



# 東風

# Rotary



Club of

Hong Kong Island East

# TUNG FENG

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## Last Meeting: Opportunities of Mediation in the Greater Bay Area.

Speaker: Prof. Francis Law



Professor Francis Law is the President of the Hong Kong Mediation Centre (HKMC). HKMC is pressing for recognition for mediation services on the Chinese mainland and other Asian countries. One step is by offering training courses and certification – for those skilled in resolving business and investment disputes. The Outline Development Plan for the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area directs the Bay Area's three regions to deliver a multi-faceted dispute resolution program to ease stress on commercial interests. The plan would include both mediation and compulsory arbitration options. HKMC hopes to play an important role.

Law believes that mediation is preferable to arbitration. Mediation, he says, provides an approach that is non-confrontational, aiming at a win-win resolution or even cooperation. That's the approach HKMC is presenting to regional governments in the Bay Area, in the hope of achieving a consensus that eventually can take hold all across Asia.

The Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government and the Ministry of Commerce signed an investment agreement in June 2017, urging full reference to mediation. The agreement, came under the Mainland and Hong Kong Closer Economic Partnership Arrangement (CEPA) framework, provides an investment mediation mechanism to solve disputes.

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(cont.)

By contrast, arbitration is much like litigation in court. Arbitrators hand down a binding resolution which disputing parties are bound to honour. Arbitration is a more costly process and it takes longer, says Law, adding that mediation usually brings resolution within a month of filing. He adds mediation is not conducted in public, helping to protect the privacy and reputation of the parties.

Mediators don't offer suggestions to influence the parties' positions, but assist in negotiations. Much of the process involves helping cooler heads to prevail while assessing risks and benefits. The parties come to their own, mutually agreed conclusions. Law estimates that 95 percent of his clients consciously have implemented the final results.

Hong Kong is establishing the online dispute resolution platform, eBRAM.hk while the Department of Justice will also establish a dispute resolution center for the BRI to offer services for state-owned enterprises and small and medium-sized enterprises from various countries. Rules require respect for local, legal cultures and overcoming geographical distances and language barriers between the mainland and other countries.

China is paying more attention to international mediation, as it becomes actively involved in international trade. In the past, China's lack of participation in international discussions has resulted in trade treaties that provide inadequate protection to Chinese businesses, said Law. During the formulation of the latest international convention on mediation mechanisms, representatives of Chinese government and its mediation groups took an active part in the discussions, said Law.

### **The Observer**

- P Gilbert called the meeting to order at 1:04 p.m.  
Members attending were: P Gilbert, PP Andrew, PP Eddy, PP Henry, PP Hubert, PP Norman, PP Rudy, PP Stacy, PP William, Rtn. Bernard, Rtn. Jason, Rtn. Peter, Rtn. Rico
- P Gilbert delivered the following updates:
  - The Rookie Star Dance Contest has been postponed until June 2020.
- Visit from Taipei is cancelled, the trip status of our Visit to our Japanese Sister Club Anniversary party is currently unknown (pending the COVID-19 situation) .
- 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary RC Kawasaki South, rescheduled to 24 June 2020
  - The 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of RC Niigata is scheduled from April 20 – 22<sup>nd</sup> 2020. Members please register with PP William.
- Rtn. Rico introduced the speaker.
- PP Hubert thanked our speaker for his very informative insightful presentation in our usual Rotarian manner. 30,000 Cases of consumer complaints, 80% through dispute are bill related. Meditation centre His experience as a Chairman of the Telecommunications. Mediation has a great future.
- PP Rudy reported the Red Box: 1,000HKD
- Meeting Adjourned at 2:06 p.m.



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## Social Entrepreneurship

Today's young people are as concerned with making a positive impact on the world as they are with making money. A whopping 94% want to use their skills to benefit a cause. Meanwhile, only half of Americans have confidence in the free market system, down from 80% just 15 years ago. Against this backdrop, social enterprise has taken off as a new formula for success, combining capitalism with a do-gooder mentality. These self-funding, for-profit businesses also have a mission to tackle global issues such as alleviating hunger, improving education, and combatting climate change. To achieve their high-minded goals, the companies might fund specific programs, partner with governments or existing philanthropic entities, or follow a one-for-one donation model, and work on either the local or international level.

