
Chapter 7

Connecting with Young People to Build Our Future Together

Preamble

Young people are our future. The Government strives to address young people's concern about education, career pursuit and home ownership, and encourage their participation in politics as well as public policy discussion and debate. In so doing, the younger generation will see hope and opportunities for upward mobility. We also seek to nurture the younger generation, help them establish a positive approach to life and develop a commitment to society, a sense of national identity, a love for Hong Kong and an international perspective.

Over the past year, the Government has introduced various policy measures to achieve the above goal. The Youth Development Commission (YDC), chaired by the Chief Secretary for Administration and established since April 2018, serves to enhance policy co-ordination within the Government and promote cross-bureau and inter-departmental collaboration. YDC has agreed to focus on three broad directions in its future work, namely facilitate young people's selection of suitable study pathways, assist in their career development and upward mobility, as well as strengthen communication channels with young people and encourage their active participation in public affairs. The Government has reserved \$1 billion to support the work of YDC and, of this, \$500 million will first be allocated to implement a series of measures in relation to the three directions.

On facilitating young people's career development and promoting their upward mobility, the Government will make an injection into the Youth Development Fund and invite YDC to devise a new scheme to further assist young people in starting businesses, including starting businesses in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (Greater Bay Area). Besides, through cross-bureau and cross-sectoral collaboration, the Government will invite YDC to explore the introduction of a new scheme to subsidise non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to implement sustainable youth development projects.

In addition, through a series of internship and exchange programmes, the Government helps young people broaden their horizons, accumulate work experience, strengthen interpersonal network and understand their aspirations for further studies and career development. At present, there are over 70 000 young people participating in such programmes on average each year. Drawing upon past successful experience, the Government will continue to implement and enhance various programmes, including expanding the Scheme on Corporate Summer Internship on the Mainland and Overseas, with a view to providing quality exchange and internship opportunities for our young people.

The Government will support YDC to tighten cross-bureau and cross-sectoral co-operation in promoting youth life planning work so as to help young people better understand their aspirations before further studies or employment and explore diversified pathways.

YDC will launch territory-wide youth engagement activities and organise the Youth Summit so that the Government and YDC members can gauge young people's pulse, understand their thoughts and adopt their proposals. The Government will also provide different channels for young people to participate in public policy deliberation, including

offering them non-civil service contract posts in the Policy Innovation and Co-ordination Office. The Government will continue with the Member Self-recommendation Scheme for Youth to recruit more young people with aspiration and capability into various government advisory committees so as to enhance young people's participation in public policy discussions. At the same time, YDC will be rolling out the YDC Youth Ambassadors Scheme to identify and nurture, in a systematic manner, more young talents who are committed to and passionate about serving the community.

Policy Initiatives

- The Government has set aside \$1 billion to support the work of Youth Development Commission (YDC), \$500 million of which will first be allocated to implement the following new initiatives:
 - through injection into the Youth Development Fund (YDF), explore the setting up of a new scheme to subsidise Hong Kong non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to provide Hong Kong young people starting their businesses in Hong Kong and other cities of the Greater Bay Area with more relevant start-up support and incubation services, including helping them settle in entrepreneurial bases;
 - reviewing the funding criteria applicable to the second round of applications for the Entrepreneurship Matching Fund under YDF, with a view to further assisting young people to meet their capital needs at the initial business start-up stage;
 - exploring the introduction of a brand new theme-based funding scheme for NGOs to organise projects on a longer-term basis which complement the Government's youth development work;
 - through enhancing cross-bureau collaboration, increasing subsidies to NGOs, strengthening support to schools, and encouraging participation by the business sector, further promote youth life planning work with multilateral efforts to guide young people's transition from schools to the labour market; and

- organising territory-wide youth engagement activities and strengthening communication with young people through different channels and means for the Government and YDC members to gauge young people's pulse, understand their thoughts and adopt their proposals. The Government's politically appointed team will also participate in these activities. (CSO/HAB) [\(New Initiative\)](#)

- In collaboration with an NGO, roll out a pilot scheme to encourage Hong Kong young people to utilise entrepreneurship bases in the Greater Bay Area. (CSO/HAB) [\(New Initiative\)](#)

