



香港失明人協進會
Hong Kong Blind Union
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2017年
12月號

December 2017
Newsletter
ISSUE 68



「失明」

不是活在絕望，
只要您與我擁有一顆追求突破的心，
攜手締造各展所長的社會環境，
「明天」便是充滿希望，
我們將在同一天空下
享受美妙的人生。

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出版：香港失明人協進會
出版小組成員：
何睿知 (總編輯)
麥凱淇 (公眾傳訊副經理)

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香港失明人協進會為有限公司註冊的慈善團體

Hong Kong Blind Union is a registered charitable organization incorporated with limited liability

編輯委員會

成名 員單



文：何睿知

「平等齊參與 展能創新天」是1992年康復政策及服務綠皮書的主題，英文是「Equal opportunities & full participation: A better tomorrow for all」，兩者都傳達一個信息，「只要促進平等機會和全面參與，就會出現一個各展所長的新時代」。本會多年來秉承這種信念，促進視障人士獨立生活，宣傳建構共融社會的重要性，發揚會員的自助互助精神，同時通過多方面的合作，與外間機構和政府部門攜手擴展視障人士獨立生活的版圖。

今年10月8日，本會舉辦了「心睇·力行」國際白杖日2017活動。當日，我們來到青衣海濱長廊，與數百名會員、親友及公眾人士攜手完成3公里的路程，把「手執白杖，獨立自強」的口號付諸行動。我對本會同仁、外間團體及個人所作出的貢獻和捐助表示衷心謝意。

活動當天籌得個人籌款額最高之一的執行委員趙芷媛，在今期撰文「接受差異 體現大同」談及她對多元社會的看法。她既不責怪別人的不友善行為，也不滿足於不被了解的處境。這種不卑不亢、尊重差異、接受不同的態度，豈非一個社會所應持守的嗎？

剛卸任副會長的黃俊恆，在其「沒有通用設計，那有全民共享？」一文列舉本會平等參與社會委員會爭取權益的例子，坦承地對科技進步下的不公平現狀提出質疑。俊恆為視障人士爭取權益十多年，他的反思有助撥亂反正，提醒香港社會，只有兼顧不同群體的需要，才能達到公共政策和公共服務的公平性及可持續性。

所幸的是，總會有人對資訊科技的公平性樂意提供助力。本會榮幸得到譚鑑彬先生的家人捐款，讓本會添置多媒體設備並為會員提供相關培訓，提高視障人士的資訊素養。在譚淑姬女士的「延續先父教育理念 推動現代文房四寶」一文，我們除了感受到她對父親的思念，更被譚家推廣教育的理念感動。在此感謝譚家對視障人士提供多媒體應用培訓的貢獻。

不論是權益倡議還是資訊科技，均有大片領土等待我們去開發，為此各位對本會的支持及捐助相當重要。本會已於大家樂集團及太興飲食集團共69間分店設置捐款箱，各位品嚐美食之餘可捐助本會的工作，你們亦可成為「協進之友」，以月捐形式支持我們的理念。

最後，我感謝今屆執行委員會讓作為「新丁」的我出任本刊的總編輯，我盼望能通過《享明天》這個平台跟大家分享協進會的人與事，我亦歡迎大家提供意見，令我们的工作精益求精。

By Merrick Ho

The theme of the 1992 Green Paper on Rehabilitation Policies and Services is “Equal opportunities & full participation: A better tomorrow for all” delivers the message of “as long as promoting equality and full participation, a new era will be opened up that allows full development of strengths and potentials”. For many years, Hong Kong Blind Union holds onto this belief and advocates independent living of the visually impaired, while promoting the importance of building an inclusive society. Moreover, we are dedicated to advocating the mutual-help spirit of our members, and broaden the domains of independent living for the visually impaired through collaborating with various organizations and government departments in different aspects.

On 8 October, we organized the “Cane-a-thon” International White Cane Day 2017. On that day, we gathered at the Tsing Yi Promenade and joined hands with over a hundred of our members, their families and friends and the general public to finish a 3km walk, and put the key message of “We can, with a Cane & Joining Hands” into action. We wanted to express our heartfelt thanks to everyone who have made this event a success.

Our Executive Committee member Chi-wun Chiu, who is also one of the top fundraisers, shared her views on a diverse society in her article “Actualizing the harmonious society by accepting the differences”. She is neither angry with the unfriendly behaviors of the others, nor contented with being misunderstood. Shouldn't her attitude of humility, respect for diversity and acceptance of differences be practiced by the society at large?

