



東風



TUNG FENG

香港東區扶輪社週報 THE ROTARY CLUB OF HONG KONG ISLAND EAST

Last week's Proceedings -

27th April, 2011

Pres. Heman opened the meeting by welcoming everyone to our 41st meeting of this year. He specially welcomed Mr. Brandon Chau who is our guest speaker of the day and his lovely wife Jenny. He then greeted several guests of our members; among them were Mr. Jonah Cheung a guest of Rtn. William Wong, Dr Andy Man, our guest speaker of last week, and Mr. Bertrand Chui the guest of Hon Sec Jonathan.

Pres. Heman then went on with this week's announcements as there was no welcome-back or birthday celebration.

1. District Assembly will be held on 14th May at the Shatin Clubhouse of the Hong Kong Jockey Club from 9:00am to 4:30pm (Lunch provided). Complimentary to the first eight attendants for each club \$250 per person for any additional attendants. Our Club will sponsor the additional attendants should registration exceeded 8.
2. District Beijing trip will be held from 12-14 June. If you are interested, please register with HS Jonathan and PP Andy.
3. PP Stephen Liu and PP Hubert Chan's golf gathering will be held on 5th May, Thursday at Discovery Bay Golf and Country Club. Tee off time around 8am with lunch afterwards. Prize presentation will be made at regular luncheon meeting after the game. It's now FULL House, but if anyone wants to join, please do contact HS Jonathan or myself.
4. RC of Niigata confirmed their sponsorship to our World Community Service Project with World Vision - Water Project in Yunnan. We will offset the amount of their contributions against our Japan Disaster Relief Fund that we gathered amongst our members earlier.
5. Our Matching Grant Project with RC Makati North in The Philippines, "Feed a Child, Build a Nation" the application is now in its final stage, and when RI Foundation approves the matching grant, the project will then begin in June this year.
6. PN Nancy Yee received an important award in her job this week and that award is: The Gold Award of Best Scent Campaign from MTR Best of the Best Yearly Award for the client Nissin 100th Anniversary.
7. PP Andy to talk about the Happy Luncheon arrangement.

Pres. Heman next asked the acting SAA PP Rudy to report on his collection. He announced that the total collection amounted to HK\$1,200.

PE Eric was invited to introduce today's speaker. PE Eric invited Mr. Brandon Chau to share his experience through the RTHK program Millionaires Fight Poverty. He went on to introduce Mr. Chau as a barrister-at-law currently practicing at Cheng Huan, Q.C., S.C.'S Chambers, he is also the son of the late Mr. Kai Bong Chau, who was a celebrity, well known solicitor and socialite. Brandon's grandfather is the late Hon. Sir Sik Nin Chau who was the senior unofficial member of both legislative and executive council after World War 2.

Brandon was asked to participate in RTHK(Radio Television Hong Kong)'s reality show to live as a grass-root "post 80s" for 4 days and experienced poverty and the difficulties in job upward mobility. He would be delighted to share his experience throughout the reality show and spread awareness of the youth poverty and discuss possible ways to help the youth of today.

Brandon Chau's talk was in Cantonese but he provided us with an English version which is reproduced herewith:

My experience living in poverty

When I was approached by the RTHK to participate in their reality show to live in poverty as a "post 80s" youth for a few days and experience the difficulties in youth job mobility, I immediately accepted it.

One of the many reasons, I would like to show people that all people should be treated the same way and as Hong Kong citizens we should all be able to live through the same life. We should not give any labels to anyone, whether good or bad, which I think is fair. I do not see this as a challenge, but I see as a very valuable experience which I also hope it would set a good example for my son and his generation. I believe that we all know about poverty but living in poverty is all together another matter. For me, it may be a reality show for a few days but for many others it is a reality of hardship for a lifetime.

By participating in this show, I also wish to reduce the negative sentiment against the wealthy and hope to bring out a message that many better-off individuals are actually very genuine in helping the society with their resources and I hope to encourage more to do so. I feel socially responsible of spreading awareness of the ever widening gap between the wealthy and the poor. The issue had been my concern for years and I always wanted to do something, however insignificant, to help this social phenomenon.

