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THE YOUNG REP•ORTER magazine

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Letter from the Editor

Making cities more walkable is a focus throughout the world; however, Hong Kong's current town planning is on the flip side.

In Hong Kong, walking is an essential part of people's routines to commute but pedestrians' needs as road users are often neglected by how the road facilities are planned to prioritize vehicle users over walkers.

Our story shares the importance of developing Hong Kong into a walkable city in the limelight of government's Hong Kong 2030+plan, with a goal to turn Hong Kong into the world's most walkable, liveable city in about 10-year time.

While town planning in the coming years concerns the government in a broad view, the city's leaders have been gnawing at public order and people's sense of identity in recent days, few months ahead of the 20th anniversary of the handover .

Two pro-independence political parties barred by the government from operating stalls at the city's largest Lunar New Year fair due to public order and safety concerns in February.

Our reporters talked with stakeholders from the pro-independence camp and the pro-established camp over the political controversy.

Confrontation does not only occur in the political platform but diverse opinions has been also flowing in the beauty business field, which occupies a paramount seat in the local market.

Since a young woman tragically died after undergoing cosmetic surgery in a Jordan beauty clinic in 2010, voices from society has been advocating more regulations and supervision from the government.

Having conversations with insiders, the whole picture is depicted in our story.

On another touch, taking you into the Chungking Mansion leading by a Pakistani man having business in the culturally vibrant building, the mysterious side in the prosperous district is depicted, as well as the minorities' identity issue.

Apart from the real life issues, our reporter present you a story about technologies that connects people with a virtual world; businesses build on the virtual reality are also explored.

On a softer touch, a sunset career on traditional sugar-blowing is expatiated by one of the few left craftsmen in town.

We also specially feature a Myanmar story, taking you through the continuing war zones about religion and ethnic conflicts.

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WALKING IN HONG KONG

By Kenji Chan
and Zinnia Lee
Edited by Crystal Tai
and Emily Cheung

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45. BAVARIAN STATE BALLET II
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高塘灣



小心地滑



It says something about the possibility of having a walkable Hong Kong when artificial grass mats, splash pools, picnic tables and benches were placed on what used to be a heavily-congested Des Voeux Road Central in September last year.

The government is working with NGOs to turn roads into more pedestrian-friendly and it may surprise many that the city is currently having seven full-time pedestrian schemes and 30 part-time ones.

“Walking can be safe, comfortable and interesting,” said Maura Wong Hung-hung, Chief Executive Officer of the independent public think tank Civic Exchange. “That’s why walking is a pleasure and something that people enjoy, they don’t have to depend on vehicles,” said Wong.

The “Walk in Hong Kong” initiative, proposed by the Transport and Housing Bureau, was officially announced in the 2017 Policy Address on January 18. It aims to promote walkability, which is related to connectivity of streets in Hong Kong.

Set to improve the environment for pedestrian, the initiative aims to implement multiple new measures based on four themes. According to the Legislative Council Paper, it will provide user-friendly information on walking routes, enhance pedestrian network connection, make walking a pleasant experience and provide a safe pedestrian environment, that is comfortable at the same time.

Civic Exchange introduced a new initiative in December 2016, “Walkability”, to advocate walking in the city. The new initiative also encourages the government and different sectors to take a “people-first” approach in urban planning. For instance, meetings and seminars will be organized to foster citizens’ understanding about the concept of walkability. “Pedestrian should play a priority role in the city’s development, including the transportation strategy,” said Wong.

Civic Exchange also introduced the WALKScore in December 2016, a tool to measure walkability in Hong Kong. It takes into consideration the city’s density, mixed-land use, constant

traffic, hilly topography and other challenges. From its data, Mongkok was given 18 out of 42 points, rated the poorest among all districts. However, Choi Hung, another district located on the Kowloon Peninsula, was given a remarkable 41 points

Karen Lee, a senior project manager of Walk DVRC, said “Mongkok is regarded as well-connected in the region, where you can see a lot of footbridges. However, it received a very low mark only.”

“It is a framework and an objective method to review whether the walkable environment is functioning well,” said Wong. From Civic Exchange’s website, Central, Mongkok, Kwun Tong and Choi Hung were selected as pilot areas to conduct walk audits as well as test use of the checklists.?

She also encouraged people to share their findings of the WALKScore with the district councils, so that the councils can improve the walking environment of the districts. For example, a series of events were organized in Kowloon West to assess the walkability of different area neighbourhoods. Local



Footbridge and elevator for pedestrian use in Man Kwong Street, near the Central Pier.

8 and planning professionals identified problems through the use of the new checklists.

Wong said she is glad that the government pays attention to the walkability in Hong Kong by naming the Transport and Housing Department to implement improvement works on the pedestrian environment. Specific measures include selecting two areas for pilot study to test out innovative measures and enhancing present pedestrian facilities.

“We consider this an important step in the right direction,” she said. “We are very happy that the government finally includes it in the policy address.”

“Walk DVCR”, formerly known as the the Des Voeux Road Central Initiative, is a non-profit leadership which aims at improving the pedestrian environment from Western Market to Pedder Street. The initiative has created a green neighbourhood for pedestrian and tram in the Central Business District by re-managing traffic and cooperating with different sectors. Lee said the Walk in HK initiative is not comprehensive enough.