Our outgoing Vice-President Billy Wong illustrated various examples of advocacy work of the Equal Opportunities in Social Participation Committee in his article “Everyone can benefit from universal design” and candidly expressed doubts about the existing unfair situations which are byproducts of technological advancement. Billy has strived for equal rights for the blindness community for over a decade. His reflection helps bring order out of chaos, while serving as a reminder to the Hong Kong society that the equality as well as sustainability of the public policy and public service can only be achieved by considering the needs of all social groups.

Fortunately, there are individuals who are willing to strive for equality in access to information technology. We are honored to have received a donation from the family of Mr. Kam-bun Tam, which enables us to acquire the latest multi-media equipment and provide relevant skill trainings for our members in order to elevate the IT skills of the visually impaired. In the article of “Continue my late father's education concept by promoting the modern Four Literacy Treasures” by Ms. Suk-ki Tam, we are not only moved by her memories of her beloved father, but are also touched by the vision of education of the Tam family. Here I would like to thank the Tam family for their contributions in enabling the multi-media software skills trainings opportunities for the visually impaired.

Whether it is advocacy for equal rights or equal access to information technology, there is a large piece of uncharted territory awaiting us to discover. Therefore, your support and donations are of utmost importance to us. We have already placed donation boxes at the 69 branches of Café de Coral and Tai Hing Catering Group, and we sincerely wish that all of you can make donations and support us while enjoying a delectable meal. You can also become our “Blind Unions' Supporter” and support our community and advocacy work through making a monthly donation.

Lastly, being a new Executive Committee member, I am thankful for being selected as the Chief Editor of the Newsletter. This Newsletter can serve as a platform for me to share with you Blind Union's stories and happenings. Your comments and feedback are welcome, and will motivate us to continuously improve and strive for the best.



政府代表與參加者於回應《馬拉喀什條約》版權豁免諮詢簡介會後合照
Representatives of the Govt and participants at the briefing session on the review of copyright exception in response to Marrakesh Treaty.

文：黃俊恒

沒有通用設計，那有全民共享？

香港作為國際城市，理應促進多元共融，落實聯合國《殘疾人權利公約》第九條〈無障礙〉的規定，在生活資訊、出行交通、環境設施、貨品服務等方面為所有人提供利便。但實情是，我們仍需加大力度，改善現況。為此，本會平等參與社會委員會（平參會）不斷努力，為視障人士爭取應有的利便，以下是三個新鮮熱辣的例子。

首先，為了提升效率和減省成本，世界各地都傾向以自動櫃員機和網上銀行取代實體銀行，但這卻為視障人士帶來相當大的不便，因為他們基本上很難使用輕觸式自動櫃員機。因此，平參會過去多年一直倡議香港銀行引入設有語音導航功能和鍵盤的自動櫃員機。經過多年努力，現時已有三間主要銀行引入此設備，方便視障用戶。我們將要求所有銀行在引入新服務前，根據通用設計的原則，全盤考慮各類人士的需要，包括擴闊語音自動櫃員機的網絡及確保網上銀行符合網頁無障礙指引的規定。

另一個平參會極度關注的議題，是越來越多電動車在香港路面行走。由於電動車在低速行駛時相當寧靜，引擎聲並不足以讓視障人士察覺，結果這種對一般人而言嶄新的車輛，造成對視障人士的潛在危險。在意識到電動車的潛在風險後，我們已主動向政府要求訂立法例，規定所有電動車在低速行駛時發出一定程度的聲響，方便視障人士分辨有車駛近。這規定實際上只是與歐美的同類規定看齊，但政府至今仍未採取實質跟進行動，令人感到遺憾。

香港作為知識型社會，文字資訊的傳播相當重要，但容許視障人士無障礙地閱讀的書本在市面上仍然相當缺乏。最近倡議閱讀無障礙的《馬拉喀什條約》已獲超過二十個國家確認並正式生效，香港政府在各殘疾團體的倡議下終於願意開展相關的法例修訂程序並進行公眾諮詢。我們會一直監察並推動有關立法工作盡快開展，讓視障人士和閱讀殘障人士能更便捷地獲得各類讀物的無障礙版本。



(左起) 滙豐銀行代表與本會平等參與社會委員會成員於語音導航自動櫃員機發佈會上合照
(From Left) HSBC representative and EOSPC members taking photo at the press conference of the launch of the voice navigation ATM.

