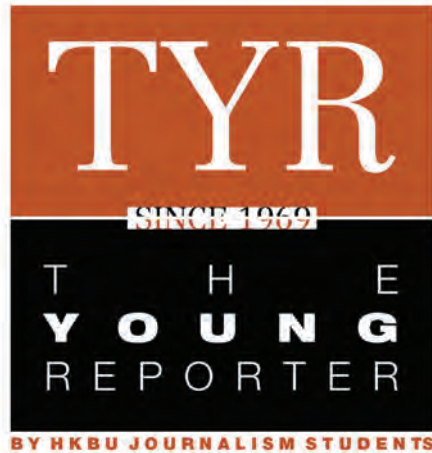


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Race for the top

**Plagued by scandals and dramas,
the CE election is right around the corner**



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Editor's note

With the election of the Chief Executive right round the corner, the media keep revealing scandals of the candidates and we have seen a lot of drama. From CY Leung's West-Kowloon Cultural District competition scandal to the illegal construction in the basement of Henry Tang's house in York Road, Hong Kongers have gone through the most roller-coaster-like election campaign of the past years. It will be fascinating to see how things develop in these crucial last days before the election takes place on 25 March.

The final nomination votes are as follows: Henry Tang leads with 391 nominations, CY Leung has 305 and Albert Ho 188. That being said, a total of 310 election committee members chose not to nominate anyone. Regina Ip and Tsang Yuk-shing, who tried to get on the last minute ride, both failed to persuade these committee members to cast them a vote.

So we are back to where we were: the match between the three. With all the recent gossip and dramas, it is very difficult to determine who has got the advantage. The slightest scandal may turn things upside down. Be sure to keep an eye on this competitive campaign.

Gary Kwok Ka-lok

Chief Editor



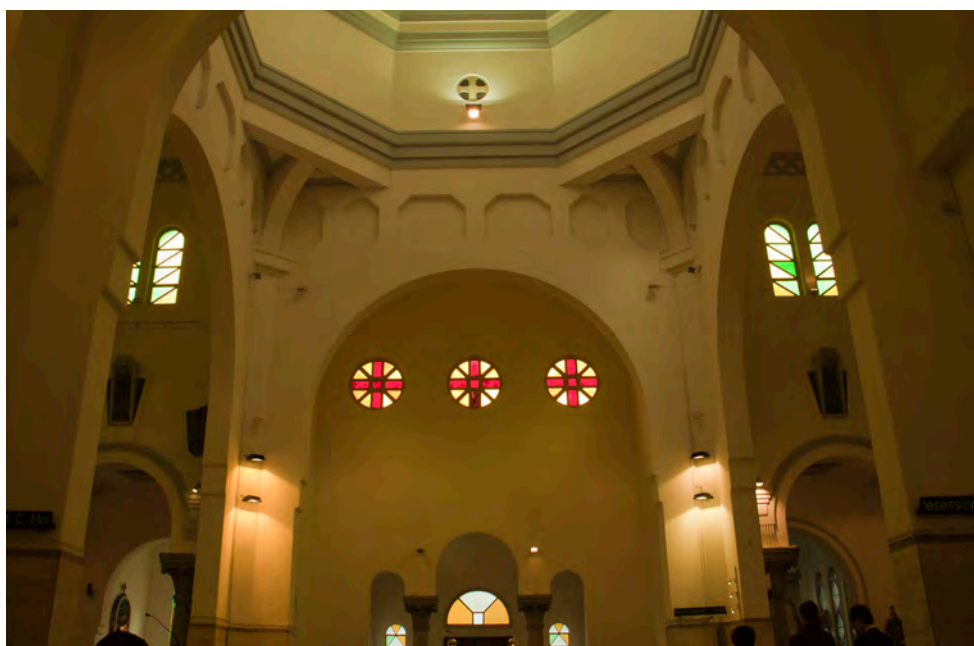
SACRED SOLEMNITY 22-23

Get a glimpse of some of the oldest churches of Hong Kong

Make your own leather goods **4-5**
The emergence of DIY leathercraft workshops

COVER STORY **8-13** The Chief Executive Battle

The original bagels from Canada **16-17**
Get a bite of the "healthy-doughnuts"



TSEUNG KWAN O LANDFILL SITE IN BAD ODOUR WITH NEIGHBOURS

Complaints from residents to the Environmental Protection Department have almost doubled due over the past year to the foul smell.

A huge increase in complaints about Tseung Kwan O landfill site has raised public awareness about odour problems that affect the daily lives of residents living near the rubbish dumps.

The complaints received by the Environmental Protection Department about the odour problem of the landfill site in Tseung Kwan O increased from 753 in 2010 to 1,120 last year.

"I won't open the windows after rain in summer," said Ms Hung Tung-yi, a resident of LOHAS Park in Tseung Kwan O, where a landfill site is just less than 1 km away from her home.

According to the Environmental Protection Department, the South East New Territories Landfill will be exhausted in 2014. To solve the problem, the government has been undergoing a conceptual and feasibility study on the extension project since early 2004.

After a prolonged consultation with all stakeholders, the government proposed scaling down the extension scheme in Area 137 from 15.6 hectares to 13 hectares. To avoid the odour problem brought to residents nearby, the government proposed that the landfill in Tseung Kwan O only handle odourless construction waste.

Mr Edward Yau Tang-wah, Secretary for the Environment, previously said in a Legislative Council meeting that the landfill was constructed to a high standard as a secure containment facility incorporating composite impermeable liner systems.

Other than the original design, the government had adopted several new measures to minimize the odour problem of landfill sites to residents nearby over the past five years, said Mr Yau.

For example, at the end of the daily waste reception process, the topping



A campaign against the extension of the Tseung Kwan O landfill site.

areas would be covered with a soil layer and then Posi-Shell Cover, a cement-based cover material. Also, non-active topping areas would be covered with temporary impermeable liners.

An electronic odour detection system was installed in Tseung Kwan O landfill last year to identify the nature and source of odour.

However, Ms Hung, the resident living near the landfill site, said that the odour problem was still serious in summer after rain.

"Apart from the bad smell problem, it is also not environmentally-friendly in this way as it wastes electricity when I need to switch on the air-conditioners in summer," she said.

Meanwhile, councillors of Tseung Kwan O said that the department did not explain clearly whether the monitoring

system had found out the major source of bad smell to residential areas nearby.

Mr Cheung Kwok-keung, a Sai Kung district councillor, said that the government was short-sighted during the planning of Tseung Kwan O development.

At the time of new town planning, the choice of landfill site was fine as the residential areas there were not developed yet.

However, the government should have had a big picture in mind at the planning stage and avoided building residential areas near landfill sites later on, he said.