“I will say it touches on walkability in the sense that it highlights the connectivity aspect,” she said. “From what I see, it is good at increasing the connectivity and accessibility of people, but it is not exactly walkability.”

There are 775 footbridges and 463 subways in Hong Kong, according to the Footbridges and Subways of Hong Kong report conducted by the Highways Department in 2016. Footbridges and subways are built to improve road safety and allow a continuous flow of pedestrians without the need to wait at the kerbside to cross, the report says.

Lee said footbridges and subways did not satisfy all the criteria of being walkable because people needed to go up and down when using them despite of the connectivity, making it a less comfortable experience for pedestrians.



Car road occupied most of the use of the street. Pedestrian roads are narrow and some of them crossed through the car road.

“When we talk about being walkable, it should be easy and interesting,” she said. “It is not about building footbridges to bring people to shopping centers to boost up sales.”

Walking is a part of Hong Kongers’ life. However, the government has long prioritized vehicles over pedestrians. In the Travel Characteristics Survey 2011 Final Report conducted by the transport department, walking is not counted as a form of commute.

Wong said Hong Kong was not walkable ,due to the lack of comprehensive district-planning in the past, while the government mainly focused on enhancing the connectivity of the city by constructing crossings. She pointed out that the walking experience in Hong Kong was not very desirable because of the lack of public amenities such as benches and parks.

So far, the Highways Department and the Transport Department have not employed any specialists in building pedestrian facilities. A campaign by Chinese University students revealed that pedestrian areas in Central, Tsing Yi, Tsuen Wan and Kowloon Bay did not have sufficient seating.

Both Wong and Lee said that Hong Kong can learn from London’s pedestrian scheme to improve its walkability.

Lee said the way that London integrated different functions within a street furniture and objects located in the public space is desirable for Hong Kong to learn because it helps save space on pedestrian streets. “Legible London”, a signage system that provides information for pedestrians such as the distance between places, is also a good example that Hong Kong can learn from immediately, said Lee.

Wong and Lee also agreed that the government should not just focus on enhancing the walkability in new towns, but also the old towns in Hong Kong such as Sham Shui Po.

“It is a very good start because the government has put vehicles as a priority for so long that people just forgot about pedestrianization,” said Lee.

“Unless people realize that cars are not going to do us any good in the future, we are not going anywhere. We will just be back to the Walk in HK Initiative that does little pieces of new things,” Lee said.

SOCIETY

The muted voice

By Yoyo Chow
Edited by Catherine Xu

In between the crowds at the Lunar New Year Fair 2017 in Victoria Park, Causeway Bay, there were three stalls which had never operated : the 33th, 199th and 200th.



The booths originally given to Youngspiration were fitted with tents and guarded by security.

On January 18, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department barred Hong Kong National Party and Youngspiration from running stall on the grounds that they posed “a threat to public order. The government was afraid they would sell products supporting Hong Kong independence.

An official letter said the stalls were a safety concern as they could attract political protestors to the crowded fair.

The government department exercised the power stated in clause 10 of the license agreement, which allows it to terminate a signed contract “whatever reasons as the Department finds fit to do so”.

In an appeal, Youngspiration provided information on their products, describing them as the work of Hong Kong artist but failed to overturn the government decision.

“When we advocate Hong Kong independence, I think

we are pretty much blocked from the government. For example, I can’t register a company; I can’t run in the election for LegCo. And, of course, any event, fairs, connected to the government, we will be blocked,” said Hong Kong National Party convenor, Andy Chan Ho-tin.

Chan said the government has the obligation to protect his human right of freedom of speech and running a business.

“It is my right that I can sell my things in the market through an auction, sign a contract,” said Chan.

“We were not involved in any violent event but People Power, which is involved in those kind of event for few times, is allowed to participate in this market.”

Concerning the violation of the Basic Law, Chan believed it is not the main focus when handling in court and reaffirmed the absolute duty of the government to materialize the freedom of speech and create a fair business environment.

He said the government should not misuse their granted power to interfere politically, such as how university affairs should not be affected by the authority despite of the automatic appointment of the Chief Executive to be university chancellor.

“The power and the right have been given to you, but it is not necessary for you to execute the power,” said Chan.

“The problem is not the clause 10, the problem is the government. It shouldn’t use that clause in that circumstances,” Chan said.

The government did the right thing, said Priscilla Leung Mei-fun, lawmaker from Business and Professionals Alliance for Hong Kong.

“Under the Basic Law, it very clear Hong Kong is part of China,” said Leung, “If any political group would try to advocate pro-independence of Hong Kong or it is related activity, personally, I also hold the view that the government-funded places and public places should not be allowed [for them to use].”

She pointed out clause 10 is the the discretion of the government department to decide whether or not they would grant license to the seekers in public area.

Leung agreed the associated political parties gave reasonable suspicion of not serving the purposes of the fair with celebrative and ordinary activities, given that their items may carry content which is against the Basic Law and they may inflict physical confrontation if their pamphlets were prohibited to distribute. .

“In fact, those political parties should review themselves. If they really want to join the flower market, they should do celebration, maybe lion dance and other things,” said Leung, “Don’t mingle it with Chinese New Year activities.”