在此闡述平參會最近的權益工作，其實並非希望各位純粹了解視障人士的需要，卻是希望各位透過以上的分享，了解到引進任何技術、產品或服務前，必須顧及社會上不同群體的需要。若政府部門、商業機構、公共服務提供者等都具一定的無障礙意識和通用設計的理念，我們的倡議工作將會變得輕省，視障人士在社會獨立生活的能力也有望大幅提高，而智慧城市的宏願也可令全民共享。當然，在這宏願成為現實之前，我們仍然需要大家支持，群策群力，才能事半功倍，把政策倡議工作做得更有效果。

By Billy Wong

EVERYONE CAN BENEFIT FROM UNIVERSAL DESIGN

As a cosmopolitan city, Hong Kong should promote diversity and inclusion and implement Article 9 “Accessibility” of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities so that accessible information, transport and environment as well as public facilities, goods and services can be provided for all citizens, regardless of whether they are disabled. However, much effort still has to be made to improve the current situation. Therefore, our Equal Opportunities in Social Participation Committee (EOSPC) has been working unceasingly to strive for the rights of the visually impaired. We would like to share three examples of our advocacy work with you.

First, in order to enhance efficiency and to be cost-effective, it has become a worldwide trend to replace traditional banks with ATMs and online banking. However, this has brought lots of inconveniences to the visually impaired as it is difficult for them to operate the touch screens of ATMs. Therefore, EOSPC has ceaselessly been advocating the introduction of ATMs installed with voice navigation function and keyboards by local banks. The efforts finally paid off after all these years of persistence, and three major banks have already introduced such machines, which have brought much convenience to the visually impaired. Moreover, we also insist that all banks should take the needs of different social groups into consideration based on the concept of universal design, before introducing any kind of new services including increasing the availability of the ATMs with voice navigation function and ensuring that online banking complies with the web accessibility guidelines.

Another example which is of our most concern is that there have been more and more electric vehicles on the road in Hong Kong. Since the engines of electric vehicles are nearly silent when traveling at low speeds, the visually impaired are unaware of the presence of the vehicles. As a result, these brand new vehicles pose potential danger to the visually impaired. Realizing the potential risks that are borne by electric vehicles, we have urged the Government to enact legislation to enforce all electric vehicles to produce sound while traveling at low speeds, in order to alert visually impaired pedestrians that the vehicles are approaching. Although such measures have been adopted widely in Europe and North America, it's a pity that Hong Kong Government has not taken any necessary actions.

For Hong Kong being a knowledge-based society, the distribution of textual information is of utmost importance. Yet the books that allow the visually impaired to read independently are in short supply. The Marrakesh Treaty that promotes barrier-free reading has been rectified by over 20 countries. Recently, Hong Kong Government has agreed to initiate the legislative amendments and conduct public consultation, in response to the appeals from various organizations for persons with disabilities. We will continue to monitor the situation and urge the Government to start the legislative process as soon as possible, so as to enable persons with visual impairment and print disability to have accessible format of all kinds of publications.

We share with you our recent advocacy work not just because we want you to understand the needs of the visually impaired. We also want you to understand that before introducing any technology, products or services, we have to take into consideration the needs of various groups in the community. If Government departments, commercial firms and public service providers understand the concepts of accessibility and universal design, our advocacy work will become much easier while the visually impaired can live a more independent life. Hence, all members of our community can enjoy the benefits of a smart city. Nevertheless, we still need your support and collaboration before the vision of a smart city comes true. Likewise, we need your support and collaboration in all of our advocacy work.



參加者於簡介會中踴躍發問
Participants raising question in the briefing session.