"The policy on environmental matters should keep up with the international trend and meet the standard of the World Health Organization." ■

STORY / JIM WONG
EDITED BY / ALEX HURD

MAKE UNIQUE LEATHER GOODS YOURSELF

DIY leather workshops are gaining popularity among young adults in Hong Kong.



Specific chemicals are applied on the leather to make the surface smooth.

Ms Ruby Ng was preparing something special for her boyfriend this Valentine's day. The 22-year-old office worker was hand-making a satchel during a lesson at C+ Leather Workshop.

Ms Ng was quite excited about her first experience in leather craft. "It's hard to find a desirable leather bag from malls," she said. "So I'd rather make my own one."

DIY workshops, using the abbreviation for "do it yourself", are no stranger to the local business sector, with cake shops, accessory boutiques and craft-makers chanting the "make your own" slogan to attract customers.

Over the past two years, leather craft workshops have emerged as the frontrunner among various kinds of DIY business, providing alternatives to those off-the-shelf leather goods made from mass production lines and satisfying people's desire to stand out with their own styles.

"It's becoming a trend," said Mr Ricky Lau, 33, who co-founded the Farm Workshop with his former colleague Annie Fung two years ago to provide DIY classes on leather goods.

Also starting up the same business two years ago, Cysus Yip of C+ Leather Workshop said, "People are sick of the standardized goods and they want something unique and special. The best way is to make it yourself."

"The number of students joining our workshop is up 30 to 50 per cent when compared to last year," Cysus added. Business is busier during festivals such as Christmas and Valentine's Day when people search for special gifts for their cherished ones.

These workshops operate on a small-class tutoring mode, where lessons are conducted at the companies' premises, usually located in a factory building.

They offer tutorials on making stuff that ranges from small coin bags to Octopus card cases, clutch bags to satchels of variant sizes.

Classes are roughly divided into beginners, intermediates and upper levels.

Beginners' courses, for example, teach one to make a simple leather product in four hours with a charge of HKD \$400, a

price more expensive than a mass-produced one. Senior levels of tutorials cost up to \$1,000.

The autonomy and freedom of choice that come along with the workshops are one of the reasons why students are paying more.

“DIY’s fun. It gives you a lot of satisfaction and a sense of success because what you are making is so special and different from those you can find in a shop.”

Suki, DIY Workshop participant

From designing to choosing materials and making the final product, tutors give students their comments but eventually decisions are made by students.



Finished products designed and handmade by tutors are displayed on the rack.



Students are free to make their preferred stamps on their leather work.

Tutors might jump in to help in case students encounter any problem, said Cysus. But she encourages them to do it on their own.

“We want them to experiment with everything by themselves. We want them to use their ideas to create their special and unique products,” she said.

“Hand-making a leather bag is not as difficult as one might think,” said Ruby. “Although the threading part is a little tough, you’ll pick up very fast if you put in a lot of effort.”

“DIY’s fun,” said Suki, currently a student of the City University of Hong Kong. “It gives you a lot of satisfaction and a sense of success because what you are making is so special and different from those you can find in a shop.”

“Definitely I’m gonna make some more unique leather stuff later,” she said.

The majority of the customers are female office workers and students, according to both Ricky and Cysus.

“Almost 99 percent of them are women,” said Cysus. Men usually order tailor-made leather stuff from the

workshop instead of making it themselves.

Many of these leather workshops do not run on a fixed timetable. Students can phone up or send a message through “whatsapp”, an instant message platform, to make appointments.

The leather craft business is becoming a trend at lighting speed. However, the successful ones all faced a slew of difficulties at the start-up stage.

High rent in Hong Kong and a lack of space to accommodate large-sized machines, said Ricky, are two biggest headaches.

Cysus, whose company premises was relocated to a rented flat in factory building in Sang Po Kong a year ago, shared the same plight when she started up the business.

Advertising cost is another concern, as promotions are needed to attract new students to join. Both companies have used Facebook to spread their names by launching an official page.

Ricky said the government should allocate more resources to support the

creative industries.

According to the latest figures published by the Information Services Department in 2011, there were around 32000 creative industry-related establishments, with more than 188,000 practitioners engaged in different sectors.

A good reputation among students, according to both Cysus and Ricky, is very important in maintaining a company’s competitiveness with its huge numbers of counterparts.

“If you wanna survive and stand out from other companies, you should get your job done, with passion and quality,” said Cysus.

Asked if they are optimistic about the prospect of their business, Ricky and Cysus both had their own plans in mind – Farm workshop to sell leather products of their own brand and C+ workshop to bring in more special and creative leather works to the classes.

At the end of the day, it is a business about creativity and one that sells uniqueness. ■

STORY / CLARIE LEE
EDITED BY / CARLOS CHENG

LOCAL STUDENTS SOAK UP INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL SEATS

International school headmaster urges the government to increase the supply of school places in a bid to attract foreign talent to work in the city.

International schools are designed to provide education for foreigners residing in Hong Kong and enhance the city's competitiveness by keeping foreigners here.

But international schools are no longer making the city more cosmopolitan as they are increasingly serving local students leading to a shortage of places.

To counter this the government is supporting development of international schools or allocating them more land. Arthur D. Enns, Headmaster of Christian Alliance International School, is pleased the school is receiving a green-field site in Lai Chi Kok for the construction of a third campus, partly funded by a governmental interest-free loan.

"With the increase in demand for international school places in the future, it could be anticipated that, in due course, the Government may respond by providing incentives for further international school development," Ms Tanya Chan, Deputy Chairman of Education Panel of the Legislative Council said.

International schools need more land to cope with the ever-rising demand, which also increases need for more student hostels. Even more important as construction may take a few years, like the Hong Kong Academy in Sai Kung which, will take 7 years to finish and is expected to open in 2013.

But the soaring demand for places in international schools is perhaps a result of wealthy local families sending their children to international school instead of local schools. Mr Enns said international schools provide the only viable option for educating non-Chinese speaking children, but they are also an alternative for local Hong Kong students with aspirations to study abroad. Percival Ho Fu-kuen, a teacher at the historical Wah Yan College Kowloon, said the acceptability of a degree is a major concern for many parents, "Many international schools provide the IB

A recent city-wide government survey has found that 70 per cent of the applicants to international schools have to wait for six months before being admitted.



Diploma Programme curriculum, which is globally accepted." Mr Ho added that local residents will send their children to international schools if they can afford the cost.

Some parents may want their children to avoid sitting for the public examination in Hong Kong because of the problem of acceptability and they also worry about the new 3-3-4 scheme.

"International schools are losing their original meaning if the proportion of local student is growing," said Mr Ho, adding that the government should improve the educational system in order to cut down the proportion of local students in international schools.

