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Y O U N G  
R E P O R T E R

BY HKBU JOURNALISM STUDENTS

# UNTAPPED POTENTIAL

Discover the hidden gems of Hong Kong tourism  
through eco-tours off the beaten track





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**Editor's note**

Tourism is a key industry that underpins the prosperity of Hong Kong, which has long been known as the "Pearl of the Orient". Our glamorous shopping centres, posh hotels and fine restaurants serving a wide variety of culinary delights are some of this city's key attractions.

But there are other attractions off the beaten track that Hong Kong could and should develop to enhance its uniqueness as a travel destination. In this issue, The Young Reporter takes a look at the potential of eco-tours to our country parks, atypical tours to public housing estates and medical tours.

Gary Kwok Ka-lok  
Chief Editor


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Kitchen angels prepare free dishes for people in need

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A cappella players do not need any instruments to create the sound of an orchestra



# TUTORING PRIMARY KIDS IS A CHALLENGE FOR UNIVERSITY STUDENTS

Workshops fail to equip them with skills to deal with needy students



Part-time tutors find it hard to deal with a class of primary students with different kinds of learning needs.

At times, even qualified teachers find it challenging to deal with naughty children, let alone for university students who have attended just a few workshops before taking up tutoring jobs.

Mr So Ka-lok, 21, a tutor under a subvented scheme, said that one of his students lifted his middle finger at him but pretended that he was not aware of its vulgar connotation.

"It is quite tiring dealing with the students for more than an hour," said Mr Ng Koon-ting, another part-time tutor.

Both Mr So and Mr Ng are tutors under the government-funded School-based After-School Learning and Support Programme, a community-based project aimed at helping underprivileged primary school students.

Under the scheme, non-governmental organisations working in partnership with the Education Bureau to hire university students as tutors to help students who have difficulties with their studies.

Dr Margret Hui Ming-fai, associate professor of the Centre for Learning, Teaching and Technology at Hong Kong Institute of Education, said university

students were capable of teaching primary students because they were experienced learners, with mastery of subject knowledge.

But while they were competent in tutoring primary students, they were not equipped to deal with the children's behavioural and emotional problems, she said.

“ *It is quite tiring dealing with the students for more than an hour.* ”

Mr Ng Koon-ting, part-time tutor

Mr Keung Shu-sum, project coordination officer of Tung Wah Group of Hospitals Jockey Club Shatin Integrated Services Centre, one of the participating NGOs, said tutors might need to take care of students suffering from behavioural disorders, such as attention deficit hyperactivity disorder

and developmental dyslexia.

"Since the Education Bureau has adopted the policy of inclusive education, some schools have students with different levels of learning disabilities. But these students are prone to emotional problems, such as getting angry or losing their temper easily," said Mr Keung.

**\$175 MILLION**

The government will provide \$175 million to the School-based After-School Learning and Support Programmes.

Mr So said that all tutors were required to attend four training sessions every year, but the ones taught in class may not be adequate to fully address all the troubles they would face.

Dr Hui said with the presence of children with behavioural problems, it was hard for inexperienced tutors to run a well-managed class, in which everyone could learn effectively.

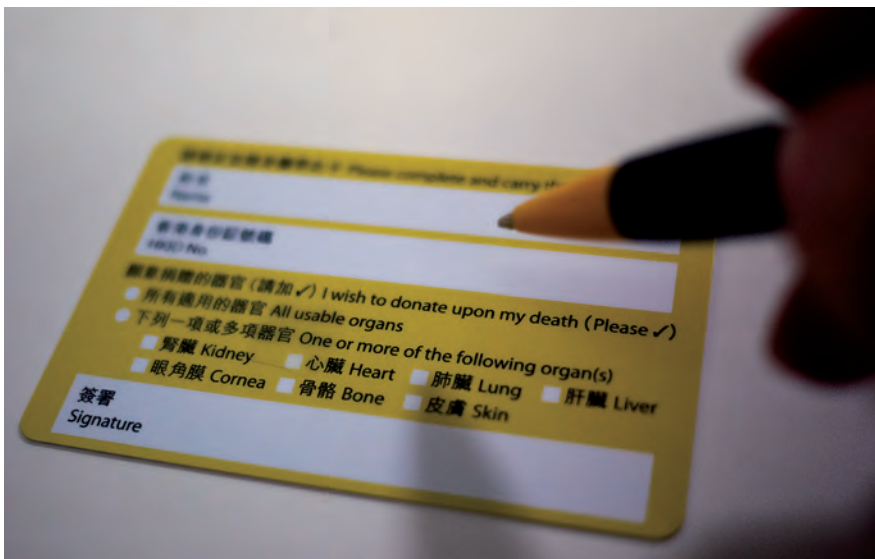
She suggested that more training in handling students with special needs should be given to the tutors before they took up the job.

The government announced early this year that funding for the scheme would rise from HK\$100 million to HK\$175 million to provide more extensive tutoring services to school kids in the city. ■

STORY / ROY CHAN  
EDITED BY / PEARLIE YIU

# DIRE SHORTAGE OF ORGANS FOR TRANSPLANT

Few people are willing to donate their organs due to traditional beliefs



Doctors say it is important to notify your family of your will to donate organs after death.

The supply of organs for transplant is still insufficient despite the government's efforts to promote organ donations in Hong Kong.

Figures compiled by the Hospital Authority show a serious shortage of organs for transplant. For example, in 2010, 74 kidneys were donated by deceased donors and seven by living donors, while the number of patients waiting for kidney transplants at the end of the same year was 1,621.

In 2008, the Department of Health set up the Centralised Organ Donation Register, an electronic platform for willing donors to indicate their wish, in addition to the commonly known organ donation card.

By September 2011, the register had received responses from more than 86,000 persons who have agreed to donate their organs after death.