文：譚淑姬

延續先父教育理念 推動現代文房四寶

編者按：香港失明人協進會獲譚鑑斌先生的家人捐助，購置多媒體設施，並設立多媒體創作及技巧培訓基金，讓視障人士學習多媒體軟件。本文作者是譚先生的女兒，亦是捐款者之一。文中提及的作者丈夫州田，是本會會員梁州田。

先父生前重視下一代教育。五十多年前，香港尚未提供普及免費教育，他多次協助親友子女，申請社會各式學費援助；對我們五兄弟姊妹，當然有過之而無不及。我們家境並不富裕，但父親無論在選校、家居陳設、文具應用各方面，能夠恰如其份地提供。記得我們五人各有自己的小書桌，各自執拾自己的書本，甚至可悉心擺放自己做功課的小天地。每逢週日早上，我們五人吃過早點，各自溫習：有誦讀或背誦將要默書的內容；有計數的；有練毛筆字的；有練習英文打字的……儼然一所小型自修室。真很懷念這感覺！中午過後，他會抽空帶同母親和我們舉家外出：到又一村花園拍照，到香港動植物公園看動物，到洞天酒樓品茗，到沙田龍華酒樓食乳鴿……多令人緬懷的童年點滴！多令人懷念的雙親！

母親是一位百分百賢妻良母，但談到教育督導，就非父親莫屬了。為了延續父親培育後輩的教育理念，丈夫洲田與我對是次捐款行動的想法，悠然而生。

香港政府自2000年起全面推行融合教育，讓有特殊教育需要的學生得到公平的教育機會。至今推行逾17年，融合教育成功與否，未作定論，但在資訊科技一日千里的洪流下，視障兒童及青少年有否適當配套協助他們迎頭趕上，滿足他們的興趣，符合社會需求？即使教育局或其他志願機構舉辦相關課程，視障朋友能否負擔學費？是否有他們適用的軟、硬件配合？



(左起)本會資訊科技顧問委員會成員劉仲偉、執委周鍵圳及袁建明一同測試多媒體創作室之設備
(From Left) Members of our Union's IT Advisory Cttee, Vincent Lau, Kevin Chow and Kin-ming Yuen examining the multi-media equipment.

凡此種種，我們夫婦二人願意投放少許捐款，在多媒體創作和技巧培訓方面略盡綿力，而香港失明人協進會，正是我們決定交托的機構。我們覺得該會是一個甚具活力和公信力，而且一向積極為失明人謀福利的組織。

感謝協進會為這筆捐款的用途，作了周詳而妥善的安排，希望能鼓勵更多視障朋友，善用多媒體，為自己的學業、事業和興趣，安排更完美的規劃，在資訊科技滾滾洪流中，得到更高效益。



基金贊助人梁洲田(左2)及譚淑姬(中)、與本會長莊陳有(右2)、及執委一同為多媒體製作室開幕剪彩
Mr. Fred Leung (2nd left) and Ms. Suk-ki Tam (centre), officiating the grand opening of the Multi-media production room with President, Mr. Chan-yau Chong, and EXCO members.

CONTINUE MY LATE FATHER'S EDUCATION CONCEPT BY PROMOTING THE MODERN "FOUR LITERARY TREASURES"

Editor's note: In memory of her late father, Mr. K.B. Tam, the author made a donation to Hong Kong Blind Union (Blind Union) for the acquisition of multimedia equipment and helped fund our visually impaired members to learn multimedia software. Fred Leung, the author's spouse, is our active member.

Throughout his lifetime, my father used to lay great importance of education for the younger generation. 50 years ago, there was no universal free education in Hong Kong. Many times, he assisted our relatives and friends in applying for different kinds of scholarships available for their children. As for ourselves, the five brothers and sisters in all, needless to say he has done as much as he could for that matter. We were by no means to enjoy well-to-do living standard by definition. Yet father would provide everything adequately in terms of schooling, household and furniture as well as stationery. All of us had our own small desks, which were arranged and decorated as little personal space according to individual taste.

Every Sunday, we did our school work after breakfast. We read or recited text passages in preparation for dictation test, did math exercises, practiced Chinese calligraphy, practiced typing ... – making the area look just like a small study room. What a memorable feel indeed! In the afternoon, father would bring the whole family outdoor to take photographs at Village Gardens, watch animals at the Hong Kong Zoological and Botanical Gardens, savour tea at Tung Tin Restaurant taste roasted squab at Lung Wah Hotel in Shatin ... What bits and pieces of childhood memories were and what a pair of unforgettable parents they were.

My mother was a good wife and mother by all means. But on education matters of the children, father was the one who had the role definitely. To continue father's education concept, Fred and I decided to make a donation to Blind Union for helping realize multimedia learning for the visually impaired.