But even if the international schools are losing their original meaning as they are serving more and more local students, they are still assets for enhancing Hong Kong's competitiveness. "If Hong Kong proposes to attract increasing numbers of foreign professionals, meeting the educational needs of their children should be of preeminent concern," Mr Enns said, adding that international schools can support Hong Kong's status as 'Asia's World City'. He thought local students who went to study abroad after graduating from international schools will return to Hong Kong and provide

leadership and innovation in the further development of the city.

But support to local schools is also vital. Mr Enns hoped the government will keep promoting and facilitating development of appropriate school places, both international and other, in response to projected demand. Mr Ho said the allocation of lands should focus more on local schools if the government encourages small-class teaching, "Local schools will have to build more classrooms or even expand the campus for small-class teaching," he said.

He added that the government could help relax the shortage of places in international schools by giving more aid to local students.

Ms Chan said the government could assist local schools in many ways, such as turning subjects such as history and literature into elective subjects. Ms Chan said these subjects could also train students' liberal thinking.

Mr Ho would like the government to support local schools' development of online teaching to enhance local students' competitiveness. ■

STORY / ROY CHAN
EDITED BY / CHRISTIAN JENSEN

UNIVERSITY GRADUATES' HASTY APPLICATIONS SQUANDER PUBLIC HOUSING RESOURCES

The government is urged to build youth hostels to meet young adults' housing needs.

University graduates have been urged to consider carefully before applying for public housing so as to avoid wastage of public resources.

The Housing Authority reiterated in several Legislative Council meetings that the great demand from young applicants had aggravated the limited supply of public housing resources and undermined its ability to provide housing to other families with pressing need.

The authority's latest figures have shown that of the 152,400 applicants on the waiting list for public housing, 63,400 – or about 42 per cent – are “non-elderly one-person” (NEOP) applicants. “Non-elderly” refers to those aged 30 or below.

Mr Ho Wai-man, Executive Director of the Federation of Public Housing Estates, said that a university graduate who applied for public housing was like “a healthy guy who queues to see a doctor”.

Under the current system, the annual allocation quota for NEOP applicants is set at eight per cent of the total flats, subject to a ceiling of 2,000 units. That means an 18-year-old has to wait for, on average, 47 years to get a flat if he remains single.

Mr Ho said that applying for public housing was not a way out for the fresh

graduates to settle their housing problems as their incomes should exceed the stipulated limits by their mid-20s.

He added that their hasty decision would result in extra administrative work by the Housing Authority, as well as administrative costs, which was a waste of public money.

“ If the government does not raise the supply of public housing, there will be more people on the waiting list and more people get disappointed.”

Mr Lee Wah-ming

To meet the public outcry, our Chief Executive made a promise in his last year's policy address that land would be allocated for construction of youth hostels under the Hostels for Single Youths Scheme. But no further details

have been announced since then.

Mr Ho said that once the scheme was implemented, the government should require applicants to offer recommendation letters from their universities and examine each application carefully to avoid any fabrication cases.

Mr Lam Jyun-hou, Employment Service Supervisor of the Hong Kong Young Women's Christian Association, said that rent of the hostels should be capped at 10 to 20 per cent of the applicants' salaries and the income ceiling should be set at \$14,000 per month.

Apart from supplying youth hostels, lawmakers also urge the administration to build more public housing estates to cut the waiting time for each applicant.

“If the government does not raise the supply of public housing, there will be more people on the waiting list and more people will be disappointed,” said lawmaker Mr Lee Wah-ming, who is also a member of the Hong Kong Housing Authority.

“The construction of the hostels can tackle the temporary needs of a single young adults, but public housing estates can benefit the whole society,” he said. ■

STORY / DENNIS LEE
EDITED BY / VISQI HE

The Housing Authority reiterates that the great demand from young applicants aggravates the limit supply of public housing resources.



THREE-HORSE RACE IN THE UPCOMING CE ELECTION

Mr Donald Tsang's 7-year tenure as chief executive comes to an end in June, and the city will soon be governed by a new head elected by a 1,200-member election committee.

STORY / BETH LIU, **FECHON WONG**, **JOHNNY LO**, **KRIS LUI**, **MELODY CHAN**
EDITED BY / **CLAIRE CHU**, **GIN ANG**, **JASMIN YIU**, **JUDITH KI**, **PEARLIE YIU**

As incumbent chief executive Mr Donald Tsang Yam-kuen is finishing his term by July, the competition among all CE-hopefuls has intensified over the past few months.



Stepping down from his job in June, incumbent Chief Executive Mr Donald Tsang Yam-kuen's integrity has been questioned after the exposure of his accepting the hospitality of collusions with business tycoons.

The city's next leader will be picked by a 1,200-member election committee on March 25. With the election around the corner, candidates did their best to get nominated by at least 150 members of the committee to run for the top job.

Mr Henry Tang Ying-yen and Mr Leung Chun-ying, both with a pro-Beijing background, have been viewed as the two heavyweights in the election.

Mr Albert Ho Chun-yan, chairman of Democratic Party, will represent the Pan-Democrats to join the competition after winning the primary election over Mr Frederick Fung Kin-kee in January. He was the first candidate to submit nomination paper to the Electoral Affairs Commission. Mr Henry Tang, who had received 379 nominations, also announced candidacy for the election on Feb 20.

New People's Party chairwoman Ms Regina Ip Lau Suk-yea also announced she would join the race after scandal-plagued Mr Tang turned in his nomination forms but she failed to gain

enough support from the committee.

Mr Tang faced pressure to withdraw from the election after illegal underground structures were found in his Kowloon Tong house in mid-February. Mr Tang later apologized but said he would continue to run for the CE election. The scandal has sparked off public discussions. Liberal Party chairwoman Ms Miriam Lau Kin-yea emphasized that nominating Tang did not mean that her party's members would eventually vote for him in the election.

Mr Tang's main rival Mr Leung was also found in scandal swirls as he failed to declare conflicting interest in a design contest for the West Kowloon arts hub in 2001. But he later denied the accusations.

Despite all the scandals, the poll conducted by the University of Hong Kong on Feb 16 has shown that Mr Leung's support rate is at 48.5 per cent, which doubles that of Mr Tang. Mr Ho's support rate stands at 17.2 per cent. ■

Mr Tung Chee-hwa was elected with 320 votes in the first Hong Kong Chief Executive election, beating Yang Ti-liang with 42 votes and Woo Kwong-ching with 36 votes.

The handover of Hong Kong. Mr Tung Chee-hwa came into office.

11 DEC1996

1 JUL1997

MORE THAN A BID FOR TOP JOB

Democratic Party chairman Mr Albert Ho Chun-yan contests the chief executive election in hopes of having the people's voices heard.



Mr Albert Ho Chun-yan represents the pan-democracy camp to contest in the upcoming CE election.

Voicing the public's concerns, Mr Albert Ho Chun-yan believes that his participation in the top job wrestle is the saving grace of the small-circle election.