What is poverty? Many Hong Kongers would believe that the problem is far from home but recent media coverage has raised the alarm that the problem is in fact much closer to us. Social research shows that there are currently 1.26M people who live under poverty in HK today. Many of these families are considered as low income and are measured by a standard which is half of the median monthly domestic household income rate: 1-person family under \$3300, 2-person family under \$6750 and so forth. It is estimated that 1/6 of the HK population is considered to live in poverty. Such ratio even overtakes country such as the USA and is the highest in Asia.

When I was told by the producer of the show that I will be representing the youth and their struggle to move up in their career, I see it as a calling. Among many of my friends, we had this discussion many times about the struggle in career mobility and upward movement. It appears that it is a social phenomenon that many "Post 80s" regardless of their social economic status, are experiencing career difficulties to move up their career ladder

. "Post 80s" is another label that implies young people born in the 80s are lazy, impatient, non-career minded, job changing and seem to go on protest all the time. As a rightful member of the "Post 80s", I believe that it is my responsibility to speak their side of the story.

In my opinion, "Post 80s" had a better up bringing than their parents and many would have at least received up to Form 5 education. After the recent financial crisis, the economy had only started to recover, multi-national banks and companies to small businesses alike are consistently downsizing, streamlining their human resources. This has resulted in top high-paying jobs being occupied by a small number of overseas educated elites and middle management preoccupied by the existing struggling to move up and bottom level with even less prospect to do the same.

As a result, many bottom level jobs have a great turn-over rate with people constantly changing jobs and many more between jobs. After the financial crisis, the property prices and inflation soar up the sky, causing food, transportation fees and everyday commodities to increase in price. As a youth beginning to make a living, it is a very tough path indeed.

Another problem that may contribute to youth poverty and their difficulties in moving up their career ladder may be the lack of resources to receive education from private elite schools. Many families that are living under poverty could not afford the school fees or the extra curriculum fees that are required for the basic entry to private elite school, even though most are directly subsidized by the government. Needless to say overseas education is hardly an affordable option, this result in a disadvantage in their competitiveness in finding higher pay jobs that are mostly occupied by overseas elites and those who can afford private education.

Most post form 5 education institutions that aim to provide a higher qualification for those who wish to enhance their job prospect, such as Yi-jin Project and Associate degree are very expensive and inflexible to those who wish to take part-time job to pay for the tuition fees. My fellow roommate, Ah Kun, told me that while I was squatting at his living room that these qualifications are not affordable by many youth from under privileged family and such qualifications are not recognized by many businesses or even government departments. This caused a large amount of unskilled youth with little work experience to work in low pay and labour intensive jobs such as Taiwanese Tea shop, courier service or promoting internet service on the streets of Mongkok.

During the show I have set out to find a job as a young person who received up to Form 5 with 3 passes in Chinese, English and Mathematic. I was interviewed by prospective employers at a job fair for sales jobs, it appears that many sales jobs require at least Form 5 education and a year or two experience in the related field. Their hourly wages are approximately \$27 and their working hours are about 9 to 10 hours each day. Many without the relevant qualifications or experiences will have difficulties in finding less laborious jobs and those who are qualified have to endure long hours and low pay. Those who are employed constantly live under fear and a sense of insecurity, feeling

that the prospect of promotion seems distant and the fact that they can be easily replaced due to vast number of unskilled workers in the labour market.

It appears that in the old days the hard working ones could at least make an honest man's living and through sweat and toil one could improve their livelihood. During my days of working at a Taiwanese tea shop and courier service, I felt that many youth would have to endure very long hours of work and laborious jobs with very little pay barely sufficient to maintain day to day living, not needing to talk about savings. Most important of all, many do not see a future in their jobs or career. Everyday seems like a broken record repeating itself and struggling to make a change. Many would be discouraged or disheartened by the lack of prospect.

Post-80s are not lazy or unmotivated but in need of a vision, a goal, a single hope that there is a future lying ahead of their career path. If my generation cannot afford a decent living or to have better chance to succeed in life, what will be the future of Hong Kong? What will the future of our children? Such problem goes to the root of the society and I hope that both the government and resourceful individuals in the society would give the issue a deep reflection and action.

