

Chapter VIII

Connecting with Young People

My Belief

“It is the policy of the SAR Government to attend to and care for the youth of Hong Kong. In particular, in the past two years since the establishment of the current-term Government, we have implemented new measures in various policy areas to address their concerns about education, career pursuit and starting business, and to encourage their participation in politics and public policy discussion. I agree that we should do more and do better. Communicating directly with young people and listening to their views is the most important channel to enable us to do more and better.....”

Young people have different talents and aspirations. They care about society and possess diverse views on the current situation. In this connection, apart from providing young people with quality education and business start-up opportunities, we should step up our efforts in hearing the voices of young people of different backgrounds, understanding their feelings and needs, paying due regard to their views, and creating room for them to realise their dreams. The current-term Government will strive to do our best in youth development work by addressing young people’s concerns about education, career pursuit and home ownership, and encouraging their participation in politics as well as public policy discussion and debate.

Over the past two years, we have continued with our efforts to nurture talent, provide space for entrepreneurship and construct youth hostels. The Youth Development Commission (YDC), chaired by the Chief Secretary for Administration and established in April last year, has also pinned down three broad work directions:

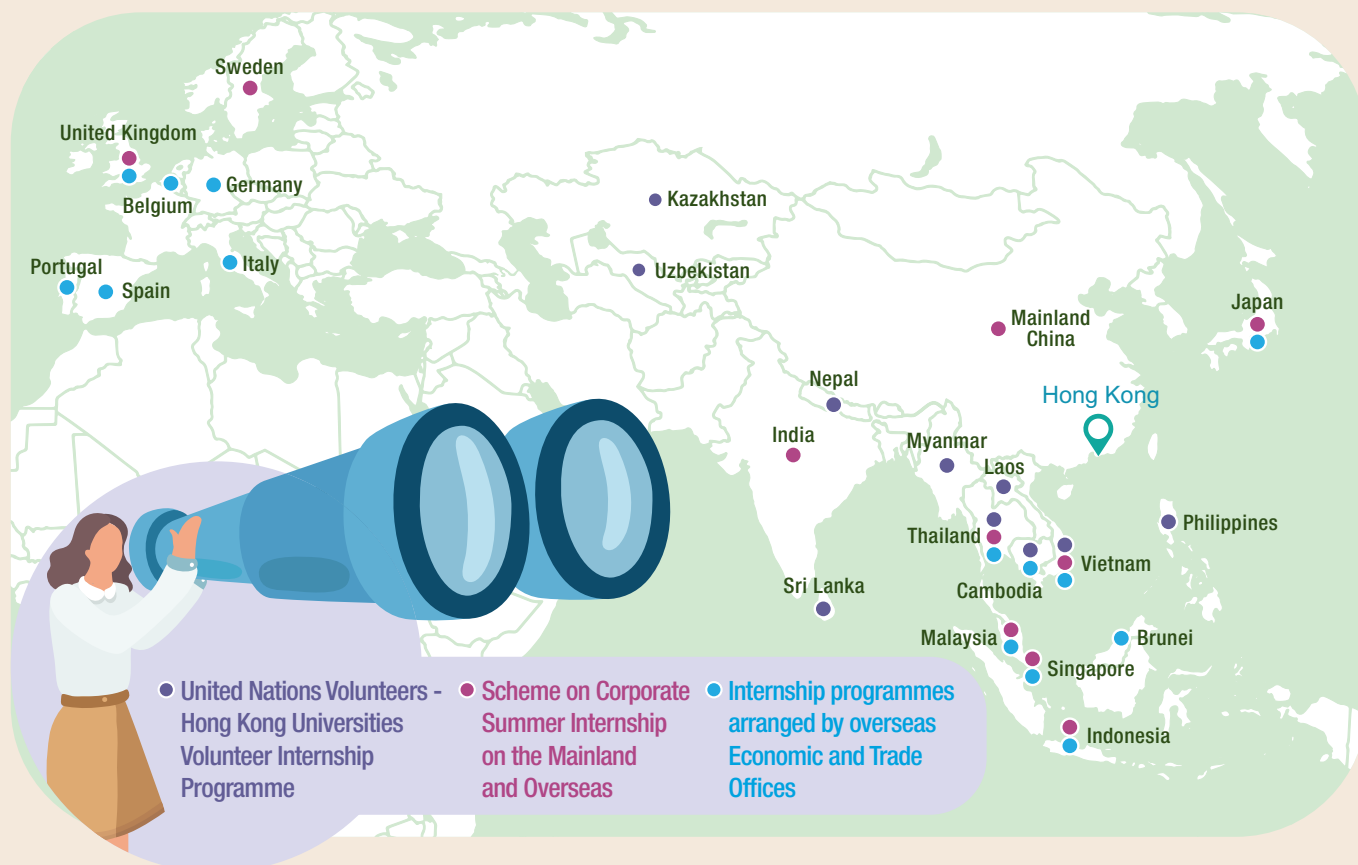
- (1) assisting young people in their selection of suitable study pathways;
- (2) facilitating young people's career development and promoting their upward mobility; and
- (3) strengthening communication channels with young people.