"I sometimes feel helpless," Ms Tong Yuen-fun, Organ Transplant Coordinator at the Prince of Wales Hospital, spoke of the long queue. "Not many organs from donors can be used for organ transplant as there are various restrictions."

According to the regulations, brain death donors can generally donate both organs and tissues only if they have no systemic

infection, no HIV infection nor cancer. But donors that die of heart diseases can at most donate tissues only, like corneas and bones.

One of the obstacles doctors face is that the deceased do not disclose their willingness to donate their organs after death to their family members when they were alive.

"From my experience, about 40 percent of the family members agree to a donation," Ms Tong said. "To let go is not easy. It's hard to explain what a brain death is, especially when people are in grief."

Another hindrance is traditional beliefs. Chinese people believe that preserving a "complete" body for burial is of utmost importance and that removing any parts of the body after death is regarded as highly disrespectful.

According to Dr Chu Kwok-hong, Honourary Secretary of Hong Kong Society of Transplantation (HKST), the shortage of organs may also be caused by doctors.

"Some doctors avoid reporting deaths that are suitable for organ donations to the organ transplant coordinator, perhaps for the sake of avoiding troubles," he said.

He added that those doctors might either

lack knowledge about organ donations or just did not have "a passionate heart".

"We depend very much on doctors' active notifications of suitable organs for donations," Dr Chu said.

The government clearly states that "the determination of brain death is done by two 'senior' eligible doctors who have no relations with the 'Organ Transplant Services' to carry out two separate tests".

Medical workers responsible for organ transplants are prohibited from getting involved in "organ retrieval" in Hong Kong in order to prevent conflict of interests.

In view of the shortfall of organs, some countries, including Singapore and New Zealand, have legislated an opt-out system that assumes automatically that a person is a willing donor unless he or she expresses rejection.

But Hong Kong and countries like Germany adopted an opposite opt-in system in which a person chooses to be a donor or not. The opt-out system, however, does not necessarily yield higher organ donation rates.

According to The International Registry of Organ Donation and Transplantation's report for 2009, there were only 4.6 deceased donors per million population (PMP) in Singapore, compared with 14.9 in Germany and 15.5 in Britain, where an opt-in system has been adopted.

Various educational campaigns, including road shows and interviews with university students, have been held by organ donation-related organisations to promote organ donation and transplantation.

The HKST and the Department of Health this year created a page on Facebook to deliver news and knowledge about organ donation as well as to collect opinions from the public.

Ms Tong said teenagers should not hide their organ donation plans. "Their choices may be a blessing to others," she said. ■

STORY/DENNIS LEE  
EDITED BY/GARY KWOK



# FOOD BANKS NEED MORE SPACE AND BETTER POLICIES

Operators say they need money as well as storage space to meet the demands of the needy

Food banks in Hong Kong are running out of space for storing food and trying to hand out vouchers instead to the needy.

"We need more space to store fresh food," said Ms Connie Ng Man-yin, service manager of People's Food Bank in Shek Kip Mei. "We will buy fresh meat every two days, but the only fridge here cannot store much."

In his policy address, Chief Executive Donald Tsang Yam-kuen proposed allocating another \$100 million to short-term food assistance projects known as food banks. The money will be used to increase the variety of foods and the supply of fresh foods.

Ms Ng said that the money given by the government could be used to buy more equipment and fresh food, but a lack of storage space was the biggest challenge they faced.

One of Tung Wah Group of Hospitals' food bank branches, Food For All, is facing the same problem. The floor area of their largest branch at Tai Kwok Tsui is only 707 square feet, including the reception, the storage room for food and the office.

"Even the storage space for dried food is running out," said Ms Chan Ying-yuk, Food For All's project officer.

At present, there are five food banks run by non-government organisations sponsored by the Social Welfare Department and demand for their services has been increasing. In September, almost 1,100 people sought help from Food For All and that was two times last year's figure.

To tackle the problem of limited storage space, food banks are giving out food vouchers for people to get fresh foods from local markets.

"It is good to have coupons for fresh foods but the food prices are now getting higher and higher. I hope food banks can give us more coupons," said Ms Mak, a client of the food bank.

"We want to give food to people directly but we have no space for fridges to store fresh food," said Ms Lau Kim-wung, assistance service coordinator at the Tung Wah Group of Hospitals. "Even if we have space for fridges, the electricity fees are too expensive for us."

"We have spent almost all the money the Social Welfare Department gave us in 2009," said Ms Lau, referring to an initial amount of \$60 million as first installment to the five food banks.

Apart from a lack of space, there are also some unreasonable restrictions on recipients of food banks. For example, one has to apply through the NGOs or social workers first in order to receive the assistance, cannot apply if one is also a recipient of social security and can only receive food for up to 6 continuous weeks with each application.

On the other hand, non-government sponsored food banks have fewer

restrictions on applicants as they do not have to follow the rules set by the government. Whoever in need of foods can go there and enjoy the services until their problems are solved.

"We visit our recipients on a regular basis, trying to identify their problems and provide solutions. We clearly understand the situations of our recipients," said James Lung, manager of Yau Tsim Mong Food Bank, which is funded by a local environment group and serves about 450 recipients.


However, the Food Bank is facing a crisis and may have to close down because it is running out of money.

"It is difficult to run without government's support. The types and amounts of food we can distribute to our recipients are unstable," said Mr Lung. ■

STORY / KRIS LUI  
EDITED BY CARLOS CHENG



Currently, food banks give out dried foods and vouchers. The basic set (left) is for those who can cook at home while the convenient set (right) is for those who cannot.



# COMING TO A PLUG NEAR YOU

Take a look at the nearest wall, and just a few inches off the floor, you would not be surprised to find a power outlet, or even a couple of it. But if you chanced upon a charging station for electric vehicles, savour the moment because, in all likelihood, you will not find another without some luck.