Cheung Chor-yung, the assistant head of the Department of Public Policy in City University of Hong Kong and an experienced media commentator, considered this incident as a political interference, yet a natural response from any government.

“It is certainly political, but a kind of expected response of any in the sense that the organizers tend to abolish



Hong Kong National Party convenor, Andy Chan ho-tin said it is not necessary for the government to execute their power granted by the people.



Experienced political commentator Cheung Chor-yung said the political interference is an expected response of the government due to the pro-independent ideology advocated by the parties.



Legislator Priscilla Leung Mei-fun said it is reasonable of the authority to bar Youngispration and Hong Kong National Party from the lunar New Year Fair.



The Youngspiration set up a booth in front of their original stalls during the Lunar New Year Fair to promote their products.

the government, attack the government or try to mobilize people to get away from the government to be independent,” said Cheung.

Cheung said clause 10 is not specifically designed for controlling political controversy, but providing administrative convenience to protect the authority. In this case, it acted as a replacement of Article 23 to eliminate opportunity for pro-independence.

He said going beyond the constitution would be the limit, despite of the freedom of speech allowing Hongkongers to suggest different political views. “If they say Hong Kong is not China, Beijing the PRC is not the sovereignty state over Hong Kong, then it is diametrically opposite to the constitutional set up in Hong Kong.”

Hong Kong Basic Law Article 23 stated there should be law enacted in order to prohibit any act of treason, secession, sedition, subversion against the Central People’s Government, or theft of state secrets. No foreign political organization is allowed to conduct political activities and establish bond with local political parties.

“I think ultimately if we really have the legislation [of Article 23], they will be prosecuted by the government. But, since the government do not have the legal mean to do that, they can only rely on administrative means or depriving you government resources when advocating for separatism and independent”.

SOCIETY

From Accidents to Protest

What is the next step of beauty industry in Hong Kong?

By Scout Xu
Edited by Alfred Lam



Frances Chiu, chairman of Federation of Beauty Industry which organized the protest, pointed out problems in the legislative documents.



In the January 16th protest, Cheung Ming Ming (Middle) alongside with LegCo member Alice Mak Mei Kuen and Starry Lee Wai King, are joined by many representaives from the builty industry.

Desires for skin whitening, spot removal and staying young forever spur people to splurge on beauty clinics. But potential dangers and unregulated use of devices may cool them down.

A medical-device regulation proposal requires supervision by doctors on the use of commonly used beauty devices, , raised concerns from the entire beauty community.

On January 16, more than 1,000 beauticians and beauty industry workers protested the proposal outside the Legislative Council. “They (government) are making our services subject to control of the medical industry. This proposal will impede the development of the beauty industry,” said Frances Chiu, chairperson of Federation of Beauty Industry.

It is wrong to consider beauty devices the same as medical devices, said Chiu.

Lasers, for example, are a very important. and basic beauty device. Chiu said nearly every beauty parlor owns one laser machine; and if it is under the supervision of the medical industry, the beauty industry would have no space to develop.

About 5, 000 small and medium-sized beauty clinics, that accounted for 90% of the industry, would financially suffer from hiring the practitioners or even shut down, the chairman said.

Miko Chan, a beautician from Mijo Beauty, a medium-sized beauty parlor that mainly uses laser, Intense Pulsed light(IPL) device and other devices on the list, said nearly all the small and medium-sized beauty parlours can’t afford a doctor at all because it would cost between \$10,000 and \$80,000.

She said a “good regulation” can either be beneficial for both customers and the beauty industry.

But this regulation on devices is completely unacceptable because most customers would choose equipment instead of manual service. Without these devices, customers would drop by 50 % or even 60 %.

Hui Ki-ki, a beautician of Ocean Beauty, a small-sized company that relies on fewer devices than Mijo Beauty, also said hiring a doctor is a “huge and threatening” burden for most beauty clinics. Her clinic’s turnover would decrease by 30 per cent or 40 per cent.

Customers would be the last victim because only the expensive and chain clinics would survive and the expense would increase to afford practitioner’s fee, Chiu said.

But according to the Department of Health, “beauty devices” is not an official term; “medical devices” means any product intended by the manufacturer to be used, alone or in combination, for human being for



Albert Poon Kat-fat, a professor of Practice (Biomedical Engineering) in The Hong Kong Polytechnic University, initialized the previous medical device proposal in 2003 as a professional on medical device regulation.

specified medical purpose.

Medical devices can range from sophisticated equipment such as cardiac pacemakers to simple products such as bandages, the department said.

“For devices used in the beauty industry, if they fulfill the meaning of medical devices based on their intended uses, they will be regarded as medical devices,” the department added.

Albert Poon Ka-fat, a professor of Practice (Biomedical Engineering) in The Hong Kong Polytechnic University, added that the definition of “medical device” is based on the standard from the International Medical Device Regulators Forum and is commonly -recognised. It depends on whether the devices would change cells or tissue of a human’s body.

Under that, quite a few beauty devices are medical devices and in “high risk”, such as laser that would work on cells, change the metabolism and have intervention effect. So it is no doubt a high- risk device that should be regulated, Poon said.

Chiu added the supervision might not

be helpful because in the proposal the supervisor should be “the registered medical practitioner” that includes doctor, nurse, dentist and midwives according to the official website of the Department of Health.