Acknowledging that the chance of winning the election is slim, the Democratic Party chairman is the first candidate to register for the election, with 184 nominations from the election committee members who are responsible for picking the city's next leader.

"[My party and I] hope to grasp every opportunity to get people's voices heard and to challenge the small-circle election," he said. "Joining the race myself can make the messages clearer."

He said that he decided to run for the election because the two pro-establishment candidates Mr Henry Tang

Ying-yan and Mr Leung Chun-ying dared not to challenge the existing hegemonies.

For example, the two chief executive hopefuls, he said, would never say the government's village house policies were inappropriate because they did not want to offend the village representatives who held 28 ballots in the election.

"It's clear that a lot of people [those who have vested interests in the existing system] don't support me. But for those who believe in democracy, I feel obligated to do something for them."

To facilitate the progress of democracy, the candidate thinks that the administration has to put forward more policies that are tailor-made for the youth.

"My policies aim at giving the youngsters more opportunities to

enhance their competitiveness so that they won't feel neglected," he said.

To achieve his goal, he said that universities should provide a wider variety of study programmes and more resources should be allocated to the education sector.

The 60-year-old candidate is discontented that some professionals, such as veterinarians, have to be trained overseas rather than locally. He blames the market-driven educational policies for causing such unhealthy phenomenon.

"The current [educational] policies are very shortsighted. The institutions only train what the market currently needs," he said.

He added that youngsters should be given more diversified training so that they could have more chances to develop their career in the long run.

The youngsters' apolitical mindset is something that the pan-democracy candidate wants to make a change in.

"There are different consultation institutes that enable them to get involved in politics. In addition, I will set up relevant programmes to let aspiring young adults capitalise on their leadership skills."

He also encourages youngsters to fight for what they want. "I hope the values that they're trying to uphold today can be their life-long pursuit."

Mr Ho is the second candidate that the pan-democracy camp delegates to run for the top job. Mr Alan Leong Kah-kit was defeated by the incumbent chief executive Mr Donald Tsang Yam-kuen in the 2007 election. ■

The incumbent Mr Tung Chee-hwa was elected again as he was the only validly nominated candidate.

Mr Tung's second term began.

28 FEB 2002

1 JUL 2002

SEASONED GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL BUILDS HIS PLATFORM ON PAST EXPERIENCE

Scandal-plagued Mr Tang Ying-yen insists on running the election, getting the support of about 390 election committee members

Mr Henry Tang Ying-yen, 59, is one of the leading contenders in the coming Chief Executive election. Tang is well-known for his prestigious family background and prominent political profile.

The former Chief Secretary announced his election platform on February 14, with an emphasis on administration, labour and housing policies.

In order to address housing problems, Tang pledged to add 10,000 Home Ownership Scheme units and 30,000 extra public housing units on top of 75,000 planned units. He also pledged to construct mixed development type public housing estates for young applicants to live in separate units near to their parents in order to facilitate care amongst family members.

He also announced a plan that offered dormitory-style rooms with open kitchens and washrooms for single occupants aged 35 or below.

Tang admitted that youth unemployment rate was the highest

among all the age groups, and university graduates were not optimistic about their future.

"The reason behind this is the lack of economic diversity. The government needs to promote cultural and creative industries as well as technological industry by subsidising them in the form of lower tax rates," Mr Tang said in a forum held by the New Territories Association of Societies.

In the forum, Mr Tang also said he understood that youngsters were facing keen competition and they had limited opportunities to climb up the social ladder. However, he disagreed with the opinion that the value of a university degree was depreciating.

"Hong Kong's success depends on the intellectual economy. To create more jobs for youngsters, economic development is of paramount importance," he said.

Mr Tang said that education reform is also vital. He suggested that the government should raise the university admission rate from 18 per cent to 25 per

cent so as to support our economy.

He also plans to implement 15-year free education and introduce small-class teaching at all secondary schools.

For elderly welfare policy, Mr Tang suggested that HK \$3,000 retirement support allowance should be given to all eligible elderly every month.

The public expects that Mr Tang has the greatest chance to be the next head of the government because of his pro-Beijing background.

However, after Mr Tang's illegal construction at his Kowloon Tong home was widely reported by the media, a survey conducted by the University of Hong Kong has found that 51.3 per cent of the respondents think that Tang should withdraw from election, and 80 per cent say the incident has hampered Mr Tang's integrity.

Mr Tang has insisted on running for the top job after the scandal and he received 390 nominations from the election committee members, including some influential figures in the city.

Mr Henry Tang Ying-yen is regarded as the most possible candidate to win the election, but he has the least support from public.



Mr Tung Chee-hwa resigned due to "health problems". The resignation was accepted by Beijing two days later.

As Mr Donat Tsang Yam-kuen was the only validly nominated candidate in the Chief Executive election, there was no poll conducted and Mr Tsang was returned.

10 MAR 2005

16 JUN 2005

Mr Leung Chun-ying talks about his youth policies at a local school.



DETERMINED POLITICIAN SAYS HE IS READY TO SERVE THE CITY

Dark horse Mr Leung Chun-ying hopes to sneak in when his rival Mr Tang Ying-yen's integrity is being questioned.

Mr Leung Chun-ying, 57, commonly known as CY, is another frontrunner of the coming chief executive election. CY is the former Convenor of the Executive Council. He is also a member of the Standing Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference.

"Young people are the ones who will rule Hong Kong in the future," Mr Leung said in a public forum organised by the Kowloon West New Dynamic. Mr Leung said he spent most of his time on education issues and youth policies when he was engaged in public policies.

He said that even though some youngsters were not mature enough, their voices should not be neglected. He added that those who held the power should work with the youngsters to map out the future policies.

"But young people have to speak out too. They can't just rely on our decisions. We have to let them express their ideas as well," said Mr Leung.

According to a survey conducted by the Kowloon West New Dynamic on teenagers' concerns, more than 60 per cent of the interviewees said that it was

hard for them to get a job, and some of them considered setting up their own business.

Mr Leung is very supportive towards teenagers' dream to start their own business because he also started his own company 19 years ago after leaving an international surveying company.

“Young people have to speak out too. They can't just rely on our decisions.”

Leung Chun-ying

"Even if you have a decent job, you should also think of starting your own business. Your future lies in your own hands, you have to plan for your future,"

"The successful stories of different small and medium enterprises has proven that Hong Kong is suitable for SMEs to grow," said Mr Leung. "If I were elected to be the Chief Executive, I

would implement policies to encourage young people to start their business."

He said high rental cost hindered the growth of small businesses. He suggested that the government should revitalise industrial buildings to alleviate the problem.

"If the government can revitalise the vacant buildings, teenagers will be able to rent them at a lower rate," said Mr Leung.