It seems ironic that while power can be so accessible in Hong Kong, drivers of electric vehicles (EV) have to map the most energy-efficient route before starting their electric motor.

"If you ask me, I can't even tell you the location of one EV charging station, but I can tell you where the nearest gas station is," said Mr Wilson Wong, a proprietor of a construction firm.



Fortunately, the situation is set for a change, with officials indicating that the adjustment could take place as early as next year.

Mr Edward Yau, Secretary for the Environment, recently announced that the government would more than triple the current number of charging points from 300 to 1,000.

The move comes as the city looks towards the wider adoption of electric vehicles among the general public in a bid to reduce air pollution.

Figures from the Environmental Protection Department suggest transport pollution accounts for 82 percent of the city's carbon monoxide emissions. Apart from increasing the number of charging stations, the exemption of first registration tax for electric vehicles has also been introduced.

Despite ongoing efforts to push for 30 percent of privately owned cars to be hybrid or electric by 2020, among more than 600,000 licensed automobiles in Hong Kong, less than 200 are electric ones.

"The progress is too slow," said Mr Albert Lai Kwong-tak, the founding chairman of the Hong Kong People's Council for Sustainable Development. At present, the government has only put electric vehicles through tests and trials.

"What drivers want is simple - convenience and cheapness. But the government's determination to break [this] early-stage barrier is too weak," said Mr Lai, chairman of Hong Kong People's Council for Sustainable Development.

For most potential buyers of electric cars, the cost of possession alone is a major drawback. According to the University of Hong Kong's International Research Centre for Electric Vehicles, even with tax breaks, an electric car costs two to three times as much as a

comparable gasoline-powered car.

Despite the modest number of electric vehicles on the roads, Mr Yau said locals were gradually warming up to the idea of green cars, adding that one in seven new cars belonged to the environmentally-friendly category.

"Electric cars are still very new to the customers," said Mr Henry Yu, a salesperson with Nissan Motor Company.

The multinational automaker recently introduced the Leaf, a five-door zero emission hatchback with a lower operating cost than gasoline-powered vehicles. In March, Nissan Motors signed an agreement with the Hong Kong government to deliver 200 Leafs for use by government agencies and private companies.

The government's plan to promote electric vehicles signals a strong intent to improve roadside air quality and promote a low-carbon economy, but experts feel that it might not be cost-efficient in the long run.

"Apart from promoting electric vehicles,

“

*... the government should also consider changing the mode in which people use their cars.*”

”

Mr Lai, Chairman of Hong Kong People's Council for Sustainable Development

the government should also consider changing the mode [in which] people use their cars," said Mr Lai, who is also vice-chairman of the Civic Party, citing Paris as an example where a car-sharing project, Autolib, was recently launched.

"If we adopted a public car-sharing scheme, then when a car is left unused in a car park, others can rent it," Mr Lai said. "This would not only reduce the number of cars on the road, but would also bring Hong Kong people a whole new green driving habit." ■

STORY / **ALAN WONG**  
EDITED BY / **CALVIN YANG**  
PHOTOS COURTESY / **NISSAN MOTORS**





Goldfish is one of the most common creatures that worshippers release back to wild for good fortune.

## THINK TWICE BEFORE RELEASING CAPTURED ANIMALS BACK TO THE WILD

Kind-heartedly releasing confiscated animals back to the wild would cause massive destruction to local habitats, if an unsuitable location or species were picked.

In Hong Kong, a considerable amount of animals, such as fishes and turtles, is returned to the nature on the first and fifteenth days of every lunar month, as the city's Buddhist groups regularly hold various religious events in hopes of auspiciousness.

But the International Union for Conservation of Nature has pointed out that the religious activity can cause loss in biodiversity since the released animals may be invasive to the local habitats.

The Agricultural, Fisheries and Conservation Department's conservation officer Aidia Chan Sin-wai said: "Once a large sum of released animals adapt to the new habitat, they may reproduce massively, which can cause competitions and predations."

In the city alone, the ecosystem, according to the Hong Kong Society of

Herpetology Foundation, has been destroyed by the dominance of red-eared sliders – a species of turtles imported from the United States – that crowd out local turtles.

Fishes, birds and amphibians are also common creatures that locals release during worship, and such activities often take place in suburbs, country parks and the sea, said conservation officer Ms Chan.

One of the frequent hosts of such events is the Hong Kong Buddhist Association. The association's Chief Executive Officer, Mr Martin Cheung Ngai-ping, said that only animals from the wild should be released to the wild.

"Just like pomfret, if you release them into improper waters, they may eat up all other tiny fishes," said Mr Cheung.

He suggested that worshippers should think twice before releasing confiscated animals back into nature.

"People should never release fishes into polluted lakes, or release freshwater fishes into the sea," he said.

The International Union for Conservation of Nature says that even if the public wants to establish an artificial site for such religious activity, it is very thorny to do so because different species of animals have their own ecological needs.

Mr Cheung said that his organisation worked closely with the Agricultural, Fisheries and Conservation Department on delivering guidelines that gave suggestions to different temples of striking a balance between religious worship and environmental conservation.

For example, birds were forbidden to be released into the wild after the outbreak of H5N1, he said.

Local green group Conservancy Association's senior campaign officer Mr. Roy Ng Hei-man said that people should research on necessary information, such as adaptability of animals to new habitats and genetic diversity, before releasing the captured animals. ■

STORY/ALAN WONG  
EDITED BY/CALVIN YANG



# MORE THAN ROCKY ROADS

Unusual rock formations, unique landforms and picturesque scenery at Hong Kong Geopark have much to offer nature lovers and eco-tourists

STORY // ADA YEUNG, ALVINA HUNG, JIM WONG

EDITED BY // BHAVAN JAIPRAGAS, GINA NG, SIMON YUEN, WINNIE YIU



## ECO-TOURISM'S RUGGED PATHWAY

International recognition of HK Geopark is welcome, but it will take time for eco-tours to sink in

Hong Kong Geopark's recognition by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) has come as a spur to the city's nascent eco-tourism business.

