

Happy **25th** Birthday to Hong Kong Committee for UNICEF!

Hong Kong Committee for UNICEF (HKCU) celebrates its 25th anniversary on 9 June, 2011 at a cocktail reception at the Chancellor room, Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre. The Honourable Donald Tsang, Chief Executive of HKSAR attended this remarkable event.



For the past 25 years, HKCU established a firm foundation in Hong Kong to advocate for the 4 rights of children: **survival, protection, development and participation** and to strive for a better world for all children. HKCU has raised over HK\$1.6 billion for funding children's welfare programmes in over 150 developing countries and territories. More than HK\$450 million has been mobilised for supporting humanitarian operations to save children in emergency situations. Furthermore, the number of donors has reached 310,000 and we have also nurtured close to 1,300 child rights advocates over the years.

UNICEF Young Envoys Club was pleased to be invited to arrange a **still act performance** at the celebration. 7 members acting Young Envoys, students and government official would like to arouse the awareness of child-related issues and deliver the message of youth participation through various still act scenes. In one of the scenes, passionate Young Envoys and a "government official" were there to pledge their promise to build Hong Kong into a Child-Friendly City. The Honourable Donald Tsang and other distinguished guests enjoyed our performance and we wish they will continue to protect the children's rights and listen to the voices of youth. Some other YEC members volunteered to be **event helpers**, welcoming the guests and introducing the exhibits to them.



In witness of HKCU's success in the past 25 years and sharing the same mission and vision, Young Envoys Club, uniting the powers of past Young Envoys and Young Leaders, is **determined and enthusiastic** in advocating the children's rights and supporting UNICEF's work.

Listen to our Thoughts, Listen to Voices of Youth!

As representatives of youths, the Voices of Youth (VOY) has grasped this golden opportunity to interview honorable guests on their thoughts of youth participation. **Positive comments** towards the youngsters were collected but of course, there is always room for improvement on this aspect. A video was also produced on that day since the Voices of Youth wish to share this moment of rejoice with everyone.



The VOYs strive to voice out youth's voices and to listen to their opinions as well. This ceremony is only a **beginning** to them as they have just started the broadcast of the live programs at RTHK teen power at 7-8pm every Friday evening. Do value this chance to listen to our thoughts!

Once again, Happy birthday to UNICEF! Let's look forward to another fruitful year for UNICEF and the Voices of Youth!

Implementation of School Projects

Late-February - Early-April, 2011

After a series of preparation workshops, it was time for YE11s to implement their school projects. Here are some of the joint school projects that have been carried out:

EPSERAR - joint school day camp



The event was successfully held on 27 March and 3 April, 2011 at Diocesan Boys' School and HKUST respectively, with 80 participants and 16 mentors. Through different simulation games, participants could experience the hardships that children in the developing world are facing and hence raised their awareness on the issue.

YE11 Training Sessions & Mentorship Scheme 2011

Reflection

Time flies, but our memories and friendships last.

Words alone cannot demonstrate what we have paid and how much we have gained. We had started our preparation once we were permitted to organize a joint school activity. Meetings were held almost once every other week.



The whole planning was done meticulously under deliberations, worrying about that one mistake could ruin the entire programme. There were, of course, always arguments and negotiations. Frederick Douglass once said, "Without a struggle, there can be no progress." We argued on what ice-breaking games should be included, where the programme should be held, how many participants from each school should be recruited, etc, but that was what it meant to be, a path to glory.



Within our organizing committee, we depended a lot on each other. Whenever we were tired or depressed, we made each other stronger, and hand in hand we could make our dreams come true. Everyone is special in our own way and together is where we belong.

Give thanks to all.

(Frederick Lau, YE2011)

Joint School Children's Right Debate Competition

The Joint School Children's Right Debate Competition was successfully held from late-February to mid-March 2011, with the aim of raising the awareness of children's rights and encouraging youth participation in voicing their opinions about social issues.



The participating teams had shown their abilities to think critically and logically when facing local matters concerning children's rights during the heated debates. The activity was drawn to an end with Elegantia College claiming the champion in the final round.