**Social entrepreneurship is all about recognizing the social problems and achieving a social change by employing entrepreneurial principles, processes and operations.** It is all about making a research to completely define a particular social problem and then organizing, creating and managing a social venture to attain the desired change. The change may or may not include a thorough elimination of a social problem. It may be a lifetime process focusing on the improvement of the existing circumstances.

While a general and common business entrepreneurship means taking a lead to a opening up of new business or diversifying the existing business, social entrepreneurship mainly focuses on creating social capital without measuring the performance in profit or return in monetary terms. The entrepreneurs in this field are associated with non-profit sectors and organizations. But this does not eliminate the need of making profit. After all entrepreneurs need capital to carry on with the process and bring a positive change in the society.

Along with social problems, social entrepreneurship also focuses on environmental problems. Child Rights foundations, plants for treatment of waste products and women empowerment foundations are few examples of social ventures. **Social entrepreneurs can be those individuals who are associated with non-profit and non-government organizations that raise funds through community events and activities.**

In the modern world, there are several well-known social entrepreneurs who have contributed a lot towards the society. The founder and manager of Grameen Bank, Muhammad Yunus is a contemporary social entrepreneur who has been awarded a Nobel Peace Prize for his venture in the year 2006. The venture has been continuously growing and benefiting a large section of the society.

**Rang De** is another brilliant example of a non-profit social enterprise. Established in the year 2008 by Ramakrishna and Smita Ram, it is an online platform from where rural and urban poor people in India can access micro-credits with an interest rate of as low as 2 percent per annum. Lenders from all across the country can directly lend money to borrowers, track investments and receive regular payments online.

The **George Foundation** is one more nationally recognized social enterprise. The Women's Empowerment Program creates awareness among women by providing them education, vocational training, cooperative farming, business development and savings planning. By employing the principles of social entrepreneurship, these organizations are addressing the social problems and bringing a positive change in the society.

The field of social entrepreneurship is rapidly growing and attracting the attention of numerous volunteers. It has now become a common term in university campuses. The reason behind the increasing popularity of this product is that individuals get to do what they have been thinking for long. The extraordinary people put their brilliant ideas and bring a change in society against all odds.

## Club Announcements

1. Sister Club Visits cancelled.



### March Birthdays

Happy Birthday to our Splendid Rotarians!

March 2<sup>nd</sup> PP Andy Wong & PP David Li

March 10<sup>th</sup> Rtn. Jason Chiu

March 18<sup>th</sup> Rtn. Angus Leung



### Laugh of the Week: The Divorced Barbie Doll

One day a father on his way home suddenly remembers that it's his daughter's birthday.

He pulls over to a Toy Shop and asks the salesperson, 'How much for one of those Barbies in the display window?'

The salesperson answers, 'Which one do you mean, Sir?'

We have: Work Out Barbie for \$19.95, Shopping Barbie for \$19.95, Beach Barbie for \$19.95, Disco Barbie for \$19.95, Ballerina Barbie for \$19.95, Astronaut Barbie for \$19.95, Skater Barbie for \$19.95, and Divorced Barbie for \$265.95'.

The amazed father asks: 'It's what?! Why is the Divorced Barbie \$265.95 and the others only \$19.95?'

The annoyed salesperson rolls her eyes, sighs, and answers: 'Sir..., Divorced Barbie comes with: Ken's Car, Ken's House, Ken's Boat, Ken's Furniture, Ken's Computer, and one of Ken's Friends.'

**Club postal address** : P.O.Box 47064, Morrison Hill Post Office, Hong Kong

**Meeting Venue** : Regal HK Hotel, Causeway Bay, Hong Kong

**Meeting Schedules** : Every 1st and 3rd Wednesday at 12:30 pm

**Website** : <http://hkie.rotary3450.org/>