The HKSAR Government fully implemented inclusive education in 2000 to give students with special educational needs fair chances to receive appropriate education. Over the course of 17 years, the effectiveness of this inclusive education programme might not be known as yet. Nevertheless, in the age of ever-changing advancement of Information Technology, are all of the visually impaired children and young adults equipped with updated and sufficient computer knowledge and skills that suit their needs and interests, so as to meet social change? Even if the Education Bureau and other NGOs have organized various IT-related programmes, can the visually impaired afford to attend these programmes? Do the software and hardware suit their special educational needs?

In light of these considerations, both my husband and I decided to make the donation to Blind Union, an organization that we entrust, in order to contribute to the provision of programmes of multimedia design and software skill training. We truly believe that Blind Union is an organization that is full of energy and endorsed with credibility, and its mission is to strive for the rights of the visually impaired.

We would like to express our gratitude to Blind Union for making a well-planned arrangement regarding the use of our donation. We sincerely hope that more visually impaired individuals are encouraged to take full advantage of multimedia equipment and facilities, so as to make a better planning for their studies, careers and hobbies. thus they can benefit from the progress of Information Technology.



(左起) K.B. Tam 多媒體創作及技考培訓基金贊助人梁洲田及譚淑姬
(From Left) Mr. Fred Leung and Ms. Suk-ki Tam, the sponsors of K.B. Tam Multi-media foundation



文：趙芷媛

接受差異 體現大同



立法會議員邵家臻先生(右4)、勞工及福利局助理秘書長(康復)謝穎妍女士(右5)、本會會長莊陳有(右6)、及心光學校校長黃君保先生(左3)與本會一眾委員合照。
Legco Member Mr. Ka-chun Shiu (R4), Assistant Secretary for Labour & Welfare (Rehabilitation) Ms. Victoria Tse (R5), Blind Union's President Mr. Chan-yau Chong (R6), and Mr. Remy Wong (L3), taking a group photo with our EXCO members.

每年十月十五日為國際白杖日，紀念視障人士手執白色的手杖，獨立外出，自行探索前路，跨越種種障礙，走自己的路，過自己的生。換言之，白杖就是視障人士獨立生活的標誌，也是視障人士與純靠兩腿走路或使用輪椅代步人士的差異。

早前我參加了由香港失明人協進會舉辦的「心睇·力行」國際白杖日2017步行籌款活動，口號是「手執白杖，獨立自強」。與往年有點差異，今年的步行，我的手中除了有一枝象徵獨立自強的白杖，我還多了一位同行的伴侶，就是導盲犬Holly了。

不經不覺，我與Holly一起生活已接近一年了，不少人問過我，用導盲犬是否比用手杖方便？兩者有何差異？事實上，兩者各有優點。單說導盲犬。一方面，Holly讓我在街上行走得更暢順和更迅速，並減少了被別人有意無意的碰撞，使我外出時輕鬆多了；但另一方面，我也需要花上不少時間照顧Holly的起居生活和身心健康。然而，最難習慣的，就是我和Holly在街上引來旁人各種不同的反應。

幾乎每次外出，我們都會遇到不同類型的目光和關注。有些人會因為Holly的美貌而禁不住他們的熱情，用不同聲音、動作來挑逗她，甚至會偷拍我們；又有些人因為知道她是導盲犬而刻意考驗她，例如擋在我們前面，學著我發出指令，偷偷摸她，試試她是否真的專業，能抵受誘惑；又有些人喜歡在旁邊不斷給予意見，討論我們的一舉一動；有些人卻因為恐懼而表現得十分激動，偶然我們也會被破口大罵。

遇到這些人，其實我開始習慣，也很明白他們為何有這樣的反應，但誠然，當我每一次外出時，即使我看不見旁人的目光，卻清楚知道他們有不少人正在竊竊私語、評頭品足，甚至舉起手機肆無忌憚地拍照，其實感覺也不太被尊重。這些感覺好像回到上世紀六、七十年代的社會，當一個視障人士拿著白杖出行，別人也會感到很驚訝，曾幾何時也有一個傳聞，說被盲人的手杖碰到的話，便會「衰三年」，因此不少視障人士也曾經歷過被途人大罵「盲了就不要外出！」，這些在現今社會好像很不可思議的情節，其實似乎仍在重演，新瓶舊酒，未被認識的差異引來舊日的反應。正因如此，我們更要走出來，讓社會認識不同、尊重差異。

