

**Hong Kong Institute of Volunteers Inauguration Ceremony
cum
Forum on “Building Impact in Volunteering”- Productive partnership
between
the private sector and volunteer-involving organizations**

With the Hong Kong Volunteer Charter being the basis, Agency for Volunteer Service (AVS) established The Hong Kong Institute of Volunteers (HKIoV) and its Inauguration was held today (March 21). A Forum on “Building Impact in Volunteering” was organized immediately after the inauguration. Over 150 policy makers, administrators and volunteer leaders from the government, business, education and non-profit organizations attended. The keynote speakers Ms Margaret Bell, AM from Australia, and Dr Justin Davis-Smith, CBE from England, and the plenary speakers Dr John Chan, GBS, JP, and Prof Joseph Lian Yi-zheng and Mr Shih Wing-ching, JP were invited to share their views and insights on volunteerism.

The Hon Mrs Carrie Lam Cheng Yuet-ngor, GBS, JP, Chief Secretary for Administration officiated at the HKIoV Inauguration Ceremony, conferred the Honorary Fellowship of the Institute to the distinguished volunteers and launched the mobile phone app on the Hong Kong Volunteer Charter.

Mr JP Lee, SBS, OBE, JP, Chairman of AVS and the Institute expressed his heartfelt thanks to the forum speakers for sharing their insights and experience. Mr Lee also said, over the past years, community attitude has become increasingly positive towards volunteering, and the private sector has steadily taken volunteering as part of corporate social responsibility programmes. According to the research studies commissioned to The University of Hong Kong, respondents who participated in formal volunteering rose from 22% in 2001 to 36% in 2009, and the average number of hours increased from 35 to 87 per year. Many respondents indicated that they would consider volunteering in future. As more people would go volunteering, and with a more complex social environment, the quality of volunteer service is a matter of increasing relevance.

Keynote speaker, Ms Margaret Bell briefly introduced four models of volunteering development and examined the issues of the private sector and volunteer-involving organizations were facing, such as economy, education, information and mutual needs. Dr Justin Davis-Smith drawing on his over 20-year experience in volunteering movement pointed out the challenges and opportunities for volunteering in the global

community, and the crucial role to be played by business and voluntary organizations in harnessing this power. The plenary speakers also shared their experience and observations on volunteerism. Mr K N Tang, BBS, JP, Vice-chairman of AVS and HKIoV concluded the Forum.

Agency for Volunteer Service (AVS) established in 1970, is a non-profit organization dedicated to playing a pivotal role in the promotion and development of sustainable volunteerism for building a caring society through partnership with all sectors of the community.

The Hong Kong Institute of Volunteers (HKIoV) is dedicated to advancing volunteerism and promoting excellence in volunteering through a membership system of recognition, standards setting and accreditation, research and knowledge transfer, by which sustainable development of volunteerism may be enhanced.

Hong Kong Volunteer Charter drawn up by AVS, stipulates the essence and values of volunteerism, benchmarks volunteer practice and sets out the service environment favourable for volunteering.

Details of the HKIoV, Hong Kong Volunteer Charter and AVS are obtainable at www.avs.org.hk. The HKIoV welcome volunteers with good practice and achievements to join.