But he said that revitalization of industrial buildings was just a short-term solution.

As a pro-Beijing CE candidate, Mr Leung also shared his views on national education in the forum.

He said the implementation of national education in the US and the Philippines was satisfactory and successful. He urged Hong Kong to learn from these countries.

He added that when drafting his political platform, he spent a lot of time consulting experts who were familiar with different issues.

"If I am not ready to serve Hong Kong, I won't spend so much time with them," he said. ■

Mr Donald Tsang Yam-kuen and Mr Alan Leong Kah-kit from the Civic Party ran for the third Chief Executive election. Mr Tsang won with 649 votes. Mr Leong only got 123 votes.

Mr Tsang's second term as Chief Executive began.

25 MAR 2007

1 JUL 2007

NO GUARANTEE FOR 2017 UNIVERSIAL SUFFRAGE

Politicians warn that the Central Government might rein in the universal suffrage plan at the last minute

While Hong Kong people were all assuming that the 2012 Chief Election would be the last election voted by the 1200 person Election Committee, political analysts said that we should not be too certain about this.

Political commentator Mr Lau Yui-siu was pessimistic towards the possibility of having universal suffrage in the next CE election in 2017.

"In Chinese political culture, universal suffrage could mean allowing people to participate in part of the election," said Mr Lau. "The public nominate candidates and the Election Committee vote for them, or vice versa. This can also be defined as universal suffrage."

Mr Lau added that the details of universal suffrage were vague. It could not be settled within a short period of time.

"Even if the Chinese government said yes, it could mean no," said Mr Lau.

Lawmaker from the Hong Kong Federation of Trade Unions Dr Pan Pey-chyou said that Hong Kong people should not take 2017 universal suffrage for granted.

He explained that the possibility of having CE election through universal suffrage in 2017 actually relied on the consensus among top Chinese officials, Hong Kong government and Legislative Council. He said the consensus was difficult to reach.

Dr Pan said that the "One Country, Two Systems" policy would become empty if the progress of achieving universal suffrage was further hindered. But he said the 2012 CE election was manipulated by the central government since Beijing might not be able to control the election result.

"Not all of the election committee members are preferred by Beijing. They can nominate or elect a candidate that

the Chinese government dislikes," Dr Pan said.

Legislative councilor Ms Emily Lau Wai-hing said that they would need a breakthrough in order to achieve universal suffrage. Rather than the increased number of election committee members from 800 to 1200 in this election, Ms Lau aims at the new ten seats in Legislative Council this September.

"We will describe such a change as a breakthrough of impasse and a step towards democracy," said Ms Lau.

She said that changes were needed in the political system in order to strive for universal suffrage in 2017, when the Chinese government asked Hong Kong to do it "step by step".

Meanwhile, Ms Lau does not recognise the credibility of the current CE election. As the vice-chairlady of the Democratic Party, she does not agree with Mr Albert Ho Chun-yan's decision to participate in the "small-circle" election.

"But around 70 per cent of the

members in the Democratic Party support him. I respect their decision," said Ms Lau.

Another legislative councillor Ms Tanya Chan Suk-chong from Civic Party, however, said that Democratic Party's participation in the "small-circle" election could help achieve ultimate universal suffrage.

Ms Chan pointed out that a competitive rival in the election could highlight the disadvantages of a "small-circle" election, and thus arouse the public concerns over the importance of universal suffrage.

"The debates between Mr Alan Leong Kah-kit and our Chief Executive Mr Tsang impressed many Hong Kong people," said Ms Chan as she recalled the 2007 CE election.

She said that Mr Ho's participation could also provide a new perspective for Hong Kong people. She emphasised that whether universal suffrage could happen in 2017 would depend on how hard the next Chief Executive tried. ■

Lawmaker Ms Emily Lau Wai-hing talks about her views on universal suffrage.



Mr Leung Chun Ying, Mr Henry Tang Yin-yeng and Mr Albert Ho Chun-yan received sufficient valid nomination to run for the Chief Executive election. Mr Leung received 305 nominations, Mr Tang, 390 and Mr Ho, 188.

The fourth Chief Executive election will be held.

29 FEB 2012

25 MAR 2012



ARDENT ARTISTS SKETCH OUT DEMOCRACY

We have no right to vote in the coming CE election, but political cartoonists try their best to promote democracy through their art works

Internet users' creativity was seen full-blasted in the recent Mr Henry Tang Ying-yen's illegal basement scandal. The public has greater acceptance towards complicated political issues, such as elections, that are illustrated in ironic and humorous visuals.

In political artists' eyes, the coming Chief Executive election is not just another event that they could draw about, but an opportunity to achieve something higher—democracy through arts.

"So we have to grasp the opportunity to express ourselves, seize the platform to show our determination and to unfold our vision. And my way will be by publishing political comics," said the 40-year-old political illustrator Mr Cuson Lo Chi-kong, who draws political comics for AM730 newspaper.

Mr Lo is sceptical about the coming CE election, which he describes as a small-circle election. He said that democratisation was unlikely to happen under restrictions imposed by the Basic Law and opposition from the conservative parties.

"I know it is sometimes difficult for the public to develop an in-depth view towards politics, so I started drawing to help make

the complex ideas clear," he said.

Inspired by lawmaker Mr Raymond Wong Yuk-man's eloquent opinions towards politics in a radio program, Mr Lo published his first comic book to illustrate how the Legislative Council members triggered the Five Constituencies Referendum through by-election in 2010.

He received positive comments from friends and the public, saying that the comics have raised their awareness towards politics. "But I think it is only the starting point as public engagement is important."

Concerning the coming election, another political cartoonist Mr Justin Wong Chiu-tat said the CE candidates seemed to be playing a role because none of their political platforms could push democracy forward.

His political comic series "Hello World" was first published in Ming Pao Daily five years ago. He believes in the power of political cartoon on newspaper.

"Publishing in the newspaper is a more effective way to spread the ideas as it serves a larger group of audience," Mr. Wong said.

He found demonstrations too agitating. He was studying overseas

when the proposed anti-subversion legislation required by the Article 23 of the Basic Law sparked off heated debate in 2003. He then returned to Hong Kong and participated in July 1 Protest for several times.

Mr Tso Wing-ho, 24, is a fan for "Hello World" comics. He said that political artists addressed political issues very well. "It is a new way to stimulate understanding among the public and to promote democracy," he said. ■



Mr Wong Chiu-tat promotes the idea of democracy through his art works.

The winner of the Chief Executive election will take office.

1 JUL 2012



THE DEDICATED REVOLUTIONARY

Mr Kung Chi-shing vows to redefine the local perception of music

He is committed to promoting street music concerts in Hong Kong; he launched a protest against the government's Noise Control Ordinance to give way to outdoor performance; and he started a band called "The Box" in his earlier years. Mr Kung Chi-shing, a local musician, wants to give music a voice in Hong Kong.

