

# Re-shaping the city for our mature population: Jockey Club's age-friendly initiative fosters cross-sector collaboration

Jockey Club's Age-friendly City Partnership Scheme is calling on business and public sectors to create an age-friendly environment.

By 2040, it is forecast that almost one-third of Hong Kong's population will be elderly people. To better prepare our society for the challenges and opportunities arising from this ageing population trend, The Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust has designated building Hong Kong into an age-friendly city as one of its overarching strategic focus areas.

In 2015, the Trust partnered with four gerontology research institutes in Hong Kong to implement the Jockey Club Age-friendly City Project and build momentum in the 18 districts of Hong Kong to develop an age-friendly community. One of the initiatives under the JCAFC Project is the Jockey Club Age-friendly City Partnership

The Scheme is aimed at encouraging business and public stakeholders to help develop a more age-friendly culture in our community, and recognising companies/organisations that have adopted age-friendly practices in their businesses or operations. It also provides resources and information for the public, especially for older people, about the importance of an age-friendly city, as well as advice on how to grow old in a stress-free and engaging way.

An award presentation ceremony and thematic forum is being held today at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre, with Nicholas Yang, Secretary for Innovation and Technology, and Leong Cheung, Executive Director, Charities and Community of The Hong Kong Jockey Club as joint officiating guests.

## **Recognising age-friendly enterprises and** organisations

Since the launch of the Scheme in 2017, over 80 participating organisations have adopted at least one age-friendly practice. These organisations have been presented with a set of certificates to encourage them for their excellent work, and age-friendly stickers for displaying at their offices, stores or branches.

At today's event, seven awards are being presented, namely the Age-friendly Innovation Award, Age-friendly Employer Award. Age-friendly Facilities Award, Age-friendly Collaborator Award, Agefriendly Business Award, Our City's Story Award and "My Favourite City Partnership Scheme" Award. They acknowledge those who make extra efforts in their age-friendly practices, including through



Elderly, NGO working partners and guests sharing at the closing ceremony to conclude their takeaways from the district-based programmes.



The Launch Ceremony of Jockey Club Age-friendly City Partnership Scheme was successfully held on June 7, 2018 to symbolise the collaboration effort of business, community, government and public in promoting age-friendly city.

their employment policies, their working environment or their silver hair market service/products.

Winners of the awards were selected by a judging panel comprising members of the JCAFC Project Advisory Committee. professional experts from project partners, government officials and NGOs. For the "My Favourite City Partnership Scheme" Award, the public were also able to vote through the JCAFC Project's Facebook page, based on their favourite age-friendly practices, activities, services or products.

#### **Innovation: the driving force for the Silver Hair Market**

Following the ceremony is a thematic forum titled "Smart Ageing City and Beyond: Driving Innovation in the Silver Hair Market". Panellists include Professor KC Chan, Adjunct Professor of Finance of the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology: Leong Cheung, Executive Director, Charities and Community, The Hong Kong Jockey Club; Dr Lam Ching-choi, Chairman of the Elderly Commission; and Jasper Tsang, Vice Chairman of the Hong Kong Policy Research Institute.



2018 was one of the territory-wide public education activities

to increase the awareness of age-friendly city.

The outdoor exhibition organised at Lee Theatre in November

The event is being joined by over 300 participants from the business sector, the government, the non-profit sector and other community stakeholders.

Conventional wisdom says technology and innovation are not something that older people are comfortable with. But that may change as the convenience offered by innovation can make everyday life more comfortable for the ageing population. The panellists will shed light on this matter.

### **Jockey Club Age-friendly City Project**

Foreseeing the urgency of catering for a much larger elderly population in the future, the Trust initiated the JCAFC Project in 2015. partnering with four gerontology research institutes in Hong Kong to help develop an age-friendly community. Together, these organisations have been working on-site in the city's 18 districts in phases.

With reference to the eight domains in urban environments identified by the World Health Organization that support active and healthy ageing - namely Outdoor Spaces and Buildings, Transportation, Housing, Social Participation, Respect and Social Inclusion, Civic Participation and Employment, Communication and Information, and Community Support and Health Services – the JCAFC Project team conducted baseline assessment studies on age-friendliness for the 18 districts, and made specific recommendations in different areas.

With more than HK\$190 million of approved funding from The Trust. the JCAFC Project has seen 84 district-based programmes implemented. directly benefiting more than 74,000 elderly people. Over 1,000 agefriendly city ambassadors from 18 districts have also been recruited to promote the message in the community.

Most importantly, the Jockey Club Age-friendly City Partnership Scheme is aimed at encouraging different community sectors to help build an age-friendly city that can cater for the needs of all ages. The Scheme is supported by The Chinese General Chamber of Commerce, The Chinese Manufacturers' Association of Hong Kong, the Federation of Hong Kong Industries and The Hong Kong General Chamber of Commerce.

#### **LIST OF AWARDEES:**

#### **AWARDED COMPANIES / ORGANISATIONS** (Listed in no particular order) Age-friendly Innovation BNET-TECH Company Limited - STICKu · Microsoft Hong Kong Limited - MirrorGotchi • The Hong Kong and China Gas Company Limited - Chef Anchor Age-friendly Employer • Gingko House - Support Senior Employment, Enjoy Life Enrichment • The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited - HSBC Smart Senior Programme • Wharf Real Estate Investment Company Limited - Bright Senior Ambassador (BSA) Programme • New World First Bus Services Limited and Citybus Limited - NWFB and Citybus Age-friendly Bus **Age-friendly Facilities** • Uni-China (Market) Management Limited - Age-friendly Market • Wharf Real Estate Investment Company Limited - Free Rides and Barrier-Free Facilities for the Elderly **Age-friendly Collaborator** · Construction Industry Sports & Volunteering Programme (CISVP) - Get in Gear Award · Office of the Government Chief Information Officer - Territory-wide Digital Inclusion Initiatives for the Elderly • YWCA NWS Y-Care Centre (North District) **Age-friendly Business** • BNET-TECH Company Limited - STICKu CSL Mobile Limited - Smartphone Workshop • HOHOLIFE - Innovative Silver Lifestyle Concept Store

Community Asset Networks for Ageing in Place



**Jockey Club Age-friendly** 

Y Silver Link

Jockev Club Age-friendly **City Project** Website: www.icafc.hk/

· School of Nursing & Health Studies, The Open University of Hong Kong - Jockey Club Home Health Watch • The Nethersole School of Nursing, Faculty of Medicine, The Chinese University of Hong Kong - Fu Shin

• Office of the Government Chief Information Officer - Territory-wide Digital Inclusion Initiatives for the Elderly



**City Partnership Scheme** 

**Our City's Story Award** 

"My Favourite City Partnership Scheme" Award

Website: www.jccitypartnership.hk/