“We are beauticians. Why should we need the supervision from a nurse who might have no experience on all the beauty devices?” Chiu said.

Hong Kong’s beauty industry is a huge market. More than 82 per cent of women had undergone “medical beauty services” in a survey with a poll of 1004 men and women aged 15 to 64, according to Consumer Council.

In this research, “a strong desire and expectation” is shown for medial beauty service to become safer and better because over 90 per cent of users firmly support government regulations.

Ng Ka-ying, a 20-year-old student who received laser beauty treatment recently, said, “I know it should be safe. But when I see such devices, I am not sure if the beauticians are professional enough. I am still worried. After all, it will do something on my face.”

In 2012, a 46-year-old woman’s death after a beauty treatment and some successive injuries caused dissatisfaction. The Consumer Council received 1,140 complaints about beauty services in 2014.

Five years after the tragedy, the proposal is released and paused by the Legislation Council because the beauty industry expressed its opposition for the government’s misunderstanding about beauty and medicine.

“Many doctors enter our industry. We also need some doctors’ advice. The two industries should cooperate with each other instead of making beauty industry be one part of medical industry. They are different,” Chiu said.

Now, according to the new report released by the Legislative Council, doctor’s supervision will not be compulsory; A necessary beauty course will be offered as a qualification for beauticians.

Poon, a professor of biological engineering who has 35 years work experience in medical devices, said the beauty industry is indeed different from medical industry. But the problem is that both of them are using medical devices, so medical devices are what should be under control.

The compulsory training is necessary for all operators of these devices, Poon said.

Miko Chan, the beautician from Mijo Beauty said the training is acceptable if it can make customers believe in their industry.

Hui Ki-ki from Ocean Beauty said the government should clarify how and where the operator will be trained.

重慶大廈

CHUNGKING MANSIONS

CULTURE & LEISURE

Different Faces, Same Values

Located in Tsim Sha Tsui, Chungking Mansions is not only a landmark but also a hub of different cultures with many ethnic minorities.

By Jade Li and Sammi Chan

Edited by Jiānnē Soriano and Henry Wong





day until he closes at 9 pm. He may go for a late lunch, usually curry and rice, not because he likes it but because it's common inside this building.

Just like other commercial buildings in the neighborhood, there are many mobile phone shops, money changers and restaurants. But unlike other buildings, the restaurants here mainly sell Indian food and most shopkeepers are South Asian and African men.

The building's name is Chungking Mansions, and it's history is full of mystery and lore to the locals who grew up afraid of it and the tourists who know it for its cheap accommodation.

Located in Tsim Sha Tsui, one of the most prosperous districts in Hong Kong, Chungking Mansions has never been seen as a part of Hong Kong, even

“Hong Kong is not only a matter of Chinese and white people. It's a matter of South-Asians and Africans and people from all over the world,” Mathews said.

Walking out from Tsim Sha Tsui station, Muhammed Hussain is used to the hustle and bustle of the crowd. Many have East Asian faces, speaking Mandarin or Korean loudly with a draw-bar box in hand. Many of these tourists with money to burn love the emporiums where they can easily find popular designer brands such as Louis Vuitton or Gucci.

It's 12:03pm. Hussain looks down at his watch as he waits for the traffic light to cross busy Nathan Road. In a few hours, white-collar workers and tourists will head to the nearby historic Peninsula Hotel for afternoon tea.

But neither the Peninsula nor the emporium is Hussain's destination. Instead, he steps walked into an inconspicuous building entrance and heads upstairs to his mobile phone shop.

Everyday Hussain, a 20 year-old Pakistani man, follows the same routine. He meets 20 to 30 customers a





after being chosen as a landmark for foreign travellers by Lonely Planet and ranking ninth in the Top 10 Things to Do in Hong Kong by TIME magazine.

Much of its fame comes from Hong Kong director Wong Kar-wai's film *Chungking Express* that depicted a romance between a policeman and a criminal.

Hussain was born in the conflict area Kashmir on the Indian subcontinent. His family are all in business and they brought him here as a child. After high-school, he attended a local business school with a two-year programme. After he graduated, he opened his own shop.

"I came to Chungking Mansions three years ago. The rent here is lower compared with other commercial buildings in Tsim Sha Tsui. And also Chungking Mansions gives me a feeling of intimacy as there are many ethnic minorities like me," said Hussain.

Gordon Mathews, an anthropologist working at the Chinese University of Hong Kong who once studied Chungking Mansions for four years, said that due to visa issues, Africans stay for less time than South Asians, who regard Chungking Mansions as home.

"To most residents, Chungking Mansions is just a working place. I don't think they think Chungking Mansions has a special meaning to them," said Gordon Mathews.

But for Hussain, this is the start of

his dream. He hopes that through his business, he will earn enough to expand it to other prime locations like Causeway Bay, Mongkok and even overseas.

Hussain sees himself as a Hong Konger. He studied Cantonese in primary school and has many local friends. He likes Joshua Wong and pays close attention to Hong Kong's current political situations. He also keeps a watchful eye on the policy reform concerning ethnic minorities.

Hussain does not think he has ever been discriminated against, because he can speak Cantonese.