On February 17, 2012, The Street Music Concert Series held its 33rd event outside the Hong Kong Arts Centre in Wan Chai. Mr Kung has organized street music concerts and put on over 40 shows in three years. In this concert, the Hong Kong Welsh Male Voice Choir contributed their first street performance.

"Good music can inspire people and cheer them up," Mr Kung said. In May 2009, Mr Kung organized the first street music concert in Hong Kong. Besides the 33 concerts outside the Arts Centre, Mr Kung also organized outdoor concerts in other public spaces, including Central Library, former Police Married Quarters and Choi Yuen Village.

Street music refers to the practice of performing music in public places. According to the website of Hong Kong Arts Centre, the initiative aims at providing a platform for non-commercial mainstream music, breaking through the boundaries and enhancing the interaction between performers and

audiences, as well as nurturing a street music culture.

Ms Doris Lee Pui-ying, 22, who has been attending the Street Music Concert Series regularly since last September, says the concerts serve as a way for her to get to know local and foreign bands, as well as new kinds of music.

"It introduces something new and fresh every time," Ms Lee says, "and it might change the public's view on art and music performance".

Although each outdoor concert is exhausting and physically demanding, Mr Kung has no regret and says that he has a clear idea of what his purpose in life is: to bring music to society.

In March 2010, Mr Kung launched the

campaign "Make Some Noise, Hong Kong" to protest against the government's Noise Control Ordinance, under which "noise from domestic premises and public places" are regulated.

Mr Kung feels confused why people complain about the "noise" from the street music concerts, while they can bear the noise from construction sites. He wants to define more specifically what noise is in this campaign.

Though the campaign failed, Mr Kung is still firm in his faith in arts. "One has to keep making effort to make people aware of its existence as an artist," he said. "It takes time to leave impressions on people."

As a musician, Mr Kung wants to help people appreciate the art of music and to enjoy the sounds. But people in Hong Kong are too busy to stop and listen to the music, and Mr. Kung often finds it difficult to teach people about music literature.

During the past few years, Mr Kung opened a music workshop which is held three times a month. During these workshops, he makes it his priority to teach the public about the importance of finding their own voice through music. "Arts education starts from the community level," he said. ■

STORY / SOPHIA FU
EDITED BY / PETTER LARSSON



The tattoos on Mr Kung's arms are designed to match his violin performance gesture.

STREET HAIRSTYLIST

The roadside barber has been cutting hair for her customers in the open air for more than two decades



Mrs Wong is hairstyling one of her clients along a diverged hiking trail in Tai Wai.



Mrs Wong's "barber shop" is made simply out of bedsheets and planks of wood

With her effortless smile and her bright orange windbreaker, Mrs Wong is no ordinary 60-year-old. Every five minutes she was greeted by neighbors and friends as they walked past us on the street. Her approachable personality makes a friendly chat out of any formal interview.

Mrs Wong has been a hairstylist for more than 20 years. But she's never owned a decent barber's chair and has never worked inside a legitimate salon or barber shop. All she's ever used to cut hair was a functional pair of scissors and a mirror. "Unconventional" may be an understatement, as she moves from place to place--sometimes under a highway bridge, other times along a hiking trail--to work. "It's difficult because I have to work with the weather," Wong said. "When it's raining, I have to find a sheltered area."

Her "office" comprises several planks of wood, a plastic chair and a mirror that is hung on wire fences. "It's enough," she said. She explained that it is not necessary to have fancy equipment,

just to cut hair. "My customers are happy with this," she said. "It's fast, practical and cheap!" Mrs. Wong charges her clients \$25 per haircut, and on some days, she even has a long queue.

“I don't need a lot of money and I don't really need much to live life.”

Mrs Wong

"Cutting hair is a skill I learned back in Guangzhou," Mrs. Wong explained. She took hairstyling classes from her relatives for \$60 a month. After she got married about 18 years ago, she and her husband owned a clothing factory in China. "This was way back when we were still using the old manual sewing machines [where we used foot power]," Wong said. "My husband got better

machines, and then we owned a factory of 100 people in China. But we moved to Hong Kong, and that was no longer a good means of income. So I went back to cutting hair."

However, she often runs into problems with the Health Department. According to Mrs Wong, the Health Department is strongly against her business, especially since her gear may not be the safest in terms of cleanliness and hygiene. "I'm not a hawker," Mrs. Wong explained. "But I do get into a lot of trouble when it comes to hygiene issues with the Health Department." She uses three pairs of scissors throughout one day at work and she simply sweeps the hair to any ditch or gutter nearby. "If it doesn't disturb anyone, it should be fine," she said.

"I love this job," Mrs Wong said. "I don't need a lot of money and I don't really need much to live life. It's an unpredictable job, but that's what makes it enjoyable." ■

STORY / KRISTINE BASILIO
EDITED BY / HELEN WU



Surrounded by publishing and construction materials shops, Yo Bago is not located in the most eye-catching site.

"LITTLE CANADA" IN HONG KONG

Have a bite of authentic Canadian bagels in the buzzing city

STORY / ADA YEUNG
EDITED BY / SADIE LO

Tucked inside a quiet corner of Quarry Bay, sandwiched by construction material shops and publishing shops, Yo Bago is like an oasis in the desert.

This small bagel shop at Pan Hoi Street is just a five-minute walk away from the Quarry Bay MTR station. As soon as customers walk in, they can smell the tempting aroma of freshly baked bread.

Although bagels, a Jewish bread product, are popular in the western countries like the United States, Canada and the United Kingdom, it is rare to find an eatery serving fresh bagels in Hong Kong.

Being unfamiliar with bagels, people may confuse them with doughnuts

because of their similar roll-with-a-hole look. But bagels are generally healthier than doughnuts, which are usually deep-fried while bagels are just boiled bread.

The owner of the shop, Mr Chris Leung, used to live in Canada. He seeks to bring the Canadian savoury bites to Hong Kong. He not only serves Tim Hortons Coffee, the famous Canadian coffee, but also names his bagel sandwiches after Canadian cities like Vancouver, Montreal and Toronto.

The bagels have the Canadian flavour but are not as chewy as the original because Mr Leung found that Hong Kong people prefer softer bagels.

2008

Canadian-born astronaut Gregory Chamitoff is the first person who took a batch of bagels into space on his mission to the International Space Station.

The Vancouver Breakfast is one of the most popular sandwiches. The mouth-watering bagel, topped with a cherry-



Unbaked rings of dough which turns into fresh mouth-watering bagels are hung in the shop.



Bagels are often mistaken as doughnuts due to the resemblance of the two.

tomato, has a slightly crisp crust but is dense in texture. The pineapple tastes good with the smoked salmon by bringing a complementary sweet and sour taste. The veggies inside are exceptionally fresh with leafy lettuces and juicy tomatoes. Along with a thin layer of original cream cheese, it is a great treat for the palate.

