

Speech by CS at Jockey Club Age-friendly City International Conference cum City Partnership Scheme Award Presentation Ceremony (English only) (with photos)

Following is the speech by the Chief Secretary for Administration, Mr Matthew Cheung Kin-chung, at the Jockey Club Age-friendly City International Conference cum City Partnership Scheme Award Presentation Ceremony today (June 7):

Mr Cheung Leong (Executive Director of Charities and Community of the Hong Kong Jockey Club), distinguished guests around the world, government colleagues, ladies and gentlemen,

Good morning. It is my great pleasure to join you all today at the Jockey Club Age-friendly City International Conference cum City Partnership Scheme Award Presentation Ceremony.

First and foremost, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust for organising this meaningful conference, and extend my warmest welcome to all participants. This conference offers an excellent opportunity for local and international participants to share their experience and good practices in building age-friendly cities.

Some 20 years later from now, Hong Kong will become a "silver hair city". By then, almost one in three Hong Kong persons will reach the age of 65 or above. The Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government is fully aware of this prospect and accords high priority to the well-being of our senior citizens. In the 2021-22 financial year, the estimated recurrent expenditure on elderly social security, elderly healthcare services and long-term elderly care services – the three areas – amount to almost HK\$110 billion or US\$14.1 billion. This is a lot of money. This accounts for more than 20 per cent of the Hong Kong Government's total estimated recurrent expenditure. In other words, over one in every HK\$5 of the Government's recurrent expenditure is spent on our elderly population.

Our elderly policy aims to promote active and healthy ageing under the principle of "ageing in place as the core, institutional care as backup". To this end, we have been implementing various measures, such as the Elder Academy Scheme and the Opportunities for the Elderly Project, to enable our senior citizens to pursue life-long learning and promote their community involvement, thereby encouraging them to unleash their potential and cultivate a sense of self-worth.

To add impetus to encouraging senior citizens to participate more in community activities, we will soon be enhancing the Government Public Transport Fare Concession Scheme for the Elderly and Eligible Persons with Disabilities, also popularly known as the \$2 Scheme. Specifically, the \$2 Scheme will be extended to red minibuses, kaitos and the tramways on specified conditions and the eligible age will be lowered to benefit more than 600 000 persons aged 60 to 64. The enhancements are planned for progressive implementation from the first quarter of 2022.

Another prime example that I would like to cite, of course, is the Hong Kong Immigration Department's identity card renewal programme, which has been launched for some time. In order to avoid elderly citizens staying at elderly care homes or institutions to go all the way to immigration offices to apply, we adopted a new friendly strategy of reaching out, which means that immigration officers will go to all the institutions to process the applications from the elderly residents there and then, rather than having them travel all the way to the immigration offices to go through the bureaucracy of the application. This is a very popular scheme among the elderly residents in the institutions.

While the Government has spared no effort in promoting a caring ageing community in Hong Kong, we need the support and active participation of the entire community, the business sector and academia to achieve the mission. We are pleased to note that all 18 districts in Hong Kong have already joined the World Health Organization (WHO) Global Network for Age-friendly Cities and Communities. The Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust has greatly complemented the Government's efforts by offering support to the districts in applying to join the WHO Global Network and sustaining the memberships, including conducting baseline assessments on the age-friendliness of the districts, providing funding for organising district-based programmes, as well as recruiting senior citizens and other members of the public as ambassadors to promote the concept of an age-friendly city. On behalf of the Government, let me pay my warmest tribute to the Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust for your sterling support and contribution to cultivating Hong Kong as an age-friendly city.

On this positive note, I would like to congratulate all awardees of the City Partnership Scheme for their outstanding achievements. Your great efforts in promoting an age-friendly culture through adopting age-friendly practices and providing products and services catering for the needs of the elderly are very much appreciated. Let us all join hands in building a truly age-friendly city for our senior citizens to thrive in their golden years. Thank you very much.



[“The Light of Metempsychosis” to shuttle between film screening and live performance](#)

A cross-media production, "The Light of Metempsychosis", which combines theatre and aspects of nature, will be staged in July.

The production is presented by the Leisure and Cultural Services Department and will consist of two parts; a film screening and live performance. The film is shot in an enclosed theatre and in the natural

environment. It will be divided into four sections, including "Darkness" – there was sound in the primeval world; "Sky" – there is light in darkness; "Illusion" – nature takes away illusory images; and "Sun" – a pure heart that shapes the true self. The story unfolds with images and sounds of streams, forests and the seaside. The live stage performance will complement the film screening, weaving together images, physical movements and musical pulses to tell a seeker's tale.

Performers Tsang Man-tung, Wan Xing, Leung Tin-chak, Natalie Mak and Alex Cheung will witness the shifting imageries in tandem, grasp the mind's workings and its obsession, and share their experiences in a journey of mindfulness, consciousness and liberation with the audience.