"But many of my friends in Chungking Mansions face discrimination everyday, mainly due to language problem. It's the government's job to popularize Cantonese among ethnic minority," said Hussain.

However, Mathews said many ethnic minorities do not feel integrated.

"If somebody were South-Asian, even if they are successful in Hong Kong society, they still feel like an outsider," he said.

HongKongUnison, a non-governmental organization which provides services and support for ethnic minorities, conducted a survey about the degree of acceptance of ethnic minorities by Chinese Hongkongers.

A "considerable" number of respondents relate ethnic minorities with "crime", "poverty" and "low level

of culture", according to the survey

results. Chungking Mansions as well as Osama bin Laden are also mentioned when respondents were asked their impressions on ethnic minorities.

According to the latest population census, the number of Pakistanis has increased by 38.4% from to 18,042 people in 2011. However, according to the survey done by Hong Kong Unison, Pakistanis are the least accepted ethnic minority group in the city.

"For Africans it's understandable because most Africans are not in Hong Kong permanently. For South-Asians though, many of them have been in Hong Kong longer than most Hong Kong Chinese have been."

Mathews said the lack of acceptance is because of skin colour, not language.

"I don't speak much Cantonese and it doesn't cause problems for me," he said.

"Chinese are often racists, assuming that black and brown people come from poor countries and don't need attention. Many South-Asians in Chungking Mansions come recently but some have families and they've grown up in Hong Kong. So it's odd they wouldn't be considered as Hongkongers but that's the way most people think," he said.

"Hong Kong is not only a matter of Chinese and white people. It's a matter of South-Asians and Africans and people from all over the world," Mathews said.

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BUSINESS

An augmented piece in the real world

Immersive games are merely one dimension of the augmented reality. In the blueprint of AR, businesses, retail markets, advertisements and even classrooms will all become the AR's battlefields

*By Dorothy Ma,
Edited by Daniel Ma*

Roy Lo, Business Director of Crete Studio.

Adopting AR into Lo's own wedding, such as the invitation cards and wedding album, he won the HSBC Youth Business Award last year. Now he is trying to prove the value of AR in marketing, putting floor plans, tourists' guidebooks and reservation forms of a hotel together into a three-dimensional model for instance.

"Despite certain limitation in the application of AR, the technology still has high potential at this stage especially," he said.

Developing a specialized AR application for promoting a particular brand costs up to \$300,000. The softwares based on large payment mainly serve the marketing of large-scale constructions or complicated technical



The education, retail, and advertising fields will see the biggest growth in the global augmented and virtual reality business, according to a report by Goldman Sachs in 2016. It estimates that the value of VR/AR application in retail and education field can reach \$12.4 billion and \$5.4 billion respectively by 2025.

In Hong Kong, the industry is still in its primary stage. Instead of focusing on inventing, most local AR developers are actually contractors, who buy technology from overseas then offer made-to-order services to different targets.

For instance, if an estate institute seeks for enhanced promoting, AR developer could design a mobile application including the function of converting the printed housing layout in 3D model on smartphone.

"When you scan something using AR, three-dimensional models or videos will pop up – this is what AR can do technically. But the point is not about what it can do but how to apply it wisely and create fresh things", says



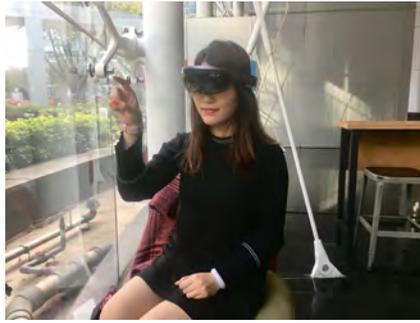
The couple, Roy Lo and Coby Or, are devoted to AR application in marketing field since 2014. (Roy Lo, Business Director of Crete Studio. Coby Or, Creative Director of Crete Studio.)

products since AR could visualize all the details. While small and medium-sized enterprises who seek for vivid effects in marketing strategies can choose standardized AR platform services, which cost a few thousand dollars, according to Lo.

More international schools and educational organizations are introducing AR technology into their courses in recent years. This year a local high school applied AR in its geography lab, making exploration of the regions far from Hong Kong become possible, said Apple Daily. According to a research of Hong Kong Institute of Education, the new augmented way of studying geography is more effective than the traditional approach.

Coco Kang, the Business Development Executive of Darseek Innovation, a newly-entered AR company in Hong Kong, said that customization services for education or professional training purposes take the predominant share of the market profit. The cooperating partner including industrial giants like Chinapower, who paid for the augmented training for electrical workers, she said.

She said the reason corporations are devoted to AR is that the immersed, interactive platform could simulate

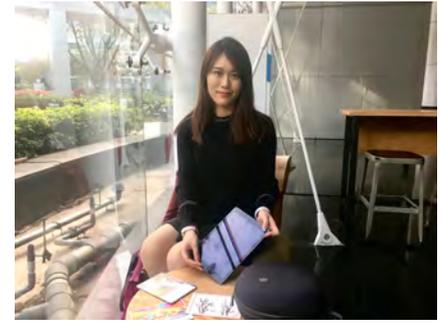


Darseek Innovation is a newly-entered Hong Kong AR enterprise, based on its service in Mainland China. (Coco Kang, the Business Development Executive of Darseek Innovation.)

the condition when bad decision is made. When the workers forgot to switch on the safety button, they will fall into a black hole suddenly. Besides the more effective stimulation, the technology decreases the logistic and timing cost in training, compared with the traditional way, she added.