- In view of the positive experience in 2018, the Commission on Poverty will continue to implement the "Be a Government Official for a Day" programme in 2019 with an extended scale to cover more senior officials to enable more secondary students to gain hands-on experience of the officials' work and directly interact with them. (CSO) [\(New Initiative\)](#)

- Increase the annual recurrent subvention for 13 subvented uniformed groups and non-governmental organisations involved in youth development (such as the Scout Association, the Hong Kong Red Cross and the Agency for Volunteer Service) by a total of \$10 million, in order to provide extra support to enhance and sustain their youth development work. (HAB) [\(New Initiative\)](#)

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- The YDC will roll out the YDC Youth Ambassadors Scheme to identify and nurture, in a systematic manner, more young talent who are committed to and passionate about serving the community. The scheme will cover, inter alia, training activities to prepare Youth Ambassadors to participate in large-scale activities and international exchanges, as well as training at prominent non-local higher education institutions to broaden their horizons. (CSO/HAB) (New Initiative)
 - Develop a new uniform group named Rehabilitation Pioneer Leaders to foster among young leaders stronger law-abiding awareness and civic responsibilities through diversified activities and training. (SB) (New Initiative)
 - Launch a multi-media Youth-for-Youth co-creation project to reinforce the core value of integrity among young people by engaging their participation in creative production for promoting positive messages and their positive engagement and interaction on various media platforms, especially social media. (ICAC) (New Initiative)
 - Strengthen co-operation with major enterprises in Hong Kong, based on the successful experience of the pilot scheme in 2018, to expand the Scheme on Corporate Summer Internship on the Mainland and Overseas to provide young people with more internship opportunities on the Mainland (including the Greater Bay Area), Belt and Road related countries and around the world. (HAB) (New Initiative)
 - The first YDC summit, to be chaired by the Chief Executive, will be held in 2019 to examine the outcome of the YDC's work together with stakeholders and listen to the views of young people. (CSO/HAB)

- Continue to create a favourable environment for young people to participate in advisory committees of different bureaux by, amongst other measures, regularising the Member Self-recommendation Scheme for Youth under which young people aged between 18 and 35 with a commitment to serve the community are recruited regularly. The target is to increase, within the current-term Government, the overall ratio of youth members aged between 18 and 35 to 15%. (HAB)
- Continue to implement the Space Sharing Scheme for Youth to support start-ups in emerging industries, young people starting their businesses, as well as arts and cultural development. (HAB)
- As the one-stop portal for disseminating youth development related information, the Youth Portal (Youth.gov.hk) will continue to improve its information dissemination through various internet platforms (including social media), and increase the breadth and depth of its content, particularly in entrepreneurship and career pursuit. The portal will also step up its work on user engagement, user experience improvement as well as marketing and brand building so that young people can access the information more effectively. (ITB)
- Continue to enhance various funding schemes to support local NGOs to provide young people with internship and exchange opportunities on the Mainland and overseas. (HAB)

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- Continue to collaborate with the United Nations Volunteers, Palace Museum, Wolong National Nature Reserve, Chinese Academy of Sciences and Dunhuang Research Academy to provide unique and intensive internship opportunities for young people to enhance their understanding of the relevant disciplines and professional fields as well as the country's and the world's developments in different areas. (HAB)
 - Continue to enhance the promotion of the Working Holiday Scheme between Hong Kong and other economies, and establishing Working Holiday Scheme with suitable economies so that more of our young people can enrich their global exposure. (LWB)
 - Continue to encourage young people to participate in voluntary services by, inter alia, continuous implementation of the Guangdong-Hong Kong Youth Volunteer Service Programme and the Service Corps programme. (HAB)
 - Work with different stakeholders, including uniformed groups and other NGOs involved in youth development, to provide young people with appropriate non-formal education and training. We will also make use of the Youth Square and the Civic Education Resource Centre to enhance youth development and promote civic education outside school. (HAB)
 - Continue to strengthen youth training in respect of leadership, discipline and team building through the Cadet Corps of Auxiliary Medical Service and the Cadet Corps of Civil Aid Service. (SB)
 - Continue to implement the Youth Hostel Scheme and maintain close liaison with interested NGOs. (HAB)