But operators say there is still a long way to go before the idea of touring nature sinks in among locals.

Spanning an area of about 50 square kilometres, Hong Kong Geopark covers the the sedimentary rock region in Northeast New Territories and the volcanic rock region in Saikung.

The two region's unusual rock formations, unique landforms and picturesque scenery are regarded as ideal for geology and landform studies.

UNESCO announced its acceptance of Hong Kong Geopark's application for membership of the Global Geoparks' Network (GGN) on 17th September 2011.

Mr Charles Lee Yee-keung, 48, a nature lover who founded Traveler Hong Kong Ltd in 2000, said eco-tours were most popular during SARS in 2003 as people came to realize the importance of getting near to nature. But he said the fad did not last long.

As people's passion for nature faded a year later, Mr Lee found himself in debt and even thought of closing down his business. "One is confined by principles like keeping the size of tour groups small to make them eco-friendly," he said.

To broaden and stabilise his sources of income, Mr Lee started offering professional courses for tour guides.

Walk Hong Kong is another licensed eco-tour operator which offers off-beat tours, such as visits to markets in Kowloon, photography workshops and bird-watching walks.

Its director, Ms Jackie Peers, who hails from New Zealand, said Hong Kong's environment was fragile.

She said there was very little set up in the city Kong for eco-tourism and her

clients were often upset by the rubbish found on the trails.

"We are a long way from having a clean environment," she said, adding that some locals did not seem to know the importance of being eco-friendly despite the government's effort in maintaining the good hiking trails.

Scholars think Hong Kong's understanding of eco-tourism has deviated from what it truly should be. "Eco-tourism is something more than visiting zoos or taking photos of natural sceneries," said Dr. Teresa Tao, assistant professor at the Department of Geography, University of Hong Kong.

She said she did not think many people in Hong Kong understood the difference between eco-tours and conventional tours. Some travel agencies claimed they offered eco-tours to attract customers by using the spectacular views as a selling point, but they focused too much on profit-making and neglected the education and conservation purposes of eco-tourism.

Education of both responsible eco-tour guides and tourists was crucial to development of eco-tourism, said Dr. Tao.

But the future is not entirely bleak. The Travel Industry Council has established an Accredited Geopark Guides system. At the Hong Kong Geopark, only tours led by accredited guides will be recognised as quality geotours.

Mr Lee welcomed the new system as it could attract talents to join the trade and ensure the quality of the tours.

Mr Edmond Lam, a senior country parks and rangers service officer of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department, said the government was committed to promoting eco-tours, but faced various difficulties in designing appealing tourism packages. ■



## OFF THE BEATEN TRACK

Participants trade a private truth for a free tour to atypical Hong Kong attractions

Tired of the mascots at Ocean Park and the cartoon characters at Disneyland? Secret Tour Hong Kong offers an alternative way for tourists to explore the city by taking them to the rarely-known and mysterious attractions in Hong Kong.

Founded by Mr Stephen Chung Chun-kit and Ms Josie Cheng Ho-yi in Feb 2011, Secret Tour Hong Kong organizes free tours on a monthly basis, aiming to present Hong Kong to guests from a local perspective.

Mr Chung and Ms Cheng come up with a theme before planning the trip for visitors. Taking the theme "Original" as an example, they brought tourists to Wong Tai Sin and Chuk Yuen Resettlement Area, a 600-year-old village, where tourists are able to see scenes of Hong Kong before the age of over-development and commercialization.

Other tours include visits to So Uk Estate, a public housing estate due to be demolished, and the heritage preservation and revitalization belt in Wanchai. Both destinations can hardly be found in tourist guide books.

As they take tourists down these atypical tour routes, both founders tell stories about respective spots, and would invite their friends to share their views towards Hong Kong with the visitors to make the trip more solid.

"We have invited one of our friends to share his experience about living in Tin Shui Wai - the so-called City of Misery (where

many poor families face a host of problems)," said Ms Cheng.

Mr Steven Carr, a secret tour participant who joined a trip to Kwun Tong, said there was "a good mix of people" in the tour - locals, tourists for a short stay and foreigners who have lived in the city for a while, which allowed free flows of communication among different cultures.

Mr Samson Poon, another participant, said he appreciated the interaction between the guides and tour guests.

"The tour is very special as it allows tourists to connect with people, which you cannot find in other tours," he said.

With more tourists coming to Hong Kong - a 16 per cent increase for the first three quarters of this year, Mr Poon believes that this kind of tours can be marketed in Hong Kong's tourism sector.

Secret Tour Hong Kong, however, did not gain much publicity at first. Mr Chung and Ms Cheng handed out leaflets to passersby before the first tour, but ended up with only seven tourists taking part. "It ended up unsuccessfully. You know the typical reaction of locals when somebody hands out leaflets. You can imagine how desperate the situation was," said Ms Cheng.

Since then they have changed their promotion platform to Facebook. Together with recommendations from participants, the number of tourists for each tour has

grown to more than 30 now. Secret Tour has attracted more than 200 participants so far.

However, showing the reality of Hong Kong is never an easy task. Ms Cheng and Mr Chung said they tried to stay objective when presenting local history and stories to tourists, but found it hard from revealing their negative views towards the government, such as for not doing enough to preserve traditional culture.