Newcomers to the shop do not need to worry about which set to choose. They can choose the ingredients they like to create their own style of bagels.

Bread has toppings in many flavours, ranging from spinach, honey wheat to poppy seed. And for cream cheese spread, Oreo, mint chocolate, blueberry,

etc, are in sections.

Yo Bago operates like a fast food restaurant but the simple yet chic orange and white décor gives the customers a warm feeling.

There are paintings hanging in the walls and English songs on the background. The design of open kitchen also relieves the worries of hygienic problems.

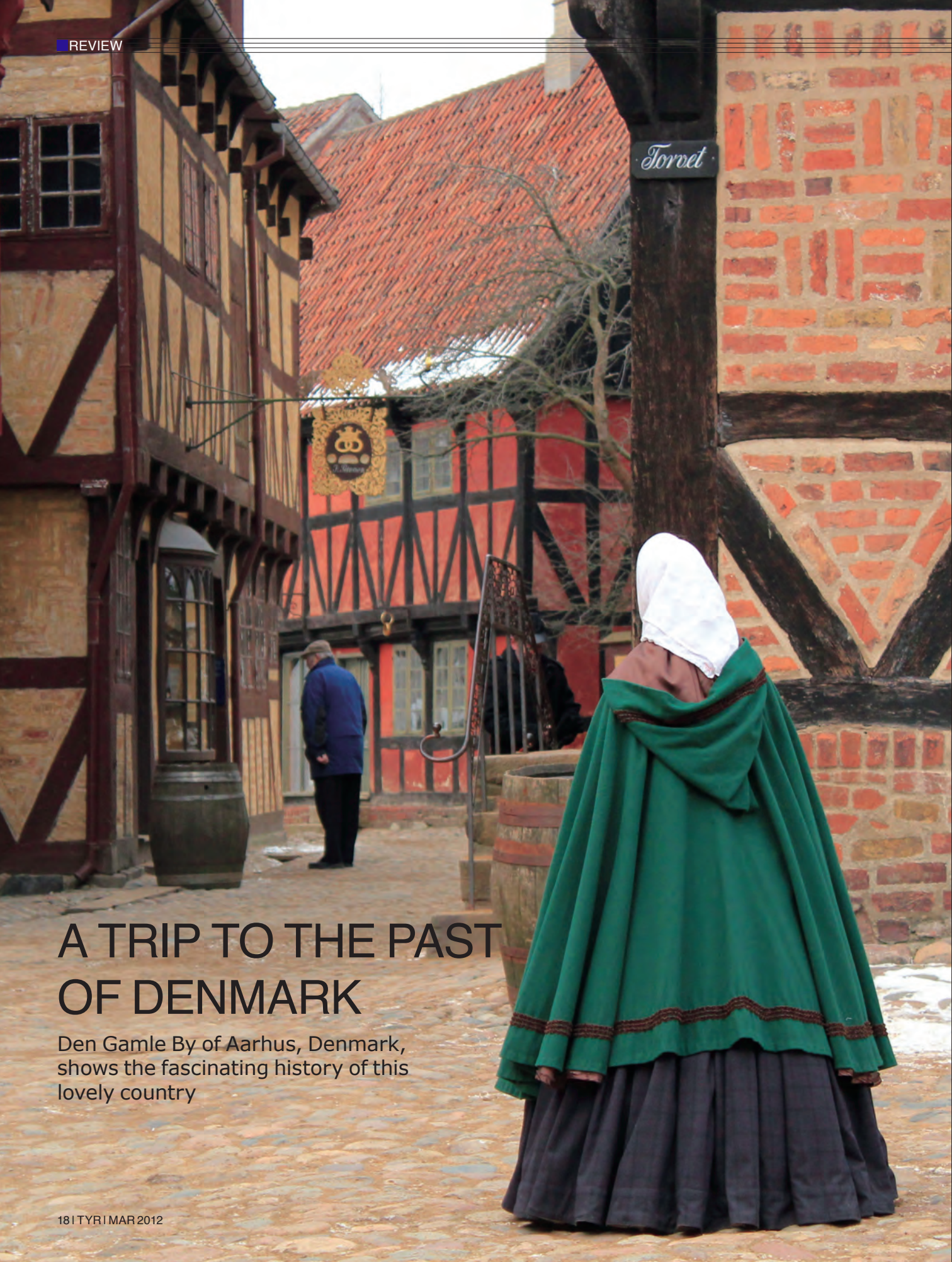
It is comfortable enough for the

customers, mostly the local white-collar workforce nearby and foreigners especially Canadians, to chit chat from the weather to politics.

Having a cup of Tim Hortons Coffee in hand, along with the relaxing atmosphere, Yo Bago is a world away from the massive skyscrapers at TaiKoo Place or the cramped Quarry Bay along the tramway. A meal there surely makes people's day. ■

A TRIP TO THE PAST OF DENMARK

Den Gamle By of Aarhus, Denmark,
shows the fascinating history of this
lovely country



Tired of the hustle and bustle of modern city life? Den Gamle By in Aarhus, Denmark, is a haven to get away from the hubbub and take a journey to the past.

Den Gamle By, which in Danish means “The Old Town”, is the world’s first open-air museum of urban history and culture. Just about 20 minutes’ walk from the very heart of Aarhus, it is a totally different world where everything dates back to as early as the 18th century.

All the 75 historical buildings at Den Gamle By originated from towns across the country, keeping away from cities’ evolution and development. They were moved here either brick by brick or wall by wall, and then rebuilt in 1909 based on the original old town.

Instead of appreciating exhibits through display windows and reading placards, visitors can experience and have a glimpse of the history by wandering around this genuine old Danish town.

Surrounded by exquisite houses constructed of patterned masonry, carved wood, chimney pots and red tile roofs, the town gives a surreal feeling that seems to only appear in Hans Christian Anderson’s fairytales.

Many buildings can be traced back to the days from 1810s to 1870s, when Mr Anderson, the great Danish writer, was still alive. The building “The Eilschou Almshouses” right beside the entrance of Den Gamle By is the re-creation of Mr Anderson’s favorite place in his childhood at his hometown Odense.

The Eilschou Almshouses was a charity foundation built in the 1700s to provide free lodgings for vicars’ widows and respectable young ladies. The single-storey apartment with white façade is

lime-washed and half-timbered with rooms arranged and furnished as they might have appeared in the old times.

A burning fire in the fire place; newspapers and letters randomly put on the table as if they have just been read; there is even a knife with residual butter resting on a cut-board as if it has just been used by a cooking lady. Every room is meticulously recreated as if somebody has just been there.

