

From the Executive Director



The Hong Kong Federation of Youth Groups was founded in 1960. Since then, it has grown in size, both in relation to the range and diversity of services provided, as well as in terms of numbers of young people served. One could assume that this is a normal, simple and organic progression of any organisation.

However, to grow and yet keep pertinent; to become larger and yet remain appropriate; to expand and yet stay relevant requires a great deal of strategic planning and forward thinking. It has required us to anticipate and be proactive in how we reach out and respond to the amazingly fluid nature of young people's concerns, while also ensuring that our core services remain intact.

For these reasons, the Federation has spent the past year not only reviewing and re-organising several services, but also introducing new initiatives. There are three particular areas of importance where our strategic visioning is well illustrated.

The first is the Wellness Mind Centre. This will consolidate the work of the School Social Work Unit, the Student Guidance Team, the Youth Counselling Centre, Media Counselling Centre and the Youth Wellness Centre under one umbrella. The purpose is to provide easier access to young users and the community, but more importantly, to see the cross linkage of mental and emotional health issues which need to be more closely tied together.

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Secondly, we see the necessity to deepen and strengthen the Federation's professional and multi-disciplinary leadership training to coincide with our moving into the revitalised former Fanling Magistracy which will then become the HKFYG Institute for Leadership Development. A new leadership training framework will be put in place, which will consist of Four Foundation Stones that will build up the Qualities of Leadership; develop Competencies for Leadership; create a Vision to Lead; and instil in young leaders the passion and commitment to Contribute to the Community. The Leadership Institute will also organise itself into Four Schools, which will include the School of Leadership Skills, the School of Communication, the School of Global Understanding and the School of Public Engagement. All these efforts will ensure that young people are ready to tackle the challenges of the future.

Thirdly, the Living Life Academy (LLA) is an initiative that brings together the various courses scattered in different units and the Continuous Learning Centre under one roof with a very dedicated focus to expose young people into the joy of developing hobbies and learning new things. The LLA provides a wide range of life-related courses under four themes which focus on the Arts of Living; Knowledge Enrichment; Ability Enhancement; and Career Development. Each of these courses emphasise interests, skills and experience and are simply for improving the quality of life. LLA courses can be accessed all over Hong Kong making accessibility easy and convenient.

While these are just some of the programme activities and services that reflect our always looking forward, it could not have been done without the enthusiastic support and preparedness of the Federation staff. It is only because they are willing to adapt, change and be open to new challenges that the Federation can continue to claim relevance even after 57 years. I am immensely grateful to all my colleagues, at the forefront or in the background. They work tirelessly, always thinking ahead while keeping young people in mind. I could not have asked for anything more and I thank them from the bottom of my heart.

Providing services and programmes for young people with changing interests, needs and concerns is not easy, but it is always exciting! This is what gives us the strength to constantly look to ways at improving what we offer, testing our limits to constantly be innovative and creative, but always relevant.

This was the mission, vision and passion that led to the setting up of The Hong Kong Federation of Youth Groups in 1960. And it is this same mission, vision and passion that sustains us now and will do into tomorrow.



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