What makes the secret tour more unique is that tourists are asked to share their secrets at the end of the tour. Having collected more and more "secrets", Ms Cheng and Mr Chung plan to hold an exhibition to reveal them in February.

Despite the happiness and fruitfulness gained from the tour, Ms Cheng said Mr Chung and her have thought about stopping the tours as it was difficult for them to strike a balance between their full-time job and the tours.

Ms Natalie Liu Chau-wa, a fan of Secret Tour Hong Kong, said she felt sad about this decision as the tour provided an invaluable chance for visitors to understand the real culture of Hong Kong.

While the Tourism Board vigorously promoted new tourist attractions, Secret Tour Hong Kong showed visitors the other side of Hong Kong and educated them to recognize the importance of preserving collective memories, she said. ■



# MEDICAL TOURISM – THE NEXT FRONTIER FOR ASIA'S WORLD CITY

With its sprawling shopping districts, pristine nature parks and delectable cuisine, Hong Kong may not be a bad place to wait in between a visit to the plastic surgeon for botox shots or a dental appointment.

Despite this, Hong Kong continues to lag behind its Southeast Asian counterparts such as Singapore and Thailand as a hub for medical tourism. With a growing number of mainland Chinese looking to seek quality medical treatment and willing to pay top dollar for privacy, the growth potential for the industry in the territory is huge.

The most popular destinations for medical tourists – a growing number of niche travelers who seek medical attention in between a leisure trip overseas – are countries within Asia. Japan, South Korea, Thailand, Malaysia and Indonesia are among the top destinations for such travelers, according to a recent news report in China Daily.

Earlier this year, chairman of Hong Kong's Health Authority Mr Anthony Wu Ting-yuk was quoted as saying that the medical tourism industry could be worth over a whopping US\$11 billion dollars (about \$85.8 billion) in Asia alone.

One reason why the medical tourism sector has not fully taken off in Hong Kong could be the fact that there is far too few players organising and offering the niche services found in other countries, according to Mr Michael Wu, chairman of the Travel Industry Council of Hong Kong. "It is difficult for medical tourism to penetrate the market as only a few travel agencies offer such services for those interested," said Mr Wu.

The limited capacity of Hong Kong's hospitals may also be a major sticking point in the growth of medical tourism in the territory, according to the Chief Hospital Manager and Medical Director

of Union Hospital Dr Anthony Lee Kai-Yiu. The influx of pregnant women from mainland China has filled the capacity of Hong Kong hospitals, according to Dr Lee.

Experts in the industry say that Hong Kong should follow in the footsteps of the likes of Singapore in allowing medical tourism players to advertise in the media. With its close connections to mainland

Services have already begun the foundation work to build a robust medical tourism industry in Hong Kong. According to the Chairman of the Hong Kong Private Hospitals Association, Dr Alan Lau Kwok-lam, local hospitals have already started working with the travel agency to organise medical trips in Hong Kong for mainland Chinese patients.

Private hospitals are also becoming more proactive in attracting foreign patients. Responding to an email query, the Hong Kong Baptist Hospital said that it was working closely with a hospital in Macau to treat patients who have serious ailments. Others like the Union Hospital and Hong Kong Sanatorium and Hospital provide preferential medical treatment and first class hotel stays for mainland Chinese patients seeking premium healthcare in the territory.

With its excellent infrastructure, world-class medical institutions and interconnectedness with mainland China, there is no better time for Hong Kong to jump on the medical tourism bandwagon and further its reputation as Asia's global city. ■

## USD\$ 11 BILLION

Medical tourism industry  
could be worth over a  
whopping  
US\$11 billion dollars in Asia  
alone.

China, they say that the territory could posit itself as a place where medical tourists can gain access to both western and traditional Chinese medicine.

Organisations such as China Travel



Private hospitals are attracting more foreign patients for its advanced equipments and medicines.

# FILM PHOTOGRAPHY HAS SEEN A REVIVAL

More young people are taking to shooting with film for the special quality that digital cameras fail to deliver



The aroma of the plastic photographic film and the sound of winding and rewinding a roll of film are supposed to have been consigned to history since the rise of digital photography has made film photography a vanishing art.

But shooting still photographs with film has seen a revival in recent years as more and more people are re-using old film cameras. Even young people are learning to capture bits of life with this kind of old fashioned cameras.

"The number of young customers has increased sharply," said Mr Gary Wong Yun-tung, owner of CAMERA135, a shop selling film camera equipment. "About 70 per cent of the customers are below 30 years old."

Different people have different reasons for using old film cameras.

"There are only a limited number of frames for each roll of film. It is necessary for people to think how to get their best shot," said Ms Cecilia Leung Lok-sze, a 21-year-old film camera enthusiast. "The thinking process is not what people has to grasp with using digital cameras, which have multiple functions to help your photos look perfect."

Owning a Rolleicord V and a Minolta X-300, her film photography journey started three years ago when her parents objected to her idea of buying an expensive digital camera. Instead she bought her first film camera at an affordable \$700.

She could not stop playing with the camera ever since her first shot with it. She said the main difference between the two forms of photography was the attitude. "To me, film photography is the basis of photography," she said.

Most of the film cameras have a classical and vintage look, but Mr Wong said that was not the only reason they attracted youngsters. "The rise of Lomography in recent years has given more people a chance to use film and to know more about film photography," he said.

"Most of them have fallen in love with the 'taste' of film and turned to using traditional film cameras."

Lomography cameras produce pictures with special effects such as distortions or light leaks, which appeal to young people. They think the process and the photos that come out have a different quality and feel that they cannot get by shooting with digital cameras. "Digital cameras ensure the quantity of pictures, but not the quality," says Winnie Leung, a 25-year-old film photography lover.

However, everything comes with a price and there are risks associated with pursuing higher quality photos on film. Ms Leung said all of the photos she took on a trip to France were gone because rolls of films were accidentally exposed to light.

