



Visit to the Christian New Being Fellowship by Hong Kong Chiu Chow Chamber of Commerce, to show their support and care to the teenagers on the campus.



Rotary Club of Admiralty has organized a Charity Gala Premiere for 'Say No To Drugs - Path Builders For Youth' Project, which raised funds for the project through ticketing and sponsorship.



Knotting Hearts Action 2010 by Economic Synergy, a territory-wide campaign aiming to raise students' resistance to drugs through a wide spectrum of activities.



Mini Wargame Exhibition organized by Unicorn 701 Sports Association, which showcased equipment such as simulated electrical rifles and military uniforms, provided the excitement seekers with another choice for leisure.

Unite to build paths for the next generation

Cultivating and nourishing the next generation is a responsibility the whole society should take up. Youngsters nowadays face a lot of temptations and can easily choose the wrong path. Let us show a better way and lead them to a bright future.

Launched in 2008, "Path Builders" is one of the main initiatives recommended by the Task Force on Youth Drug Abuse that aims to tackle the drug and youth problems at their roots by fostering a caring culture for young people.

One of the main reasons teenagers turn to drugs is that they cannot handle the difficulties they face at home, school, work and the challenges of growing up. Thus, to solve the problem at its roots, the most comprehensive and effective solution is to utilize different positive forces in the society to provide a benevolent and supportive environment to help youngsters go through the periods of uncertainty and guide them onto the right path.

Since its launch, "Path Builders" has gathered 290 registered members, both individuals and organizational members, across sectors, to volunteer for a broad range of activities. Held across the community, these activities include a series of anti-drug talks, visits, mentorship programmes and offering of training, internship, employment and sponsorship to help the young people stay away from drugs and develop a healthy lifestyle.

Caring starts from home and workplace

Drug abuse often takes place at home. According to statistics by the Narcotics Division of the Security Bureau, one of the most common places for teenagers to take drugs is at home, especially when family members are out and teenagers are

alone with their peers, or when teenagers develop a habit of hiding in their rooms. Sometimes parents think their hiding are due to introverted personality and they seldom talk to their children or show their concern.

Youth with drug abuse problem often have other underlying problems as there could be no apparent symptom at the early stage. It is hard to notice or discover as its side effects may not appear until after a few years, when the bodily damage has been done and cannot be repaired.

Prevention is better than cure, home is the first line of defence in our drug battle and parents should be holding the major responsibility. Many parents might be reluctant to accept such an idea and think that this happens only in troubled homes. But it also happens among those families whose parents are not on guard and they don't know what course to take when the problem appears. Thus, it is extremely important for parents to pass the right message to their children and show their support and care unconditionally.

To help parents equip themselves on how to help their children go through difficult times, "Path Builders" has arranged talks and seminars to raise the awareness of parents on drug abuse. Apart from holding events in the community, different seminars are also held at workplace to encourage the staff members to care about their children and spread the anti-drug messages to their families and build a drug-free and healthy family.

From schools to the community

Across the community, different academic institutions and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) have also contributed tremendous efforts in helping youths combat the drug temptation. A wide range of events and activities are held to lead youngsters to a positive lifestyle and grow healthily, both mentally and physically.

The continuous effort of combating drugs relies on the power of every member of the society, including you, to build the right path for teenagers. Members of the public are welcome to join "Path Builders" to help build a drug-free and healthy environment for the next generation of Hong Kong.

To project the bright and energetic image of Path Builders, the brand new logo is refreshed up with dynamic colours – greens and orange. The icon is composed of six leaves in three different green shades, which represent the youth spirit glowing from teenagers with different backgrounds, sprouting out from an orange ring, which symbolizes the bonding among Path Builders, and stretching out to the world.



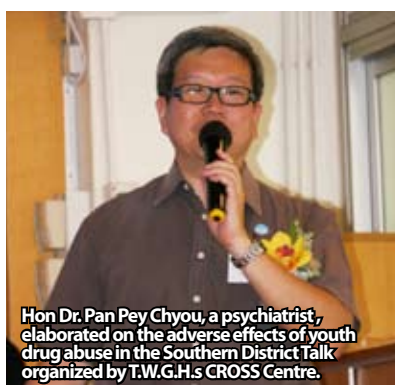
Supported by the Action Committee Against Narcotics and the Narcotics Division, Security Bureau
禁毒常務委員會及保安局禁毒處全力支持



The Direction Association For The Handicapped has organized Life Education talks to encourage the youths to embrace lives positively.



