsorship of Sun Hung Kai Properties allocated through The Community Chest, the scheme will launch its second phase in 2017-2019 to provide vocational training for youth with autism spectrum disorder aged 15-30 who are in preparation for entering the job market. The scheme will organise a series of vocational skill workshops, company visits, family activities and a mentorship scheme to help the youth integrate into mainstream workplace and society. Each case is followed by the professional team.



Mr Godwin Cheung, Regional Manager (third from right), represents Heep Hong Society to receive the cheque.

Acknowledgement | Special thanks go to the following donors for making donations of HK\$10,000 or above to the Society between December 2017 and February 2018:

Corporate		Individual
The Aberdeen Marina Club	Methanex Asia Pacific Ltd.	Ho Hing Lan
C S Surveyors Ltd.	Miracle Day Charity Ltd.	Lee Shuk Ying, Helen
Computime Group Ltd.	NetDimensions Ltd.	Lee Wing Wai
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The Hong Kong Golf Club Charitable Foundation Ltd.	The S H Ho Foundation Ltd.	何浩然
The Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust	Shun Hung Construction & Engineering Co., Ltd.	沈偉雄
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*In alphabetical order

StarTER Project: One-stop youth career support with new service elements

At work, vocational skills are essential, but a positive working attitude and interpersonal skills are also key to success. On one hand, youth with special needs, who completed secondary school or graduated from university, find it difficult to be employed due to their deficits in social communication skills or uncertainty in job seeking. On the other hand, some employers and their employees have less understanding of these youth. Therefore, they are not able to make adjustments or assign a suitable position for the youth according to their abilities.

Over 50% youth lack career support

Heep Hong Society conducted a survey in February to find out the job seeking and employment situation of youth with autism spectrum disorder (ASD). It was revealed that while all respondents graduated from secondary school, of which half obtained tertiary education qualifications, only less than 50% of them stayed in a job for over a year. Although 70% of the youth received vocational training, of which less than 40% received career support services provided by a cross-disciplinary team of professionals. The Society also distributed questionnaires to 27 employers, around 70% had employed or were employing youth with ASD at the time. The majority of employers agreed that the youth's performances were good. Some employers (44%) believed that their employees needed a better understanding of individuals with ASD. The results reflected that the majority of employers who employ ASD individuals think that their knowledge and understanding of ASD are insufficient.



Heep Hong Society announces the findings of the "Survey on Employment Situation of Youth with ASD".



Jockey Club StarTER Project services

The StarTER Project comprises two parts. First, it provides "vocational training and job matching services" for youth aged 16 to 35 who have high-functioning ASD, attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder or specific learning difficulties, as well as support for their families. Second, the Society will build partnerships with employers to enhance the youth's employment plan.

New modules: Independent living skills and supported internship

The Society's cross-disciplinary professional team, which includes occupational therapists, counselling psychologists, social workers, career counsellors, would first assess the youth's vocational skills and help them set and achieve vocational goals. Career counsellors would assist them on a one on one basis to formulate a career plan to strengthen their independent living skills and participate in supported internship. To ensure both the youth and the employers receive appropriate support and adjustments, the project team and the employers would work closely in a partnership to provide education for their employees and create an inclusive workplace.

Holistic support for internship

The Project is based in the newly established Heep Hong Society Integrated Service Complex (ISC). The service units, recreational facilities, the STAR Café and the computer room in the building provide diversified internship opportunities to cater to the strengths and needs of the youth, including programme assistants, clerks, computer technicians, food and beverage positions, graphic designers, cleaners and property management positions.

Youth and parents who are interested in participating in the StarTER Project, and employers who are interested in providing internship opportunities are welcome to call 3158 8359 for enquiry and enrollment.



The STAR Café is equipped with a professional kitchen to provide internship opportunities for the participants of the Project.

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