

## **Symposium on Social Work and Social Entrepreneurship**

Chairperson: Mr. Mak Hoi Wah

Co-Chairpersons: Dr. K K TSE, Chair of Hong Kong Social Entrepreneurship Forum, Mr. MAK Hoi Wah, Assistant Professor, Department of Applied Social Studies, CityU

### **Presentation 1: Social Worker is Change Maker – What’s new!!**

Professionally social worker is trained to help the people to help themselves. Social worker performs roles of change agent and also creating change to the service users. Yet, to lead to the change, lots of facilitative factors have to be created, generated and importantly, engaging them into the change process.

Social Entrepreneurs bears the similar roles of social workers, i.e. to create change in responding to a social cause by means of a viable and sustainable business approach and strategy.

What’s new now to the challenges of social workers? Creating change is not new, but the impact and magnitude, sustainability as well as the outcome should be different from before. Social workers have long been dependent to the resources from external parties or internal allocation. Now, social workers involving in social enterprise operation have to work on own resources, be multi-skilled, multi-knowledgeable and multi-sensible to generate, incubate and deriving the best factors enabling the service clients to be one of the change makers as well.

To be able to achieve this more demanding change maker role, nowadays social workers have to be passionate to looking for an unfulfilled social cause, adopting a business consideration and model to actualize the change – making plan / action so to be succeeded.

The presentation will share on what’s new challenges to social workers in the process of creating changes to the service clients, and what they needs to be in having a more proper preparation.

Presenter: Timothy K. W. Ma, Executive Director, Senior Citizen Home Safety Association

### **Presentation 2: One Laptop per Child: Beyond the \$100 Laptop & the Crank: Education and Social Innovation of OLPC**

One Laptop per Child (OLPC) was founded in 2006 by Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) professor and former Media Lab director, Nicholas Negroponte. His vision is to provide a means for learning, self-expression and exploration to the nearly 2 billion children of the developing world who has little or no access to education.

One Laptop per Child Asia Pacific (OLPC APAC) is a non-profit charitable organization. We are the Asian extension of OLPC. Based in Hong Kong, we are lead by our first president Mr. Anthony Wong. Mr. Wong, is the former Commissioner of Innovation and Technology and former Director-General of the Telecommunications Authority.

Our mission is to empower the children of developing countries to learn by providing one connected laptop to every school-age child. We want to give underprivileged children around the world a better life and future by providing them with a tool that is highly programmable for learning to learn and thinking about thinking. A hundred percent of the donations we raise are dedicated to delivering low-cost, technologically advanced and rugged laptops to children whose education is severely limited by their environment and resources.

“Why give a laptop? “, you may ask, when these children often face more dire challenges like shelter, food or even water. But when we replace the world ‘laptop’ with ‘education’, it is immediately apparent that no child should be held back from learning to solve his or her own challenges. Only education can be the foundation to find solutions to these challenges. We have witnessed that given a laptop, children gets engaged, inspired, goes to school more often and stay there longer. Not only do they teach themselves, they teach each other and sometimes even their parents and communities. They will learn to solve their own challenges and maybe, someday, even ours.

The XO laptop, developed by volunteers at the MIT Media Lab for OLPC, is a highly sophisticated connected laptop designed with the needs of children in remote areas and harsh environments in mind. Sponsoring organizations like Google, Nortel and other volunteers at OLPC contribute to the ever growing software applications and content that is open and relevant. Children who have to study outdoors can use the XO under the strongest sunlight and still be able to read the screen. Dust, water and shock proof, the XO can be carried back and forth between school and home. A fully charged XO can run 24 hours, making it, sometimes, the only light source in a remote home. Extra strong antennas allow the children to stay connected to other children with XOs and also to the world where there is Wi-Fi access.

With much attention focused on the XO, we want to emphasize that OLPC is, at heart, not a laptop project, but an **education** project. We want to develop sustainable programs that will see the children own and mature with their XO from a young age. We want the content and applications to grow and evolve with each child. That’s why the free software activities available for download are continuously updated and enhanced by volunteers all over the world working in a wiki format.

OLPC APAC’s top priority is naturally China, with almost 20% of the world’s children, and with many living in remote and extremely poor regions. Our work does not end with delivery of the XO. We are committed to helping local schools train their teachers, developing relevant material that can fit in with the curriculum and providing continuous monitoring so that the XO can be utilized to its full potential.

### Presentation Objectives

- to briefly introduce OLPC, its background, vision and the XO laptop
- to discuss how the OLPC project can act as a catalyst for education and social innovation
- to report on the work we have done so far since our launch in Asia Pacific and our goals for the near future

Presenters: Mr. T K Kang, Founder Nurturing Asia, Ms Loretta Chang, Director OLPCAPAC, and Ms Victoria Ho, Director OLPCAPAC