"The Light of Metempsychosis" is the fourth theatrical meditation production by Tsang Man-tung, following "The Heart Sutra", "Vipassana-Silent Walk" and "Silence in the Woods". In "The Light of Metempsychosis", Tsang will once again explore the raw power of theatre through the merging of images and sounds.

"The Light of Metempsychosis" will be staged at 8pm on July 17 (Saturday) and at 3pm on July 18 (Sunday) at the Auditorium, Kwai Tsing Theatre. Tickets, priced at \$150, are now available at URBTIX (www.urbtix.hk). For telephone credit card bookings, please call 2111 5999. For programme enquiries and concessionary schemes, please call 2268 7323 or visit www.lcsd.gov.hk/CE/CulturalService/Programme/en/multi_arts/programs_1150.html

Home-grown young musicians to perform "Gingers' Tonic" in July

A group of home-grown Hong Kong musicians will collaborate in a performance entitled "Gingers' Tonic" in July to portray a vibrant music scene of the city.

Starting from the conventional, "Gingers' Tonic" will modernise familiar classical, jazz and signature pop tunes with new possibilities. Local composer and arranger Joyce Cheung will lead her ensemble to rearrange signature classical masterpieces into styles of jazz music, while the Smash Trio (Wong Ka-jeng, CY Leo and Timothy Sun) will bring dynamic songs to audiences.

The programme will include the re-arrangements of Chopin's "Fantaisie Impromptu Op. 66", Debussy's "Clair de Lune", the second movement of Dvořák's "Symphony No. 9, New World" and the Beatles' "Yesterday", as well

as the newly arranged "Movie Classics Medley", "Michael Jackson Medley", and "The Dance of Eternity".

Cheung received a master's degree from the United States' Berklee College of Music in Contemporary Performance, and continued her study with a scholarship in Film Scoring and Contemporary Writing and Production. After returning to Hong Kong, she aims to bring various cultures and styles to the music scene, especially jazz music. She has worked on a variety of projects including a collaboration with Ng Cheuk-yin and Ricky Wong on an East and West crossover between classical music, pop music and jazz.

Born in Hong Kong in 1990, Wong Ka-jeng started playing the piano at the age of 7. He rose to public attention due to the unexpected popularity of his Golden Horse Award-winning documentary "KJ: Music and Life" in 2009. His performance at the 2014 Gina Bachauer International Artists Piano Competition, where he was a semi-finalist, received critical acclaim. He was also one of the winners of the 2014 Young Concert Artists Asian Auditions in Seoul.

CY Leo began a brilliant career in music and won his first international award at the age of 10 in the Asia-Pacific Harmonica Festival. He has garnered 17 international titles, including two honours as world champion in the World Harmonica Festival in 2009 and 2013. He has performed in different music and cultural activities including Clockenflap, the NAMM Show in California, the Seoul International Harmonica Festival, the Swiss Harpers Gala Concert and the Norwegian Harmonica Festival.

Sun began his music studies at the age of 7. In 2001, he became the first Chinese saxophone and clarinet student of the Guildhall School of Music and Drama in London under a full scholarship for his bachelor's degree, where his principal teachers were the world-renowned saxophonists John Harle and Christian Forshaw. He completed his master's degree under scholarship and received the highest score in final recital. Sun has appeared in more than 100 recitals and orchestral concerts in Asia and Europe.

"Music Delight" Series: "Gingers' Tonic" is presented by the Leisure and Cultural Services Department. It will take place at 8pm on July 3 (Saturday) at the Auditorium of Kwai Tsing Theatre. Tickets priced at \$120, \$180 and \$250 are now available at URBTIX (www.urbtix.hk). For telephone credit card bookings, please call 2111 5999. For programme enquiries and concessionary schemes, please call 2268 7321 or visit www.lcsd.gov.hk/CE/CulturalService/Programme/en/music/programs_1148.html.

[Red flag hoisted at Clear Water Bay](#)

Second Beach

Attention TV/radio announcers:

Please broadcast the following as soon as possible:

Here is an item of interest to swimmers.

The Leisure and Cultural Services Department announced today (June 7) that due to big waves, the red flag has been hoisted at Clear Water Bay Second Beach in Sai Kung District. Beach-goers are advised not to swim at the beach.

Hongkong Post holiday arrangements for Tuen Ng Festival

Hongkong Post announced today (June 7) that no mail delivery and no mail collection will be provided on the Tuen Ng Festival on June 14 (Monday). All post offices will be closed. In accordance with the usual practice, mail posted on the public holiday will be processed on the next working day.

For more information, members of the public may visit Hongkong Post's website at www.hongkongpost.hk or contact the Hongkong Post enquiry hotline at 2921 2222.