"It was sad," she said, "but you will remember why you pressed the shutter of the film camera every time. It leaves you a stronger memory of the story behind each picture. And this is the real meaning of photography." ■



# ... BUT FAD NOT EXPECTED TO LAST

Dwindling production of film cameras and celluloid films the biggest threats

Despite a revived interest in film photography, the once vanishing art is not expected to stage a strong comeback.

For one thing, only Leica and Fujifilm are still producing new analog cameras, with most camera manufacturers making only digital ones. Currently, most film photography enthusiasts use old, second-hand cameras.

"The biggest threat to film camera now is the declining production of film," said Cecilia Leung, a 21-year-old student who likes shooting with film.

In September, Fujifilm announced that it would halt the production of three series of celluloid films. There have also been reports that Kodak, which used to be a major producer of film, might face liquidation due to financial difficulties.

"Almost no professional photographers use film cameras at work any more because they are inconvenient," said Mr Rex Wong Chi-fung, a blogger on the popular website Photoblog.hk, a platform for professional photographers to share their experiences. "The cost is also a discouraging factor," he added.

Including the printing cost, at least \$60 has to be spent on processing a roll of film. Also, with limited demand, increasing costs and the complicated procedures of printing with a darkroom,

many shops are charging more and more for processing a roll of film and priting the photographs.

"Film photography is only an interest or leisure for a small number of people," said Mr Wong. "Film cameras can practically be totally replaced by digital cameras."

He is not optimistic about the future of film photography, despite efforts by enthusiasts to revive it.

Winnie Leung is one of them. Several years ago, she sold all her digital cameras and started a self-conducted "non-digital photography" scheme.

Ms CC Chau Ying-nga is another avid film photographer. After becoming addicted to film photography three years ago, she founded Filme, which specializes in selling films.

"Running a business in this field is never an easy job," she said. "But I will try to look in the way of film photography: you have to shoot for the best with limited number of frames."

Most of her customers are students. She observed that

some parents started bringing their children to her shop and tried to arouse their interests in the fading culture.

"Film photography is disappearing. That's why people are treasuring it even more," said Ms Chau. "After all, the joy of film photography is not what a digital camera can offer." ■

**“The joy of film photography is not what a digital camera can offer.”**

Ms Chau Ying-nga, owner of Filme

Story / BETH LIU  
Edited by / JASMIN YIU





Based in The University of Hong Kong and established in July 2006, Mosaic is the first collegiate A Cappella group in Hong Kong to organise large-scale concerts.

# THE FULL ORCHESTRA WITHOUT INSTRUMENTS

A cappella players make all sorts of music just with their vocal cords

Listening to a harmonious and appealing melody in a hall, one would not believe it is merely formed by vocals, without any musical instruments. Performers simply mix their voices of different pitches and rhythms to create natural, consistent and fluent melodies.

A cappella is an Italian word meaning "in the manner of church or chapel". Centuries ago, its use was religious and nowadays it specifically refers to solo or group singing without instrumental sounds.

Five major positions, namely alto, bass, soprano, tenor and vocal percussion, together weave out beautiful music in a cappella.

"Hong Kong people know more about a

cappella music nowadays," said Mr Fung Kwok-tung, president of the Contemporary A Cappella Society of Hong Kong (CASHK). He sees the rising popularity of a cappella music as a success of the promotional activities held by the government and his association through workshops and concerts.

"Everyone can do a cappella as it's not difficult," said Mr Fung. The freedom entailed in producing this creative kind of music explains the surging number of local groups formed in recent years.

Mosaic is one of the uprising groups playing a cappella. Established in 2006, it is formed by 29 members from the University of Hong Kong.

As the tenor of Mosaic, Mr Lui Shing-tsun

thinks singing a cappella has brought him a lot of benefits.

"I have expanded my social network and improved my time management," said Mr

**“You don't have to be an expert but passion and good hearing sense are essential.”**

Ms Chui Lok-yi, A Cappella singer

Lui, who feels it also enriches his university life.



His colleague, the alto, Ms Chui Lok-yi, welcomes any newcomers.

"You don't have to be an expert, but passion and good hearing sense are essential," said Ms Chui, explaining that to help members who can't read musical notes, they provide midi-files for their practice.

Unlike other musical performances, a cappella does not use any instruments but merely human voices. The difficulty of producing such music lies in the skills of the singers and cooperation among singers.

"You cannot talk to each other if it [the singing] is going too fast or slow during a performance," said Ms Chui, adding that body gesture is the only way to communicate on stage.

Overcoming all the hindrances encountered over the past five years, Mosaic does have some achievements. Not only have they performed locally, they have made their international debut in Taipei, Beijing and Shanghai, and co-performed with Harvard Krokodiloes, the oldest all-men a cappella group.

This year, it organised the 4th annual charitable concert and won the Silver Award in the Singapore International A Cappella Championship.

**A Cappella**  
is an Italian word  
meaning "in the manner  
of church or chapel".

Lagging one place behind Mosaic in the same competition is Musepaper, a ten-member group formed by students of Hong Kong Institute of Education in 2010.

"We doubt if we could perform for 15 minutes initially but now, we even did a two-hour show," said Ms Kai Yi-ni, the creator, explaining how they gained confidence through practicing diligently.

Ms Kai said members would work in diverse places after graduation, but the group had played an important role in their life.

"I hope we can continue our friendship and retain our enthusiasm in music. Setting up this group was the best thing we have done for us," she said.

People enjoy and have positive comments on the performance of this innovative kind of music.