The Government will work closely with the YDC in promoting youth development in Hong Kong by putting the provision of \$1 billion to good use. We will enhance the operation of the YDC, so that it can participate, at an earlier stage and in a more concrete manner, in policy discussion relating to education, career pursuit, home ownership as well as young people's participation in politics, public policy discussion and debate; and communicate with young people in a more open, direct and interactive manner. Furthermore, the Government will continue to attract young people who are interested to take part in public affairs.



Broadening Horizons and Self-enrichment

Internship Programmes



Working Holiday Scheme

14 partner economies
 More than **91 000** Hong Kong youth participated

Funding Scheme for Youth Internship in the Mainland



19 Mainland provinces and municipalities

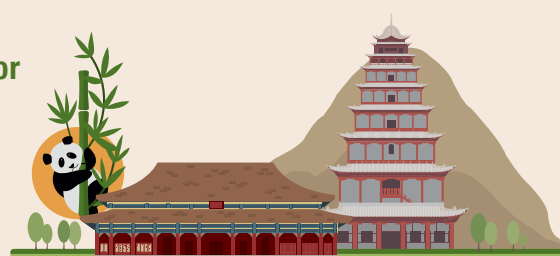
Benefitting about **3 800** persons in 2019-20

Thematic Youth Internship Programmes to the Mainland:

Palace Museum
 Chinese Academy of Sciences
 Dunhuang Research Academy
 Wuyishan National Park and Wuyi Academy
 Pilot National Laboratory for Marine Science and Technology (Qingdao)

Wolong National Nature Reserves

Beijing Organising Committee for the 2022 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games



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Broadening Horizons and Self-enrichment

Scholarship and Exchange Programmes

Hong Kong Scholarship for Excellence Scheme

Support up to **100** outstanding students per cohort to study at world renowned universities outside Hong Kong with scholarship of up to **\$300,000** per year



Scheme for Subsidy on Exchange to “Belt and Road” Regions for Post-secondary Students

Covering the whole “Belt and Road” region

Benefitted about **800** persons in the 2017/18 academic year

Mainland Experience Scheme for Post-secondary Students

About **40** post-secondary institutions participated in the scheme



Scheme for Subsidy on Exchange for Post-secondary Students

Benefitted about **1 300** persons in the 2017/18 academic year

Funding Scheme for Youth Exchange in the Mainland

Covering **30** Mainland provinces and municipalities

Benefitting about **19 300** persons in 2019-20



Funding Scheme for International Youth Exchange

Covering some 40 countries and regions around the globe

Benefitting about **1 400** persons in 2019-20





Supporting Youth Innovation and Entrepreneurship



Youth Development Fund

Launched two new funding schemes to provide start-up support and incubation services

Social Innovation and Entrepreneurship Development Fund

Nurturing young people to become social entrepreneurs

Incubation Programmes of Hong Kong Science Park and Cyberport

Stepping up support for local technology start-ups

Technology Start-up Support Scheme for Universities

Subsidising university research teams to set up start-ups



Space Sharing Scheme for Youth

Rolled out **12** projects to support young entrepreneurs and artists



Enhancing Youth Life Planning

Enhanced Funding Scheme for Youth Life Planning

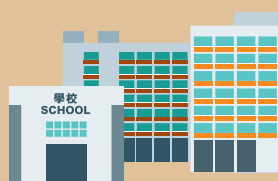


Launched "Life Buddies" Mentoring Scheme
"Future Stars" Programme

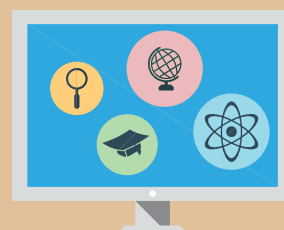


Devising a Framework for Implementing Life Planning Education

Providing a recurrent Career and Life Planning Grant/
an additional regular teaching post



Life Planning Information Website
providing one-stop information



Progress Made

A total of 15 new initiatives were announced in the 2017 and 2018 Policy Addresses and Policy Agendas. All of them have been completed or are progressing on schedule.