Reflection

As UNICEF Young Envoys and the organizers of this meaningful event, we have also learnt a lot during the preparation meetings to the actual organization of the whole competition. Our enhanced knowledge on children's rights is an important stepping stone to the further promotion of these neglected rights of children to the society. We truly believe that the bits and pieces of the unforgettable experience provided by the UNICEF Young Envoys Programme would always be fascinating, rewarding and eye-opening.

(Althea Suen & Evelyn Lam, YE2011)



As UNICEF Young Envoys, we feel obliged to arouse public awareness about the child-related issues and we finally came to a unanimous decision when a debate match was proposed.



During the two-month competition, participants often succeeded in casting new light on complicated issues, which were highly encouraging to see.



As a member of Young Envoys, I, however, will not be content with the results and continue to raise the public awareness about the children.

(Jeffrey Chau, YE2011)

Appointment Ceremony

Late-May, 2011



Congratulations! After numerous training workshops, 40 YE11s have finally graduated and appointed as Young Envoys. The appointment ceremony was successfully held in Olympian City on 29 May, 2011. More than 30 YEC members witnessed that precious moment while some played a supporting role as helpers for the ceremony.

'All our dreams can come true, if we have the courage to pursue them.'



YE11s, pursue your dreams, unite for children, then PASS your Passion on.



Mentors attended the event to support the YE11s.



Mentors prepared each YE11 a white rose as a sign of congratulations.



Through sharing of experience by past YE, YE11 had a better understanding of the field visit and are ready to take the challenges ahead.

An advocacy project which aims at raising public awareness of emotional abuse will be carried out soon. YE11s are preparing for their big event. Through workshops and carrying out researches, they had a deeper understanding of the topic.

Research on parents' emotional abuse on children was carried out in late May. The results were presented to the public through the press conference. For details, please refer to page 6 of this eNews.



Preparation for Field Visits

Late-June, 2011

Preparation for Advocacy Project

Early-July, 2011

Press Conference of Research on Emotional Abuse

Early-July, 2011



VOY Launching Ceremony

Announcement of Survey Findings on "Emotion Maltreatment in Families"

The HKCU announced its survey findings on "Emotion Maltreatment in Families" on 2 July, 2011. The survey, conducted by Research Division and YE11, reveals that emotional abuse is an issue in Hong Kong households and parents often do not realize their words and actions are abusive to their younger generations. The lack of compliment and awareness of emotional well-being of their children often accounts for parent's emotional abuse on their children.



The press conference was attended by the media as well as representatives from RTHK. Mr. Fung Wai Tong, Head of RTHK Radio2 commented that he is more aware of emotional abuse on children and hopes that VOY will become the bridge between parents and children, telling the older generations what the younger ones think. "VOY is the first programme ever on RTHK that is completely hosted and produced by youth." Mr. Fung stated.

Yes. By the youth and for the youth. This is what VOY aims at.

The new series of VOY was launched on 1 July, 2011. Show your support to VOY and youth participation by logging on to VOY's website (<http://voy.unicef.org.hk>) every **Friday** from **7-8pm**! Online recap is also available in case you miss it!



"By the youth and For the youth!"

The Voices of Youth (VOY) Team performed several short skits after the announcement of the research findings. These short skits resembles some everyday scenarios in Hong Kong households, with parents telling off kids, criticizing their children by saying "It's better to give birth to BBQ Pork than to you" and "You are such a failure". The lifelike performances of the VOY Team made some attendees burst into laughter.



'The insulting words said by the parents will cause long-lasting harm to the children. I hope parents will think twice before saying anything.'

Connie Lai



Hosts, how do you think of VOY?

'I learned a lot from joining VOY, as it's a brand new experience for me. I will try my best to voice for the youth.'

Louis Chan



'Through discussing different topics, I've learnt to communicate with youth through different perspectives. I enjoy this new experience!'

Chloe Tse



'I am excited yet nervous as well, as my voice will be heard by thousands and millions of people soon. Hope that you can listen to VOY and support us!'