In my humble opinion, there are at least three ways to improve youth poverty. As I have mentioned before, high property prices and inflation level highly affects the daily living costs of a young person living in poverty. The first step, government should subsidize public transport and construct more council houses for those who are eligible to apply. The current mean test for eligibility to apply for council houses is out-of-date and cannot currently reflect poverty in this day and age. Secondly, the government should increase more job opportunities for young people and subsidize job training. The government should also improve their current scheme of Yi-Jin Project and Associate degree to widen their scope to help more youth from less privilege background and perhaps offer career assistance program to help enhancing job prospective. Although these solutions may not eliminate youth poverty once and for all, such help, as a first step, would greatly help the youth of today.

Brandon's talk created many questions from the floor and he answered them thoroughly.

Pres. Heman then called on PN Nancy to thank the speaker.

He then announced that next week's program will be Dr. Veronica Tam, Head of Student Office. Lingnan University on the topic : "Student Development in Tertiary Education".

He then proposed a toast to RI coupled with the Rotary Club of Hong Kong Island East and invited everyone to a group photo. Meeting adjourned.

Rotary Potpourri

History of Uncle Peter Golf Cup Tournament

The Uncle Peter Golf Cup Tournament was initiated in 1991 and the winner could keep the cup for one year with his name engraved thereon. A replica of the cup was given to the winner for his keeping permanently. The following names of winner were inscribed on the Cup for memory:

Year	Names of Winner
1991	Jack Lau
1993	Dave Cheung
1995	Samuel Wong
1996	Y. K. Cheng
1996	Dave Cheung
1998	Hubert Chan
1998	Tajwar Shadikhan
2001	Andrew Chen
2002	George Leung
3003	David Li
2004	David Li
2005	Tajwar Shakikhan
2006	David Li
2007	Heman Lam

2008	Kevin Leung
2009	John Kwok

Electronic Make-up Questions

You can submit an electronic makeup for this missed meeting by answering the following questions:

Name:

Email:

1. Name any two guests introduced by our members at our lunch meeting today ?
Ans)

2. What will be the official cost per person for our District Assembly held this year ?
Ans)

3. Our District Beijing trip will be held when ?
Ans)

4. RC of Niigata confirmed their sponsorship to our World Community Service Project with World Vision for what project ?
Ans)

5. What is the name of our Matching Grant Project with RC Makati North in the Philippines ?
Ans)

6. Who was our SAA and how much was contributed to our Red Box today ?
Ans)

7. Who was our speaker and what was the topic about ?
Ans)

Joke

Subject: Description Of Wife!

John's wife asked him to describe her.

He said "You're A B C D E F G H I J K."

She said "What's that mean?"

He said "Adorable Beautiful Cute Delightful Elegant Foxy Gorgeous Hot."

She said "Ooohh that's so lovely - but what about I J K?"

"I'm. Just. Kidding."

Photographs of our meeting

on

27th April, 2011

27 April, 2011 RC of HKIE Luncheon Meeting Photos



PDG Uncle Peter Hall, Guest Speaker - Mr. Brandon Chau & Pres. Heman Lam



Hon. Sec. Jonathan Lamport, PE Dr. Eric Chin & PP John Kwok



Visiting guest Mrs Jenny Chau & PN Nancy Yee



Dir. Anthony Kwong, AG Henry Chan & PP Rudy Law



Visiting guest Dr. Andy Man & Rtn. William Wong



Visiting guest Jonah Cheung & Rtn. Lawrence Ho



PP Andy Wong & visiting guest Bertrand Chui



Rtn. Kevin Leung & PP Eddy Wong



Rtn. Kishu Narain & PP Eddy Wong



PE Dr. Eric Chin introduced the guest speaker - Mr. Brandon Chau



Guest speaker - Mr. Brandon Chau



Pres. Heman Lam presented a photo in action to thank Mr. Brandon Chau's talk



PN Nancy Yee gave a vote of thanks on behalf of the club to Mr. Brandon Chau



Group photos with Guest Speaker, visiting guests & club members

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