我在想，為什麼視障人士要為到「獨立自強」而慶祝？其實，「獨立」不是要否定我們的限制，也不是要拒絕別人的幫助；「獨立」並不只是一個口號，也不是歌頌殘疾人士的意志力特別堅強，他們更不是要成為勵志故事的英雄人物，「獨立」卻是要告訴大家一種普世認同的價值觀，就是人要互相尊重，彼此接納，有尊嚴地生活，有平等參與社會的機會，有權表達自己的需要、能力和感受，並獨立地為自己作出選擇，只有這樣，一個和而不同的大同社會才會出現。

在香港殘疾議題的討論上，很多人仍然用一種福利模式的角度來思考，因此常常會問「我們可以如何『幫助』殘疾人士？」這是一個從施予者發出的問題；但「獨立」卻是另一種意識形態，從人權的角度，會問「我們的社會可以如何讓殘疾人士平等地參與？」。

作為視障人士，盼望我們的群體不要停留在自慚形穢中，也不要以為我們只能悲觀地接受別人的拒絕、輕看和誤解，反而要學習諒解別人的不認識，擁抱自己的身份，勇敢地參與、表達和生活，持守「獨立自強」的精神，雖然在就業、教育和社會參與上，視障人士需要面對的挑戰仍然很多，但前人多年的努力以至今天的成果，是我們前行的力量；另一方面，面對與我們不同的群體，我們難免對他們與我們的差異感到好奇、不解、甚至恐懼，我也期望隨著基本人權的體現，不同群體的價值和能力也得到認同，並能夠在社會中平等地參與，有尊嚴地生活，獲得尊重和接納。

By Chi-wun Chiu

ACTUALIZING THE HARMONIOUS SOCIETY BY ACCEPTING THE DIFFERENCES

15th October of every year marks the International White Cane Day, which commemorates by holding the white cane, the visually impaired can go out independently, explore the road ahead, overcome all kinds of obstacles, lead the way and live the lives to full extent. In other words, white cane symbolizes the ability of independent living of the visually impaired, while it also differentiates the visually impaired from the sighted people walking on two legs or traveling with wheelchairs.

Recently I have participated in the “Cane-a-thon” International White Cane Day 2017 and the slogan of the event is “We can, with a cane & joining hands”. Unlike previous years, aside from holding my white cane that symbolizes independence, I am accompanied by my guide dog Holly.

I have been living with Holly for nearly a year. Many people asked me whether walking with a guide dog is more convenient than with a cane. What is the difference between the two? In fact, both have their distinctive advantages. Let’s talk about the guide dog. On one hand Holly helps me to walk briskly and freely on the roads, and reduces the risks of being hit by pedestrians either on purpose or accidentally on the roads that I can walk with ease. But on the other hand, I need to spend much time on taking care of Holly’s daily living and health. Nevertheless, the hardest part is to adjust to the pedestrians’ reactions towards Holly and me on the street.

Almost every time when we go out, we would attract different kinds of gazes and attention. Since some people cannot resist the beauty of Holly, they would express their affection for her by making all kinds of noises and gestures to seduce her, and even take sneaky pictures of us. Some people would test on Holly to check if she is a good and responsible guide dog and is able to resist temptations around her by standing in our ways, imitating my instructions and petting her. Some people love to give advices to us and discuss about our every move right in our faces. Some people would overreact because of fear, and as a result we are scolded by strangers occasionally.

I am getting used to encountering these kinds of people, and understand very well why they react this way. Nevertheless, every time when I go out that even though I cannot see their faces, it’s clear to me that many of them are talking about and judging us in a low voice. Some would even take pictures of us without permission with their smart phones which makes us feel disrespected. This feeling is very much like going back to the society of the 1960’s and 1970’s, when the pedestrians would be astonished at the sight of the visually impaired walking with their white canes in the street. It was a well-spread rumour that one would experience “three years of bad luck” if being touched by the white cane of the visually impaired. As a result, many of the visually impaired have the experience of being scolded and urged by the pedestrians that “the blind should not go out”. The above scenarios seem weird and surreal in today’s society. However, these scenarios are replayed everyday, as the saying goes, “Old wine in new bottles”. The uncomprehending difference leads to outdated responses. Therefore we have to step out and help society to understand diversity and respect differences.