Key initiatives completed or major progress made by the current-term Government are as follows:

Youth Development Commission

- Established the YDC in April 2018 to oversee the formulation and co-ordination of youth policies and steer bureaux and departments concerned to take forward the relevant initiatives. The YDC has pinned down three broad directions for its future work, namely assisting young people in their selection of suitable study pathways, facilitating young people's career development and promote their upward mobility, and strengthening communication channels with young people. (HAB)
- Launched the YDC Youth Ambassadors (YA) Scheme and successfully recruited around 100 YAs. A series of training sessions and activities, including thematic seminars and exchanges and training outside Hong Kong have been organised for the YAs. Arrangements have also been made for them to serve as volunteers in large-scale and international events organised by the Government. (HAB)

Youth Innovation and Entrepreneurship

- Completed the review of the Youth Development Fund and launched two new funding schemes in March 2019 to provide more relevant start-up support and incubation services to Hong Kong young people who intend to start their own businesses. Both schemes were met with enthusiasm and received applications from more than 40 non-governmental organisations (NGOs) in total. The assessment results will be announced shortly. (HAB)
- Rolled out 12 projects in partnership with property owners and NGO operators under the Space Sharing Scheme for Youth to provide floor space at concessionary rental and relevant ancillary support to young entrepreneurs and artists. (HAB)

Youth Development

- Expanded the Scheme on Corporate Summer Internship on the Mainland and Overseas, under which 18 participating major companies in Hong Kong provided internship placements in various provinces and municipalities on the Mainland and in nine overseas countries for around 250 Hong Kong young people. (HAB)
- Increased the number of offers for the Multi-faceted Excellence Scholarship to 40 to promote the culture of multi-faceted excellence. (HAB)
- Increased the recurrent subvention for 13 subvented bodies, including 11 uniformed groups and two NGOs involved in youth development, by a total of \$10 million as from 2019-20, in order to enhance our support for their youth development work. (HAB)

- The Commission on Poverty expanded the scale of the “Be a Government Official for a Day” programme to cover more senior officials in 2019. (CSO)

Youth Hostel

- Taking forward six projects in order to meet the aspirations of some working youth in having their own living space. (HAB)

Challenges Ahead

- Young people in Hong Kong are facing challenges in education, career pursuit and home ownership, etc. How to better gear the array of targeted measures towards the needs of young people, how to establish effective channels for the Government to hear the voices of young people of different backgrounds and appreciate their perspectives and wants, how to be more proactive in soliciting their views, and how to boost upward mobility and provide opportunities to unleash the full potential of young people are the major obstacles the Government is striving to overcome. (HAB and relevant bureaux)

New Initiatives

Youth Development Commission

- Enhance the operation of the YDC, so that it can participate, at an earlier stage and in a more concrete manner, in policy discussion relating to education, career pursuit, home ownership as well as young people's participation in politics, public policy discussion and debate; and communicate with young people in a more open, direct and interactive manner. (HAB)

Youth Innovation and Entrepreneurship

- Establish an Alliance of Hong Kong Youth Innovative and Entrepreneurial Bases in the Greater Bay Area. Organisations from Guangdong and Hong Kong with strength and proven track record, such as innovative and entrepreneurial bases, universities, NGOs, scientific research institutes, professional bodies, venture funds, etc. will be invited to join the alliance and jointly set up a one-stop information, publicity and exchange platform to support Hong Kong youth entrepreneurs in the Greater Bay Area. In addition, members of the alliance and Hong Kong youth entrepreneurs will meet with the governments of Guangdong and Hong Kong on a regular basis to review the innovative and entrepreneurial ecosystem, listen to the concerns of the stakeholders, deal with problems faced by entrepreneurs, and refine the mechanism in light of the experience gained, making the alliance an effective platform to address entrepreneurial issues. (HAB)

Broadening Horizons of Young People

- Secure more internship opportunities in international organisations for Hong Kong young people, including expanding the depth and breadth of the existing United Nations Volunteers-Hong Kong Universities Volunteer Internship Programme, e.g. offering more placements in United Nations (UN) agencies such as the UN Refugee Agency, the UN Food and Agriculture Organization and the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization; covering more countries; and providing diversified placements for application by Hong Kong young people. (HAB)
- Explore the launch of new youth internship programmes on the Mainland, including:
 - the further expansion of the Thematic Youth Internship Programmes to the Mainland by co-operating with Mainland institutions to offer more quality internship placements; and
 - a new thematic internship programme related to innovation and technology (I&T) under the framework of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Hong Kong Youth Internship Programme to provide quality internship opportunities at the headquarters of top-tier leading I&T enterprises on the Mainland. (HAB)

Youth Hostel

- Pursue the following initiatives with regard to the Youth Hostel Scheme (YHS), including:-
 - relaxing the prevailing requirement to allow YHS tenants to submit/retain their applications for public rental housing and continue to accumulate points under the Quota and Points System;

- the Salvation Army will commence within this year pre-construction consultancy studies of its YHS project in Wan Chai which will provide around 510 places upon completion;
- the first project under the YHS, i.e. the hostel of the Hong Kong Federation of Youth Groups in Tai Po, will be open for applications later this year; and
- The seven projects being implemented under YHS will provide a total of 3 300 youth hostel places, including 1 760 to be completed in the next two years. (HAB)