Ms Cheung Hoi-ki, said after attending one such performance: "Human voice is simple and natural, but in a cappella, imitation of various kinds of instrumental sounds is possible and this is so impressive and unpredictable!" ■

STORY / **JOHNNY LO**  
EDITED BY / **HEI IN LAI**



A capella group Mosaic, formed by students of the Hong Kong Institute of Education, currently has 28 active members.

# KITCHEN ANGELS SING THEIR SONG

## Old ladies cook free, nutritious meals for the needy

Free lunch is served in the Church of the Good Shepherd inside the Ohio University campus in Athens every Wednesday throughout the year. Each month, four groups of women, aged 80 on average, take turns in cooking for the church. They are known by the name of Kitchen Angels.

The aim of Kitchen Angels, according to their website, is to provide nutritious and prepared meals to homebound individuals living with life challenging conditions. Its 227 volunteers are sent to various places to serve food to people in need.

According to 2010 census data, 14.3 per cent of Americans live in poverty. In Ohio, the poverty rate is 13.6 per cent. However, in Athens County, the rate is at a high 32.8 per cent.

The first group of "angels" comprises Phyllis Dean, Betty Larson, June Wieman,

Doris Green, Sally Spero and Gerry Rankins. They age between 72 and 87 and Dean is their coordinator. According to Spero, cooking for the church has made them close friends.

These women shop on Mondays, make dessert on Tuesday nights and cook meals on Wednesday mornings. Sometimes they bring their own homemade dessert such as cupcakes and brownies.

On Wednesdays, they usually spend four hours cooking the entrée and side dishes starting from 9 am.

"We have more vegetarian food because it is good for saving money," says Green.

The women also serve drinks including orange juice, apple cider, water and milk, as well as fruits like apples and bananas.

The menu of each group of angels does not overlap and each group is provided with a

fund. The coordinator then leads the discussion on which dishes to cook.

Aside from cooking for the church, these women are also responsible for keeping the



Phyllis Dean is pouring milk to make macaroni cheese.



With the average age of 80, these ladies are taking a short break before serving dishes to guests.





Sally Spero says she wants to give back to the community after many years of taking from it.

dining hall clean and tidy. They arrange the chairs and tables before and after the free lunch they provide. They dispose of the trash, wash the dishes, and sweep the



Freshly cooked food is served for free.

kitchen floor. They are also in charge of the goods in the stock room.

The stock room houses plastic cups, paper plates, and other canned food. Some of the supplies were donated by members of the church and others were purchased by the church.

Half an hour before the free lunch, the women have a brief meeting to discuss what to do with the leftovers. This year, they intend to serve them to the homeless people in Timothy House in Athens.

Timothy House is a non-profit Christian charity organisation. It serves as a shelter for the rural homeless in nine southeast Ohio counties, including Athens.

They start their final preparations after the meeting. They take out hot food from the oven, divide it into small servings, dot cream on to cakes, and pour beverages into plastic cups.

At noon, students and residents of Athens start to arrive. They serve vegetarian and meat dishes according to the preferences of the guests. 'It is a busy time, but it is great fun,' Jan adds.

The church keeps a detailed record of the number of people who avail of the free lunch every Wednesday by counting the number of plates left. On school days, the number of people is about 100 and 50 on holidays.

When asked to describe the guests, Dean says, "Most of our guests are international students, usually from China."

According to Dean, they did not have time to do such community service when they were younger. "We had to make a living and at the same time raise children. Now, it is time for us to serve the community."

"For one thing, it seems to be the right thing to do. There seems to be a need to be filled. In the Bible, Jesus said to feed the sheep," Jan explains on why she joins the cooking group.

The programme, which encourages enduring kindness and enthusiasm, has been in operation for over ten years. ■

STORY / **SOPHIA FU**  
EDITED BY / **HELEN WU**



Describing himself as a “Jack of all trades” on his own website, Hanjin Tan might be expected to have stories about determination and perseverance to tell, but his biography is more about luck and fate.

The 35 year-old Singaporean musician is undoubtedly an “all-round student” in the industry – composer, record producer, award-winning jazz singer, arranger and mixer.

But Hanjin’s most well-known image among Hong Kong people is definitely the lenient and encouraging adjudicator with a smiling face on the TVB music programme “The Voice Season 3.”

“I smile a lot. I always think about how lucky I am to have a roof over my head, to be able to enjoy good food, and to have the ability to share and give,” said Hanjin.

He recalled that life was tough when he started out as a little-known newcomer to the industry about ten years ago.

“I always tried to save for the rainy days, which did come really often to me,” said Hanjin. Those in the industry who managed to make a good living were the selected few, he said.

Although Hanjin debuted as a songwriter on famous Canto-pop star Jacky Cheung’s No Regrets album in 1998, his first hit, Love is Doubt for Eason Chan, came only three years later in 2001.



In 2003, he formed The Invisible Men, a music production team in Hong Kong. So far, he has written over 400 songs and is a renowned talent in the Canto-pop industry.

Not until three years ago did Hanjin become a Hong Kong-based musician, leaving behind his beloved ones in Singapore.

“I do miss my family and friends,” he said. “My parents worried if I’m able to feed myself by making music, but they had to accept it as (I think) moving to Hong Kong is a natural course of career choice.”

While Hanjin is gradually gaining fame and success, a hereditary medical condition has emerged as another major obstacle. Suffering from gout – a condition in which one’s body produces too much uric acid that accumulates in the joints, he always gets painful toes.

Yet, no matter how excruciating the pain is, he still ranks his job first.

“If I have to work all night, so be it,” said Hanjin. “It’s nothing intolerable, comparing to my time in national service in Singapore.

**“As long as we are able to contribute and be grateful with what we have, life can also be happy and meaningful.”**

Hanjin Tan

I’m actually very lucky to have the chance to do what I enjoy.”

“Life is tough on everyone. But as long as we are able to contribute and be grateful with what we have, life can also be happy and meaningful,” Hanjin said.