主禮嘉賓、本會執行委員會成員、及參加者手執白杖合照，以強調活動「手執白杖·獨立自強」的精神。

Officiating guests, Blind Union's EXCO members and participants holding white canes together to emphasize the event message “We can, with a Cane & Joining Hands”



I wonder why the visually impaired have to celebrate for “being independent and self-strengthening”. In fact, “Independence” is neither equivalent to denying our limitations nor rejecting help from others. “Independence” is not simply a slogan or praising for the exceptional perseverance of persons with disabilities. Persons with disabilities do not wish to become superheros in inspirational stories. “Independence” represents the notion of universal value, which encompasses mutual respect and acceptance between each other, the right to live with dignity, the opportunity of equal participation in society, the right to express one’s needs, feelings and demonstrating one’s capability, and making choices for oneself independently. Only then can the harmonious society exist.

On the discussion concerning people with disabilities in Hong Kong, people tend to look into the matters from welfare perspective. They keep asking “how can we ‘help’ people with disabilities?” and raise the question as a giver. Whilst “Independence” represents the ideology that one should put human rights in perspective and ask “How can our society enable people with disabilities to have full participation?”

As a visually impaired person, I hope that our blindness community should not live with a sense of inferiority, or pessimistically believe that we can only be rejected, looked down on and misunderstood by others. Instead, we should learn to forgive others for not understanding us and embrace our own identities. We should be bold to take part in society, express ourselves, live the life we want as well as hold onto the spirits of “being independent and self-strengthening”. Although the visually impaired still face lots of challenges in aspects of employment, education and participation in society, the efforts made by our predecessors and even the achievements we have to date can be the driving force for us to move forward. On the other hand, we can’t help feeling curious, puzzled and even scared when facing the social groups that are different from us. I hope that along with the actualization of the fundamental human rights, the true value and capabilities of different social groups can be recognized, and all members of society can have equal opportunities to participate whilst living with dignity, being respected and accepted.



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- ☐ 作一次性捐款 I would like to make a donation of \$_____.
- ☐ 成為「協進之友」，每月定期捐款支持香港失明人協會，協助視障人士融入社會。
I would like to donate the following amount monthly to support the work of HKBU.
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請於適當方格內加上☐號以表示您的意願：Please tick the appropriate box to indicate your preference:

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I agree Hong Kong Blind Union to use my personal data for the purposes of future communications, fundraising appeal, activities invitation as well as for feedback collection and related promotion purposes.

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Contact No 聯絡電話	Date 填表日期			
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Until further notice I/We hereby authorize my/our above-named Bank to effect transfer from my/our account to that of Hong Kong Blind Union in accordance with such instructions as my/our Bank may receive from Hong Kong Blind Union from time to time provided always that the amount of any one such transfer should be exactly the amount indicated above. I/We agree that my/our Bank shall not be obliged to ascertain whether or not notice of any such transfer(s) has been given to me/us. I/We jointly and severally accept full responsibility for any overdraft or increase in existing overdraft on my/our account which may arise as a result of any such transfer(s). I/We confirm that my/our signature(s) on this application form is/are the same as that/those for the operation of my/our Savings/Current Account to be debited for the transfer. I/We agree to notify Hong Kong Blind Union of any change of bank account or cancellation of payment method and further agree that should there be insufficient funds in my/our Bank account to meet any transfer hereby authorized, the Bank shall be entitled, at its discretion, not to effect such transfer in which event the Bank may make the usual service charge to be paid by me/us. I/We agree that any notice of cancellation or variation of this authorization which I/We may give to my/our Bank shall be given at least two working dates prior to the date on which such cancellation/variation is to take effect and at the same such notice shall be given to Hong Kong Blind Union.

電話 Tel: 2339 0666 傳真 Fax: 2338 7850 電郵 Email: info@hkbu.org.hk

地址 Address: 九龍觀塘翠屏邨翠樓樓下13-20號 Unit 13-20, G/F, Tsui Ying House, Tsui Ping Estate, Kwun Tong, Kowloon

致謝

Acknowledgement



「心聯·力行」 國際白杖日2017 "Cane-a-thon" International White Cane Day 2017

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Flag Day 2017 賣旗日 2017

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香港失明人協進會
Hong Kong Blind Union



ABOUT US

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香港失明人協進會成立於1964年，是首個由視障人士自行管理及組織之自助團體。一直以來，本會以促進視障人士發揮自助互助精神，推動社會共融，平等機會為宗旨。

Hong Kong Blind Union was established in 1964. It is the first organization run by people with visual impairment. It aims at promoting the spirit of "self-help" and "mutual-help" among people with visual impairment, as well as facilitating social integration, and equal opportunities in our society.