Facing the heated global trend of researching augmented technology when Microsoft made a loud noise of the first holographic AR headsets, Microsoft HoloLens, and Apple is said to be developing similar projects, the Hong Kong AR outputs seems to be left behind.

A local company designed its own AR glass in 2015 and achieved the golden award of Hong Kong ICT Awards of that year while it was criticized as copycat of Google Glass on the Internet.



Charles Mok, Legislative Councillor of IT Functional constituency said that the obstacle of developing AR technology mainly lies in the inadequate specialised equipments and the unexploited application of the technique.

“The government does not put any particular efforts in promoting and adopting VR/AR in the past years,” Mok said. “It repeats the agenda like ‘supporting the university research’ but did not take the leadership to apply the technology.”

“Providing sites for scientific research is only one side of supporting, what also matters a lot in boosting a high technology is to connect it with the demand of local citizens - for instance, adopting AR in large scale in engineering works of government projects,” he said.

“The next step for AR business is transplanting the mobile applications to wearable display devices, in other words, AR headsets,” Kang said. “Once a reliable hardware is launched, the whole industry will witness a new round of eruption, which may lift the market value of AR developing in education to over \$1 million in Hong Kong,” Kang said.

“Eventually AR will serve as a mainstream media,” Lo said. “People would walk on the street with their AR glasses, look around and receive the information in a free and leisurely way.”



Charles Mok criticized government for not taking the leadership in applying AR technique in practice these years.

PEOPLE

Sugar blow your own figure

While the local craftsmanship slowly dies out, a woman still refuse to let go of sugar blowing, a part of many's childhood.

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Edited by Sean Hsu*



A "swan" that Chung made to place in front of her cart for the day.

Chung Choi Wan, 60, is one of the remaining three craftsmen in Hong Kong who knows how to blow sugar-coated figurine, also known as sugar-blown figure, classified as one of the Hong Kong's intangible cultural heritage according to the Hong Kong Intangible Cultural Heritage Database.

Making such figurine requires a high degree of patience and it is easy to fail during the making process. Until now, there isn't any license issued by the government to ensure the right of sugar-blowing hawkers, which becomes one of the potential obstacles for such craftsmanship to exist throughout the century, said Chung. Sugar-coated figurine have over 300 years of history and made of maltose that has been treated with secret formulas. Chung said that she could not reveal the special treatment for maltose as it can only pass on to her apprentice according to traditional rules. Craftsman can change maltose

into different shapes by bare hands and using simple tools like toothpicks to carve out the pattern of animal fur. Chung can make maltose into animal shapes such as dolphin and swan.

The technique of blowing a large ball shape from a droplet-like maltose is to blow it instantly when the maltose is still hot enough to change its shape. "When the maltose ball is in dumpling size, blow it slowly until it change to the size of an egg", said Chung.

"Blowing ball, laughing more" is Chung's slogan, which is also written in front of her movable cart. Spreading the joy around is why Chung starts to learn this traditional art. The colourful coatings of the figures can easily attract eyeballs. She recalled that once a four-person family visited her, one of their children play with the sugar-coated figure, the whole family share the equal happiness as much as the baby boy.

"There is much more happiness in giving than in receiving," said Chung. Chung has been doing this for 17 years which she learnt it from her uncle. In Chung's family, no one willing to inherit this craftsmanship. That makes Chung become the first female to learn the skills in her family.

Most of the sugar figures that Chung makes are free of charge, she hopes people can enjoy the happiness in her works. Chung normally station her cart in funfairs and festive event, such as the Tsing Yi Bamboo Theatre and Flower Market during Lunar New Year.

When Chung practicing and packing those candies, many fragments of sweets might drop on the floor. Those candies are sticky that if they are not removed or cleaned immediately, ants can be found at home. Chung said that her husband often mumbled as she made her flat in dirt.

After a long period of time, Chung's husband found that it is very tired for Chung to stay up whole day during event and operate the cart. Now, Chung's husband not only support her, but also help in equipment set up during events, thus, hopes to minimise Chung's burden.

"Craftsmanship like making the sugar-coated figurine, government does not show us much support and license problem is one of the major obstacles that I am facing", said Chung.

Sugar-coated figurine are not a daily necessity, instead it is a form of art or entertainment, so there should not be



A ball like feature can be created by blowing the end of the droplet-like maltose.



Hot maltose pull out from Chung's cart ready to make different sugar figures.

fixed location when talking about promoting art, Chung added. The larger the coverage and publicity, the easier to promote traditional craftsmanship.

Chung recalls the first time she sets up her cart in Cheung Chau once she knows how to make those figure. "The humid weather turns those prepared maltose into watery texture and I am not able to make any fixed shape figures," said Chung. "Kids around just keep on urging me to give them animal figures and I was totally lost at that time since Uncle So, the one who teach me such skills, was not next to me."

Chung calmed herself down, through away all those unused maltose and make everything all over again at last.