People living here had inspired Mr Anderson and some even became the characters of his stories and fairytales. Mr Anderson recalled the first greeting here by Madame Bunkeflod – “This lady opened to me her door, and hers was the first house belonging to the educated class into which I was kindly received.”

After the discovery of Mr Anderson’s childhood, the journey continues into the centre of the “old town.”

Small as it is, the town has everything. Walking on the rugged flagging, you can see bookshop, bakery, brewery, cigar factory, clock store, post office, windmill and so on, with visual symbols on the doors showing what they are.

Every house can be entered and is a mini museum showcasing its own history. For example the watchmaker’s shop has about fifty delicate watches and clocks in different sizes showcased in the cupboards and on the counter.

Surprises unfold as you move on. The street Algade in the centre of the town is the Renaissance street of Denmark, with the Mayor’s House from 1597, the Three-Storey House from 1585 and the Stone House from 1634.

The Mayor’s House is the best-preserved Renaissance complex of

merchants in Den Gamle By. There you can explore a merchant’s home and business in the late 18th century and view the unique interiors at that time.

Entering the Mayor’s House, a wide merchant’s counter come into sight with several drawers and shelves filled with goods for folks to purchase.

Furniture of the old merchant’s office has a mix of Baroque and Rococo styles, giving you a feeling of flowing in times.

Besides a blink at the history, a taste of delicacy is also a way of penetrating into Danish culture.

Take a rest at the town’s tea garden and enjoy an afternoon tea with traditional Danish snacks and coffee, including Danish open-faced sandwiches and desserts such as almond cakes, chocolate truffles and Danish cookies.

If these cannot satisfy your appetite, go to the bakery. A peek through the window will make you salivate.

Stepping inside, an agreeable old lady dressed the 19th century costume will greet you with a warm smile behind a counter piled with various cakes and pastries, including sugar pretzels, spice buns and honey-cake hearts. Most cannot be found elsewhere nowadays.

Wandering on the streets is also an enjoyment. You may encounter people dressed in old times, like an old lady in gown with kerchief, cloak and a basket, or a gentleman in tuxedo who will cap and give you a fascinating smile while passing by. You may also stop by the bridge across a river and feed the ducks, which happens to relate to Mr Anderson’s most “Ugly Duckling”.

These items of “living history” are essential for Den Gamle By as they flavour the town with a rich fairytale-like atmosphere.

Den Gamle By is a place where you can set your curiosity free. You will never get bored as there are always surprises waiting behind the doors, in the backyards and around the corners for you to discover.

Each house is worth a gaze; each street is worth a walk; and each gourmet is worth a taste. Just forget about the present and throw yourself into a life-changing adventure at hundreds years ago. ■

STORY / PEYTON GUAN
EDITED BY / XAVIER NG



An old lady is selling traditional Danish dessert in the bakery.

CAN YOU HANDLE THE TASTE?

Dr Pepper enchants the world with its unique flavour

STORY / ALVINA HUNG

EDITED BY / AMANDA MUNKSGAARD





At first glance Dr Pepper looks like cola. It is brown and fizzy and comes in a red can – just like the world famous rival Coca Cola. But on closer inspection it becomes clear that Dr Pepper is something different. Some say it tastes like marzipan, others say it is like medicine. Perhaps the slogan “Can you handle the taste?” should be seen as much as a warning as an enticing marketing trick. But no matter if you find the taste strange or unique, the almost 130 years old soda is more than a soft drink. It is the pride and glory of the city of Waco in Texas where it was first made.

Dr Pepper was invented in Waco by Dr Charles Alderton in 1885. This makes Dr Pepper the oldest major soft drink in America. From the beginning Dr Pepper was a big hit in Waco and it still is. In fact, in the beginning it was even called “a Waco”, but Dr Alderton’s employer later renamed it Dr Pepper. However, no one knows where that name came from.

“There was a saying that Dr Morrison was trying to woo a lady, and so he used the name of the lady’s father,” says Jordana Irene Dickey, Dr Pepper fan and the Coordinator of Student Union for Facilities and Operations at Baylor University in Waco, about the mystery of the name.

If you want to know more about the famous southern soft drink, the Dr Pepper Museum in Waco is a good place to start. Here, Director of Visitor Services Ms Jennie Sheppard is proud to tell visitors about the special drink.

“I love visiting with guests from all around the world, welcoming them to Waco, teaching them about the history of the World’s oldest major soft drink, and then watching them as they taste a Dr Pepper served up fresh in the soda fountain,” she says.

Dr Pepper gets its distinct flavour from a mix of no less than 23 different spices and flavourings, and since its taste is not like anything else, Ms Jennie Sheppard is almost certain to see some interesting expressions every

Pepper with ice cream on top.

As the Coordinator of Student Union for Facilities and Operations, Jordana Irene Dickey gets to share her Dr Pepper enthusiasm with other students, when she helps arrange the Dr Pepper Hour every week. She has even tried to renew the traditional Dr Pepper Hour, which was first held in 1953. “We have tried to provide hot Dr Pepper with lemon slice during cold months, but we received mixed reviews. Some said it tasted like old coffee,” she says.

“I love visiting with guests from all around the world, welcoming them to Waco, teaching them about the history of the world's oldest major soft drink.”

Ms Jennie Sheppard, Director of Visitor Services

now and then.

Dr Pepper is also a big part of campus life at Baylor University. Dr Pepper has been a sponsor of the university’s sports team for many years, and whenever you go to the dining halls, you will see students washing down their lunches with Dr Pepper.

The student union even arranges Dr Pepper Hour. This is an informal get-together every Tuesday afternoon, when students and staff can relax and enjoy a Dr Pepper Float, which is a glass of Dr

For the people in Waco, Dr Pepper runs in their veins. But the drink would not have been world famous today, if foreigners had not fallen in love with it. This happened with Miss Yang Yueqin, an international student from China. She says, she is addicted to the soda, though it was not love at first sip. Yang first tried Dr Pepper in 2009 when she arrived in Waco. At that time, she did not care much for the taste, but as she stayed in Waco, the strange taste grew on her. ■

SACRED SOLEMNITY

Hong Kong has preserved the spiritual life inherited from its 150 years of British colonization. Some of the oldest churches, standing with faith to serve and unite, have majestic style and are even classified as historical buildings.

Every Sunday, when visitors pack tourist attractions and shoppers flock the malls, followers head to churches for their Sunday services.

Today in the city, there are more than 300,000 Protestants while about 353,400 Catholics attend religious services. There are 40 churches, 30 chapels and 28 halls in Hong Kong, according to the Census and Statistics Department.

STORY / **COCO ZHENG**
EDITED BY / **CECILIA CHAN**





Saint Teresa's Church celebrates the 80th anniversary this year.



Rosary Church is the oldest Catholic Church in Kowloon.



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