

Civil service volunteers visit elderly activity centre (with photos)

The Civil Service Bureau (CSB) Volunteer Team and the Digital Policy Office Volunteer Team today (May 17) visited an elderly activity centre in To Kwa Wan, and assisted the elderly to learn how to use smartphones and mobile applications. They also had fun from gerontechnology through interactive activities and integration of technology into daily lives.

The Secretary for the Civil Service, Mrs Ingrid Yeung; the Permanent Secretary for the Civil Service, Mr Clement Leung; and the Commissioner for Digital Policy, Mr Tony Wong, joined the civil service volunteers to participate in volunteer service under the "Smart Silver" Digital Inclusion Programme for Elders at the Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui Lok Man Alice Kwok Integrated Service Centre. With the help of the volunteers, the elderly learned how to use the "iAM Smart" mobile app to access useful information such as weather conditions, the use of Scameter, and the waiting time at accident and emergency departments, etc.

Apart from answering their questions on the use of smartphones, the civil service volunteers also let the elderly experience the benefits of digital technology through various games, including doing physical exercises by making use of an AI application developed by the centre for people with knee problems in the community, which allows users to adjust the exercise intensity and movement according to their own physical conditions. In addition, the elderly also participated in games for sensory integration training and cognitive training to help enhance their responsive abilities.

At present, more than 70 civil service volunteer teams have been set up across different government bureaux and departments, providing more diversified types and forms of services ranging from life planning and mentoring services for youth, interest classes, first aid seminars, residential care home visits and home visits to cleaning and maintenance services. In 2024, the volunteer teams organised or participated in around 2 040 volunteer activities, while the attendance of participating volunteers and hours of volunteer service were about 23 500 and over 111 700 respectively, representing an increase of more than 400 volunteer activities and 22 400 hours of service, or 25 per cent for both figures when compared to those of 2023.

Mrs Yeung encouraged civil servants to make use of their knowledge and skills, as well as their rich life experience, to contribute to the community in their spare time, and to demonstrate the civil servants' care for the society and dedication to serving the community.

A fresh round of the Civil Service Volunteer Commendation Scheme has commenced to commend departmental volunteer teams and individual volunteers with high accumulated service hours, as well as individual volunteers who demonstrated outstanding leadership in organising volunteer services. In

addition, among the numerous volunteer services or activities organised by departmental volunteer teams, the CSB will select volunteer service projects that are the most distinctive and best showcase civil servants' active collaboration with the community, as well as their effective use of innovative technologies and their own expertise for awarding the Meritorious Volunteer Service Award. The list of award winners is expected to be announced in the third quarter of this year.