Chung gains her inspiration in daily observation. Animal figures, such as peacock and swan, taught by Uncle So, are popular among kids. Rose like candies is also one of Chung's favourite among her creations as she invented by herself.

Having a good mastery in handling maltose is not an easy job, according to Chung. It is easy to get burn, especially on hand as her

"The technique of blowing a large ball shape from a droplet-like maltose is to blow it instantly when the maltose is still hot enough to change its shape." said

skin often closely connects with high temperature during work. High-risk of getting injuries when perform this craftsmanship might hinder people's passion to learn this tradition skill.

Worried and upset by the current development of traditional Chinese craftsmanship, Chung complained that the government is not showing enough support to the sector and she suggest the government could recognized craftsmen's hard work in legal bases by issuing licenses.

Officers from the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department have once confiscated Chung's working tools, when she displays her work in the the Mong Kok Pedestrian Zone. According to Chung. "I didn't even sell my work to pedestrian on the street and just put a box in front of the cart for free donation to support my work." said Chung. She has been fined for HK\$2000 as penalty due to public space obstruction.

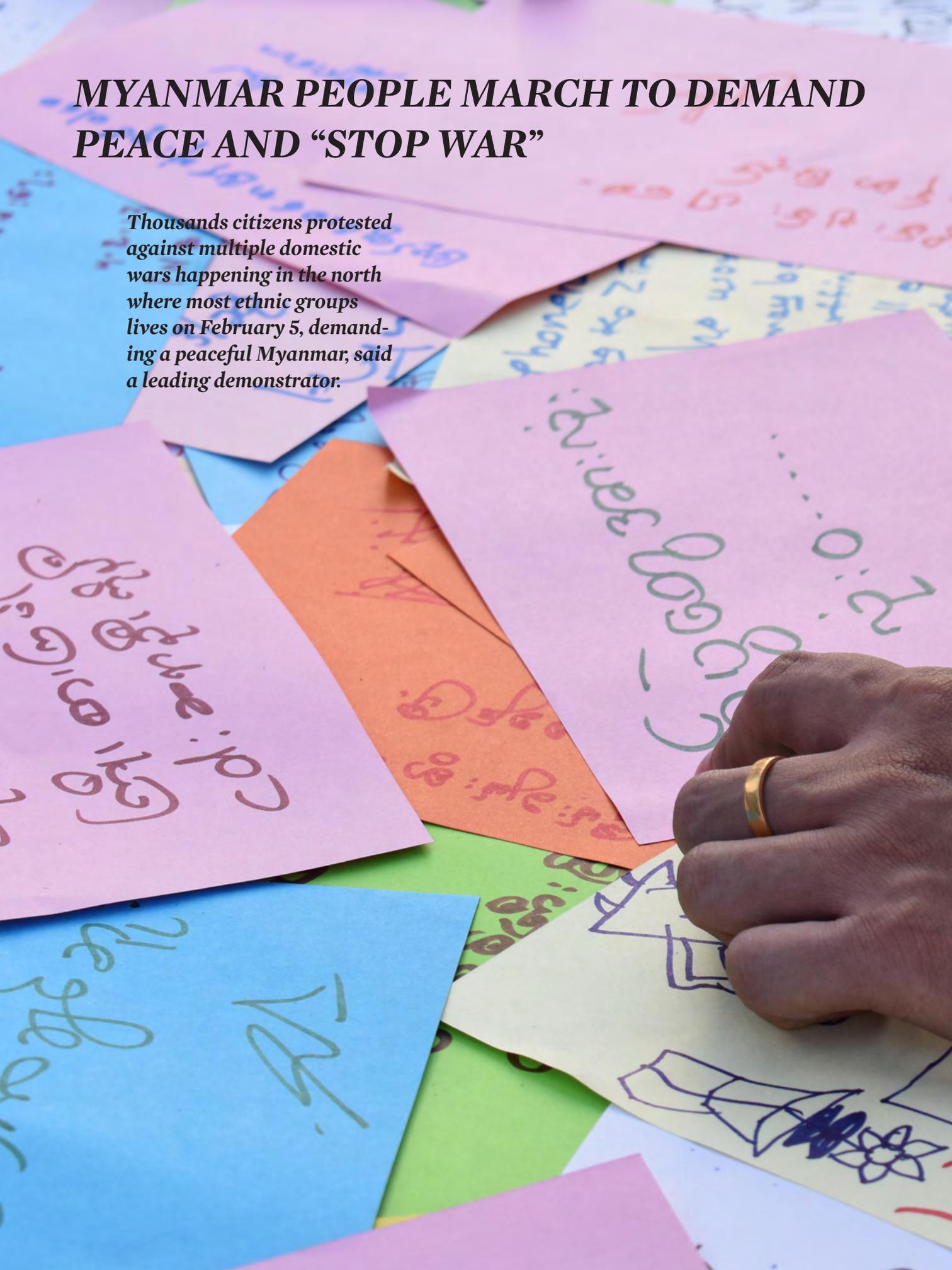
Chung hopes to find a successor who is willing to learn and not afraid of hardship so that sugar-coated figure can pass across generations.

Leung Hoi Kwok, Chung's husband, said that he is happy to see the success of Chung's craftsmanship as her hard work has been acknowledged by others. "My wife can't carry a lot so I help her carry those heavy utensils to the event venue," said Leung.

