

Persons in custody at Lo Wu Correctional Institution attain good examination results (with photos)

Sixty-eight persons in custody (PICs) at Lo Wu Correctional Institution (LWCI) of the Correctional Services Department (CSD) were presented with certificates at a ceremony today (April 2) in recognition of their continuous efforts in pursuing further studies.

In 2024, a total of 125 PICs at LWCI passed 215 papers with 106 distinctions and credits in various distance learning course and public examinations, covering different subjects including language and literature, English language, business finance, economics, marketing and psychology, organised by the Hong Kong Metropolitan University (HKMU), the Hong Kong Examinations and Assessment Authority, and Caritas Institute of Community Education. The 68 PICs who received certificates today passed 111 papers with 44 distinctions and credits. Among them, two PICs were awarded Bachelor's Degrees in Social Sciences and one was awarded an Associate Degree in General Studies by the HKMU.

Officiating at the ceremony, the Bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Hong Kong, Cardinal Stephen Chow, said that the Diocese has long attached importance to the well-being of PICs and provided prison ministry services for PICs to serve their religious needs and spread the Gospel. The Diocese has been highly supportive of the rehabilitation work of the CSD. It set up the Light Up Education Fund of the Catholic Church in 2023, running for at least three years, with an annual donation of \$1 million to the CSD to provide education subsidies for PICs aged 35 or below with financial difficulties, so as to actively encourage them to pursue continuing studies. The Diocese has also collaborated with the CSD to help PICs create a new life plan and rebuild family relationships, as well as to provide them with job opportunities after their release.

During the ceremony, about 30 PICs took part in a musical to demonstrate their determination to turn over a new leaf in the prison and reset life goals for rehabilitation. Thereafter, the PICs presented thank-you cards to the volunteer vocal tutor and choreography tutor to express gratitude for their guidance, which enabled them to overcome challenges with perseverance and hard work.

In the sharing session, a PIC shared her experience in the course of rehabilitation and thanked her family members for their unwavering support. She resumed her studies during imprisonment and found her direction in life in the course of pursuing her studies. Her mother also shared her happiness of witnessing her daughter's positive changes and expressed gratitude for the CSD's assistance in helping her daughter rehabilitate.

Also attending the ceremony were representatives of non-governmental and

community organisations, community leaders and family members of the certificate recipients.

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LWCI is a medium security institution for female adult convicted PICs, female adult remand PICs and female adult drug addicts undergoing treatment programmes under the Drug Addiction Treatment Centres Ordinance.