According to a report released in 2008 by The International Federation of the Phonographic Industry (IFPI), 95 per cent of music downloads are illegal. It is thus not hard to understand why the music industry

is facing a grim future.

“The market is shrinking. My clients are reducing my budget and are becoming more demanding. It means less income, but a heavier workload,” said Hanjin.

But obviously Hanjin’s music can thrive with its uniqueness and attractiveness.

Mr Joshua Ng Tsing-wah, 21, a student studying music at Hong Kong Baptist University, said: “Comparing to the rest in the commercial market, the originality of Hanjin’s music is what makes it stand out.”

Hanjin is devoting himself to what he likes with endless passion.

He received a Best Jazz/R&B singer accolade in the 2010 Chinese Music Awards, and a Best Newcomer in the 30th Hong Kong Film Awards.

On Aug 29, Hanjin released his first single Mandarin album, “Who is Hanjin”, with “anything more than zero” as its concept.

He counts his success as a result of luck and fate despite all the hard work he has put in.

“For me right now, music is my biggest curiosity,” said Hanjin. “I’m just concentrating on two things: whether I’m capable of a world-class performance and whether I’m capable of a world class production.”

“Hopefully my concert would go on and will answer one of these questions. But even if it doesn’t, I will still, just like the concept behind my album, be grateful with what I already have.”

Ms Tiffany Fong Chui-yee, 16, co-founder of a Hanjin fans club, has been following her idol since the release of his acoustic hip-hop album with rapper MC Jin in 2010.

“His music is really refreshing. I’m really inspired by Hanjin’s belief that anything more than zero is a blessing,” said Ms Fong. “I’m a lot more thankful with what I have now and that has brought me a lot of happiness.” ■

STORY/REV HUI  
EDITED BY/CECILIA CHAN



# TURNING PLIGHT TO PLEASURE


Musician makes songs with  
a blessing heart



# EMBRACE A NEW EXPERIENCE OF INTERACTION-BASED SHOPPING







Many Hong Kong people who are branded as having always-busy lifestyle might consider shopping as merely buying the latest trends products at chain stores.

But a store named Konzepp is trying to introduce a new shopping experience, which emphasizes not only on artistic products but also on interactions among shopkeepers and customers.

Established by film producer Ms Willie Chan and local designer Mr Geoff Tsui, Konzepp is a lifestyle products store aiming to bring back the discovery and excitement of a shopping experience and to provide like-minded designers with an open space to share creative ideas and products.

Walking up Tung Street in Sheung Wan, it was not hard for me to recognize Konzepp's entrance, a brightly yellow facade as if being "pushed" and "pulled" from different directions, which distinguished it from adjacent to old buildings.

An abstract arch of the shop's front forms a futuristic gateway and welcomes people to the world of interesting products designed by artists from all over the globe.

Stepping into the store, I was immersed into some women's chit chat and kids' laughter. At the centre of the store sat a large table, where mothers and their kids dressed up in Halloween dresses were having fun celebrating Halloween party with light snacks and candies served.

Ms Kerensa Neale, one of the mothers, said the atmosphere was fun, exciting and full of inspiration. "I have been here almost 20 times. I love coming here, and kids love here too," she said smilingly.

Ms Neale said she usually brought along her friends and colleagues as the products sold in the store were funky and interesting that can hardly be found somewhere else.

Indeed, the store is a treasury, keeping all those artistic-like "masterpieces" that make one hardly resist to the temptation.

Products such as the animal toy series by Haoshi Design Studio, definitely melt my heart with their gorgeous looks. Eye-candy like Soludos shoes in bright summer colours lured me to walk them on a sandy beach.

Different styles of ZIIRO watches, whose concept has been featured on many websites such as Engadget and Yanko, are unique as clock faces have no markings but ever-changing pattern of rings indicating the time.

Konzepp is not a shop merely selling cool stuff but it is driven by a goal - to build a harmonious community. Customers can shop, meet up, listen to music, read design, lifestyle and fashion magazines whilst sipping cups of tea.

Mr Jack Lam, Konzepp's general manager, said his Canadian-born boss (Geoff Tsui) felt the city was so commercial that it inspired him to launch a communal space where designers could share their works and others could come and hang around.

"We just want to make the community friendlier," Mr Lam said, adding that they were not to brag about how well they were doing.

Regarding shopping, our minds seem to be clouded by sales and discounts. Gazing at the large table where kids and the staff squeezing together and having fun making handiwork, I recalled on something that we have left behind for a long time: an interaction between customers and shops.

When I was small, my family and I usually went out for shopping at weekends. But, it was not all about buying. My mum spent the whole day chatting with her tailor while my dad stayed in a Shanghai barbershop where he had his haircut. And, I loved being with the owner of a small grocery store who always gave me sweets and cakes.

Since the emergence of chain stores, traditional shops and communal places where customers gather around and interact with shopkeepers have vanished.

Peering inside the store, I saw the exact picture of the grocery store which I was fond of going with my parents when I was small. Mothers were chit-chatting. Kids were laughing hard while playing with the staff, who were having great time serving their customers. ■

STORY/MANYU  
EDITED BY/SAI AUNG THEIN





# Memories of the 50's

Daipaidong, with more than six decades' history, is Hong Kong's traditional and unique type of outdoor eateries that offer not only a place for cheap food but also a social spot for the hubbub of lively conversations.

With its heyday in the 1950s, there was a climax of more than 2,000 licenced daipaidongs in the city. Only 28 fully licenced daipaidongs are left nowadays because the government has stopped issuing licenses in the 1980s due to hygiene problems. As the old owners pass away, this kind of old-style restaurant has become a sunset industry.

PHOTO / CLARIE LEE  
EDITED BY / SADILO







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