Eric Yeung, 21, was a resident living near Chung and has tried to blow a maltose ball from Chung's. He thinks that there are lots of entertainment that are much more interesting than blowing the maltose ball nowadays, although it might be one of the interesting culture in the old days. He does not really see the point of fun in it.

MYANMAR PEOPLE MARCH TO DEMAND PEACE AND “STOP WAR”

Thousands citizens protested against multiple domestic wars happening in the north where most ethnic groups lives on February 5, demanding a peaceful Myanmar, said a leading demonstrator.





Olive grasses, white ribbons and blue flags which represent peace were tied on the prop gun.

About 7,000 people marched in downtown Yangon in February, carrying toy guns and poems, to protest the long-running civil war in northern Myanmar.

The protesters marched to Maha Bandula Park and distributed leaflets, printed a poem titled “I Hate the War So Much”, expressing their discontentment with several civil wars happening in Myanmar.

Conflicts between ethnic-minority militias and government forces have been flaring high up in northern Myanmar for feuds, competition over natural resources, and demands for more autonomy, dating back to the end of the second world war and the end of British colonial rule in 1948.

Myanmese leader Aung San Suu Kyi has been trying to forge a nationwide peace agreement between all ethnic groups after years of war in Myanmar’s many border regions, but eth-

nic minorities have a deep-rooted mistrust of the central government.

Many student unions and volunteers from non-governmental organizations participated in the demonstration, which was organized via Facebook, while, dating back few years ago, Myanmar has no comprehensive internet network across its boundary.

“We come here because we want peace... My parents don’t allow me to go, but I am here. If there is a next one, I would like to join because of peace,” said Sad Un San, a 16-year old student at East Yangon University.

He said he came to the demonstration to demand peace and condemn the raging wars across Myanmar with his junior classmates who are about 15 years old.

“In our country, people are fighting for no reason”, said Hah Eie, a law student from Dagon University who

distributed food and drinks to protesters for free as a volunteer of the revolutionary movements - Food Not Bombs Myanmar, an organization that supports the petition.

Kyaw Kyaw, the Founder of Food Not Bombs Myanmar, said the plight of Myanmar is mainly caused by “racism” in which Buddhists hate Muslims, leading to endless war in this country.

Taking Wirathu, dubbed the “Burmese Bin Laden”, as an example, he is a Buddhist monk who has stoked religious hatred across Burma by warning against Muslims who “target innocent young Burmese girls and rape them”, and “indulge in cronism” on social media.

Some members walked for two hours from other cities, like Mawlamyine and Sagaing, to Maha Bandula Park in Yangon, said Khin Mg Naing, the founder of GEAR.



People protesting along Maha Bandula Road, a major road in downtown Yangon, showing solidarity against the domestic wars

International human rights scholar, Larry S. Dohrs, who is working for U.S. Campaign for Burma, came to support the demonstration and said the internal disorder between ethnic minority groups and the military in Myanmar is "serious".

There has been having devastating cruelty against Rohingya, an ethnic minority group's, children, women and men, shown in UN human rights report.

The country suffers from many internal conflicts including Kachin and Shan of north, Kayin in the midland and Tanintharyi of south, overall known as world's "longest running civil wars". According to Myanmar's government, it recognizes 135 distinct ethnic groups, identified based on their geographical location, including Burmese Chinese, Indians, Anglo-Burmese, Lisu, Rawang, Naga, Padaung, Moken, and several minorities living in Shan State.

Myanmar civil war involves several armed groups that have been fighting against the government, and sometimes against each other, for decades, according to Frontier Myanmar, an English magazine in the country.

In October 2016, three border police were attacked during security operations in Maungdaw, Rathidaung and part of the Rakhine State, the three major conflict areas in Myanmar, according to the UN.

Though State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi is the de facto leader, the military still retains control of the Home Ministry, Defense Ministry and Border Affairs Ministry, said Dohrs.

Aung San Suu Kyi led the National League for Democracy to a majority win in Myanmar's first a largely fair vote - although the Muslim Rohingya minority, who are not recognised as citizens were denied voting rights

in 25 years in November 2015. Since taking power, the NLD have faced international criticism for ignoring abuses against the Rohingya.

"I think the biggest obstacle is the military's control over the ministry. The military still controls much of the economy and certainly controls much of the politics. They designed the constitution which Aung San Suu Kyi's party rules under. They didn't design it to give power, they designed it to retain power," Dohrs added.

The government led by Aung San Suu Kyi, Myanmar State's Counselor as well as the foreign minister aims to bring peace to the country, said Uminkhin, the Secretary of the Central Economic Committee of National League for Democracy, the governing party of Myanmar.



b.



d.



a. Many university students join the petition against civil wars.

b. Protesters raising slogans in support of the halt of civil wars during the demonstration.

c. The centre of the demonstration is in Maha Bandula Park in downtown Yangon. Here is Independence Monument, in memory of the country's liberation from Britain in 1948

d. Food Not Bombs, an organization that supports the petition, delivers free food and drinks to protesters.

e. The fights between Myanmar's ethnic rebel groups and the military are considered "the world's longest running civil wars", according to international media.

f. Blue symbolises peace while red represents anger and war on the badge, said demonstrators.



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