Vicky Wong



Hong Kong Youth Summit 2011

YEC was invited by the Hong Kong Outstanding Students' Association (HKOSA) to the Public Forum of Hong Kong Youth Summit (HKYS) 2011 on 28 May, 2011. Two of the YEC members, Alan Yip and Rani Siu, attended the event. HKYS is an annual event which provides **platform for future leaders** of Hong Kong to **exchange views** on current economic and social issues of economic and social significance. Through the Public Forum, resolutions to certain issues will be presented to the public. This year's topic of HKYS is the widening of wealth gap in Hong Kong. In the Public Forum, the two YEC members **actively asked questions** concerning the resolutions for the benefit of children from poor families. At the end of the day, Mr. Alan Leong Kah-kit and Miss Chow Ching had a panel dialogue on **Youth Participation** with the participants, **sharing their experiences** and **inspiring youth** to strive for the well-being of the society.



Internal Gathering

This year's annual internal gathering was successfully held at Minnaya Café in Mong Kok on 24th June, with around 50 YEC members gathering for fun. The gathering first started off with a **delicious buffet treat**, which was a great opportunity for catching-ups, followed by a series of **mass games** such as Song Guessing (估歌仔), King of Pose (pose王), etc.



Everybody had a **good laugh** watching the amusing performance by the participants. The party reached the climax during the exciting **lucky draw session**, in which appealing prizes such as UNICEF t-shirts of different colours, gift vouchers and other precious UNICEF souvenirs were given out. All members managed to catch their breath and finally more than 10 lucky members received the prizes. The party marked its end with a photo-taking session and everyone left with smile on their faces.



For 25 years, Hong Kong Committee for UNICEF has been collaborating with local non-governmental organizations to **ensure basic rights** of the underprivileged, especially women and children. The club has therefore put the understanding of their work in **top priority**. 10 members have visited a Small Group Home operated by Mother's Choice, an organization dedicated in helping young women and children on 28 June, 2011.



In the visit, participants had the opportunity to learn more about how the organization provides a **caring environment to children** who are unable to receive protection and parental care from their family.



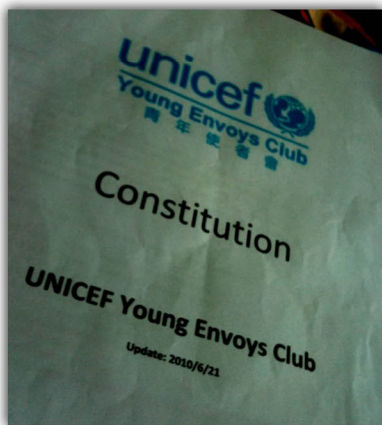
Visit to Mother's Choice Small Group Home

NGO Fair at American International School

YEC was invited by American International School to their NGO Fair on 21 April 2011. Three executive committee members of YEC, Alan Yip, Vicky Chiu and Rani Siu, attended the event and ran the booth. There were more than 150 students, ranging from Grade 9 to 12, participating in the fair and they showed strong interests in UNICEF and its work. Leaflets about UNICEF and children's rights and the latest newsletters of HKCU, "For Every Child", were given out to interested students. Through interacting with our volunteers, the students got a deeper insight and better understanding about UNICEF. The students were very enthusiastic and they proactively signed up to be volunteers for UNICEF. Some of them also showed interests in setting up the UNICEF Club at their school next year. This event was such a great opportunity for us to advocate UNICEF. YEC will be actively participating in similar events in future.



Constitutional Amendment



A constitutional amendment has been officially ratified by Executive Committee and approved by Honourable Advisor on 5 July 2011. Please find the e-version of amended constitution on our facebook fanpage. (http://www.unicef.org.hk/upload/Education/UNICEF_Club/UNICEF_Young_Envoys_Club_Constitution.pdf)

Thank you for your kind attention.

Upcoming Events

1. Invitation to the Annual General Meeting cum Annual Dinner

Do you still remember the good times we had at last year's Annual General Meeting (AGM) and Annual Dinner? All members are cordially invited to our upcoming AGM cum Annual Dinner. Details are as follow:

Date: 14 August, 2011

Time: 14:30 – 21:30 (Dinner starts at 18:30)

Venue: BP International Hotel

If you are interested, please send us your reply form via email.

2. Recruitment of the Next Cabinet for Young Envoys Club

Young Envoys Club is a platform which enables all devoted and passionate past YEs to gather, voice their opinions and pass the passion to future YEs. The candidate application package has been sent to all members. Our election forum will be held on 14 August, 2011, at the AGM. If you are interested in taking the lead of the club for the next academic year, don't hesitate, send us your application form now.

