

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



This year, the Federation celebrates 55 years of providing continuous service to young people, meeting their needs, addressing their concerns, broadening their horizons, encouraging their intellectual and physical development, stimulating their creativity and always, always, offering them support.

It would be easy to commemorate this milestone by looking back, highlighting our achievements and praising our initiatives. There is very definitely a place for this kind of celebration, but one of the great lessons that I have learnt over my own 40 years of working at the Federation is that to stay relevant – as we have – is to always plan for the future.

And that is what we have been doing over the past few years. In adhering to our mission to prepare young people to take their rightful place as contributing members of the community, our concerns have always included four broad areas: health, independence, leadership and employability.

Health. As we all know today's very challenging and fast paced world requires a balance between the emotional, mental and physical well being. Keeping this in mind, we have continued to re-develop our camp sites, ensuring that facilities and opportunities provide for all round healthy development. This past year we finished Phase III of the Jockey Club Sai Kung Outdoor Training Camp, focusing on green and sustainable living. Now we will turn our focus to the Stanley Outdoor Activities Centre (SOAC), which has remained a top preference for young people to partake in water based challenges. We very much hope that more and more young people will take advantage of Hong Kong's great outdoors to have fun and learn new skills. To aid in this effort, we are planning to transform the SOAC from a day activity to holiday camp.

Independence. In a city like Hong Kong where housing is at a premium, it is not always easy for young people to live independently from their families, even when they begin their professional careers. As a result, there is concern that they do not develop the maturity and learn the essential life skills necessary, including how to be responsible, how to make judgments and decisions and how to feel empathetic towards others. The Tai Po Youth Hostel-cum-Youth S.P.O.T. Redevelopment is our second foray in promoting an independent lifestyle for young people. We are now awaiting funding from the Finance Committee of the Legislative Council and hope to complete everything by late 2017.

Leadership. Hong Kong needs leadership for the future and for the past 15 years, Leadership 21 has been enabling young people to develop their competencies through theoretical training and practical application. We have seen our programmes and courses expand and have had to cope with cramped and limited space. In tandem with plans to set up *The HKFYG Institute for Leadership Development* on the site of the former Fanling Magistracy, which will help us expand, we continue to guide and nurture young people to really reach their leadership potential through many courses that increase in popularity every year.

Employability. Preparing young people for the future inevitably means a very careful focus on employability. This has been something that we have been very serious about, and for more than a decade, the Youth Employment Network has done a stellar job.

One area in particular that I would like to mention, is the support for youth entrepreneurship. While Youth Business Hong Kong has done an outstanding job, this year we are

most especially proud of the establishment of the Qianhai Shenzhen-Hong Kong Youth Innovation and Entrepreneur Hub or "E Hub". This is a milestone collaborative project with the Authority of Qianhai Shenzhen-Hong Kong Modern Service Industry Cooperation Zone and the Shenzhen Youth Federation, which was ten years in the making. We were very pleased that we could introduce E-Hub when the second Global Youth Entrepreneurs Forum was able to take the more than 400 participants from around the world to visit Qianhai and see for themselves the possibilities available. Now we very much look forward to young people bringing their business ideas to fruition at E-Hub.

Health, independence, leadership and employability – four areas that we believe are the key components for helping young people plan for their future. As we introduce new services and initiatives, I have relied on the outstanding team that makes up the Federation. From front-line to back office, I cannot say enough about their hard work, tremendous commitment and utter selflessness in helping young people. I am more than proud of my staff, and especially in how they undertake to improve their own knowledge through training. They are the heart of Federation and I salute them all.

In summing up this past year, as well as the last 40 years of my professional life at the Federation, I can say without hesitation, "Life can be understood backwards; but it must be lived forwards."

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rosanna Wong Yick-ming'. The signature is fluid and cursive, written on a white background.

Rosanna Wong Yick-ming