"Path Builders: ExxonMobil "Beat Drugs Master" Project" organized by ExxonMobil Hong Kong Limited and Barnabas Charitable Service Association, which boosts teenagers' awareness on the hazards drugs may bring.



Hon Dr. Pan Pey Chyow, a psychiatrist, elaborated on the adverse effects of youth drug abuse in the Southern District Talk organized by T.W.G.H.s CROSS Centre.



The Federation of Parent-Teacher Associations of Yau, Tsim and Mongkok Districts has organized an anti-drug talk for primary school students and a visit to the Customs and Excise Training School for secondary school students.





The Rotary Club of Kowloon East and the Brighter Future Foundation have organized an Anti-Drug Essay Competition and Pledging Ceremony of Young Anti-Drug Ambassadors.



A young female from the Barnabas Charitable Service Association was recommended by the "Path Builders" to take part in a bridge building project of the Paomapi village in Yunnan. The project was organized by Wu Zhi Qiao (Bridge to China) to help school children who will otherwise suffer from heavy rains while crossing the river.

The Green Island Cement Company Limited has organized a staff seminar themed "Path Builders · Healthy Drug-free Family" enhance the staff's knowledge towards harmful effects of drug abuse.

The Hong Kong Tertiary Institutions Health Care Working Group has organized a Joint-campus Anti-drug Campaign of tertiary institutions, aimed at protecting students from drugs on the campus.

Mobilizing the community in creating positive forces

The Government has all along pursued the five-pronged strategy to beat drugs, viz. education and publicity, treatment and rehabilitation, legislation and law enforcement, international cooperation and research.

'We are pleased to see a continuous drop in the total number of reported drug abusers in the previous year, which shows a sign of easing in the local drug abuse situation. This is the result of the support and co-operation of different sectors of the community,' said Mr Lai Tung Kwok, the Under Secretary for Security.

'Although the drug situation has improved, we will not slacken our anti-drug efforts,' Mr Lai reiterated. 'The fight against drug abuse should be persistent. To tackle the youth drug abuse problem at root, we must identify the underlying problems faced by young people. It is essential to mobilise various sectors of the community to foster a caring culture for the youth, to show them the positive value of life and to strengthen their resistance to adversity. All these measures are effective in keeping young people from drug temptations. We have provided here a platform for all people who are keen to contribute to the healthy

development of the younger generation in any suitable ways.'

Last year, a wide spectrum of youth programmes have been carried out by many enthusiastic organisations from different sectors to support the anti-drug cause, such as mentorship programmes, seminars on parenting skills, various kinds of inter-school competition which aim at conveying the anti-drug messages, offering financial support to youth programmes by sponsorship and fund-raising, helping the rehabilitants to reintegrate into the community by offering them on-job training and job opportunities, etc. All these programmes aimed at raising the awareness of the young people and the community about the adverse effects of drug abuse, thereby strengthening their resistance to drugs.

Mr Lai also indicates that 'family' is on the frontline in the fight against drugs. To this end, many corporations, chambers of commerce, professional bodies and organisations at district level have taken the initiative to show their care for the youth, strengthen them against drug temptations and prevent them

from abusing drugs as a way out from difficulty.

"Path Builders" has a long-term mission of offering care and protection to the younger generation. Only by perseverance can the caring culture be made sustainable. In order to stimulate public participation in support of this worthy cause, "Path Builders" will launch a series of incentive programmes in appreciation to those who have contributed to this platform. A brand new icon for "Path Builders" will be launched to signify those who have taken part to champion the youth-caring and anti-drug front.

Last year, Mr Lai Tung Kwok took part in various Path Builders activities. He hopes such initiatives would gain wider support from the community in the coming year and more people would share the joy of offering care to the youths.



Mr Lai Tung Kwok
the Under Secretary for Security

Solicitors show a path for youngsters

To tackle youth drug abuse different professional bodies and organisations in the community have taken an active role to contribute and assist the younger generation. The Law Society of Hong Kong was the first to take a leading role by launching the "Path Builders Mentorship Programme".

