

# We need to understand the Law



## 2010 Law Week

As socially responsible citizens, we have both the responsibility and the right to abide by, and at the same time to be protected by, the law. For this reason, The Law Society of Hong Kong is keen to educate the public about law.

Law Week has remained a flagship event for the Society for two decades. Bearing the theme "Benefit from Knowing the Law" this year's opening ceremony was held at Kwai Tsing Theatre Plaza on December 4, and was attended by The Chief Justice, The Hon Justice Ma; The Secretary for Justice, Mr Wong Yan Lung SC; Legislator Dr Hon Margaret Ng; The Chairman of the Legal Aid Services Council, Mr Paul

Chan Mo Po; and The Director of Legal Aid, Mr. William Chan Heung Ping; The Chairman of the Hong Kong Bar Association, Mr Russell Coleman SC.

During his welcoming speech, President Huen Wong emphasized that law is only a vehicle to realize justice, which is the ultimate goal for a society.

Through a list of activities such as drama, dance performance and publicity, solicitors from The Law Society of Hong Kong earnestly shared their professional knowledge and experiences with citizens who care about society.

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2010 Law Week sponsor



Legal Aid Department

## Power of dialogue: "Teen Talk" forum

Back in the golden days of ancient Greece, Athens was a center of learning where philosophers travelled from across the country to teach rhetoric, cosmology, geometry and the like. The foundation of Greek philosophy arose from such constant discussion and debate.

Moving forward, the idea of the "teach-in" was popular during the US government's involvement in Vietnam in the 1960s. This opened up spaces for university students to discuss current social issues and political affairs on campus. Today in the greater China region, some socially-conscious solicitors attempt to build a similar platform for young people to initiate reflecting discussions on topics related to public affairs and social phenomena.

Meanwhile, in Hong Kong, on November 28, The Law Society of Hong Kong organized a one-day event, "Teen Talk" at the Sunnait Hall of AsiaWorld Expo. Around 1,500 Form 4 or above students from over 50 local secondary schools showed their enthusiasm through their active participation. Joined by over 200 facilitators, who were solicitors, mediators and other volunteers, the young audience was divided into small groups of 8 to 10, to discuss some hot topics in Hong Kong. The

unparalleled scale of this student forum reflects the increasing social consciousness and self reflection of the younger generation in this day and age.

"Hong Kong youngsters are more prepared to speak up and willing to share their voices and opinions. They have their own thoughts over social issues," said Huen Wong, President of The Law Society of Hong Kong, in his opening speech. "Coming from diverse backgrounds, students nowadays have their own aspirations. Different from the young generation of the old days, they have both information and the urge to express themselves."

"Today's theme," he said, "is 'Love Oneself, Love Others.'" On top of current affairs, therefore, we also invite our students to ponder core values strictly related to themselves and their immediate environments."

To end his speech, Wong quoted the former US President John F. Kennedy at his Inaugural Address: "Ask not what your country can do for you -- ask what you can do for your country."

In the morning, the group discussed "Love Oneself," then "Love Others" in the afternoon. Each session was divided into three parts: presentation by guest speakers, group discussion, and plenary sharing.

The presentation of some of students who shared their views during their group sharing sessions indeed confirms that our future pillars have the tremendous power to contribute themselves to the Hong Kong society.

On the choice of theme, Fred Kan, Chairman of the Project Organizing Committee, commented: "Love is an universal message that

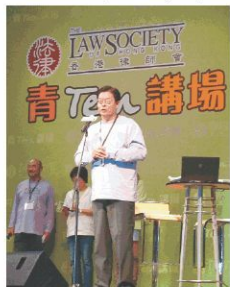


Teen Talk: the largest ever forum for Hong Kong teenagers organised by an enthusiastic group of socially conscious solicitors

binds everything together. We did not choose any law related topic so as to make our message clear. The event is not to promote law or the legal profession. Rather it is a demonstration of the love and care of the Law Society for our youth. Youth is our future. We hope by getting the participants to start thinking about the core values of their lives and the society, they may be more prepared for life."

The students from Wah Yan College (Hong Kong) were among the more active

groups. "We joined 'Teen Talk' under the strong encouragement of our principal. Public speaking and creative problem solving were some of the skills we learned on the training day. Today, our group mentor's experience sharing has expanded our horizon. Students at our school tend to be very hardworking and tend to sacrifice wellbeing sometimes. After the discussion, we know we have to take care of ourselves more. This is an expression of loving oneself as well as loving others."



Huen Wong, President of The Law Society of Hong Kong

