

Home and Youth Affairs Bureau Launches Youth Link (with photos)

The Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs, Miss Alice Mak, today (September 30) officiated at the kick-off ceremony of the Youth Link, witnessing the establishment of a new youth network initiated by the Home and Youth Affairs Bureau (HYAB) together with a group of young people.

The Government attaches great importance to youth development. The HYAB published the Youth Development Blueprint in December last year, and building the youth network is one of its key initiatives. The name of "Youth Link" highlighted the Government's aspiration to connect young people together, and to provide them with extensive opportunities to develop their talents and serve the community. The Youth Link aims to engage a group of young people who are energetic, diversified, competitive and are dedicated to contribute to community building, which in the long run can create a young talent pool for Hong Kong.

Speaking at the ceremony, Miss Mak said that the HYAB will provide members of the Youth Link with training and activities that cater for their development needs, as well as opportunities to participate in public affairs. These include public policy exchange sessions, study tours to the Mainland and overseas, opportunities to take part in various large-scale government activities, with a view to supporting young people in developing diverse talents and contributing to society, and at the same time strengthening their communication, interaction and mutual trust with the Government.

Target participants of the Youth Link are young people aged 12 to 39. In the start-up stage, the Youth Link has recruited nearly 5 000 youths, who have participated in youth development programmes organised or funded by the HYAB and 18 District Offices. The recruitment will gradually expand to youth development programmes run by other government departments.

Other officiating guests included the Permanent Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs, Ms Shirley Lam; the Under Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs, Mr Clarence Leung; and the Vice-Chairman of the Youth Development Commission, Mr Kenneth Leung. Representatives of district youth networks also attended the event.

After the kick-off ceremony, Miss Mak visited the Youth Programmes Highlights cum Entrepreneur Bazaar organised by the HYAB at the same venue. In addition to introducing youth development programmes, the bazaar also showcased products by local youth entrepreneurial teams, such as creative handicrafts and environmentally friendly and natural products.