The Community Relations Committee of the Law Society immediately launched the Mentorship Programme as a direct response to the anti-drug programme initiated by the Narcotics Division. The first Programme, launched in July 2009, lasted for half a year, involved 57 solicitors as mentors to serve 93 secondary schools students, from Form 1 – 4, among 11 different schools in Yuen Long.

It was followed by the second phase launched last year, covering both Yuen Long and North District of the New Territories.

Philip Wong, Chairman, Community Relations Committee of the Law Society, said that a lot of youngsters nowadays could not see a path for their future and would easily be lost as they grow up. Thus, they hoped through the Mentorship Programme, they could give the mentees confidence to grow up with positive attitude.

'Through the Programme, we hope that our solicitors can be role models for these

teenagers. By establishing a friendship with them and introducing them to different activities, we hope we can help them stay away from drugs. And after the success of our first two phases, we found that it is a very touching and valuable experience because we can learn from them as well,' he said.

Mak Hon Ming, Solicitor, a mentor of the Programme, found it a very meaningful and valuable experience.

'Being a mentor has been very touching and unforgettable. It is easy to speak as a solicitor in a courtroom, but when it comes to communicate with the younger generation, it is really a challenge,' said Mak.

'Now, after the Programme, I am very happy that I am able to be part of their social circle. Though the previous phases have ended, the friendship between us does not end and we still see each other from time to time,' he said.

Meanwhile, another mentor, Judy Yam, Solicitor, thought that being a mentor holds great responsibility to contribute to the society while she saw it as a great opportunity to learn.

'During the growth of young people, they usually do not have a clear social positioning and are unsure about the future. When I was young, my family encouraged me to meet

more people so that I can learn from them and develop my goals and personality, and now I'd like to take this chance to help those who were lost like I was and repay the society by being a mentor myself.'

The third Programme will be launched in May, and Mak and Yam, both said that they would continue to be mentors.

'This is a very meaningful programme,' she said. 'It was not only a chance to learn and to contribute in return, but also a rare opportunity we should treasure.'



Left to right: Mak Hon Ming, Philip Wong and Judy Yam

Your active support and participation

"Path Builders" has been fostering a caring culture in the past two years through the following channels, and your support is needed.

- Staff seminars by companies: As staff is equipped with information about drug abuse and how to help their children to stay away from drugs, an anti-drug culture is instilled and helps keep families in harmony.
- Mentorship programmes: Real-life experiences of your employees or members will help broaden teenagers' horizons and establish a positive attitude towards life.
- Various anti-drug activities: Through different means such as visits, community

support programmes and sharing sessions, you can contribute by spreading anti-drug messages.

- Volunteering support: Put your professional experience or special expertise to good use by helping the vulnerable youth.

- Internship, training and job opportunities: Young people need hope and real opportunities. These can be a turning point in the life of a young person.

- Sponsorship, donation or fund-raising: Make a difference in the fight against youth drug abuse by providing sponsorship or financial support directly to organizations doing good work in this field.

About "Path Builders"

Launched in September 2008 by the Narcotics Division of the Security Bureau and the Action Committee Against Narcotics, "Path Builders" is a platform with an initiative to tackle drug and other youth problems at the roots by mobilising various sectors of the community to foster a caring culture.

"Path Builders" has over 290 registered members from different sectors, volunteering

for activities, which include anti-drug talks, visits, mentorship programmes, offering opportunities of training, internship and employment, and sponsorship etc.

Enthusiasts are welcome to join "Path Builders" to help build a drug-free and healthy environment for the younger generation of Hong Kong.

Email: pathbuilders@sb.gov.hk Website: www.pathbuilders.gov.hk
Enquiry: 2867 5976 / 2867 2766



"Path Builders" Lunchtime Parental Talk Series organized by "Path Builders" of the Narcotics Division, Security Bureau, which illustrated effective ways of communication and tips for building a healthy pathway for children.



The Harmonevergreen Service Association Ltd disseminated anti-drug messages to Tin Shui Wai families through the "Path Builders" Mid-Autumn Festive Variety Show.