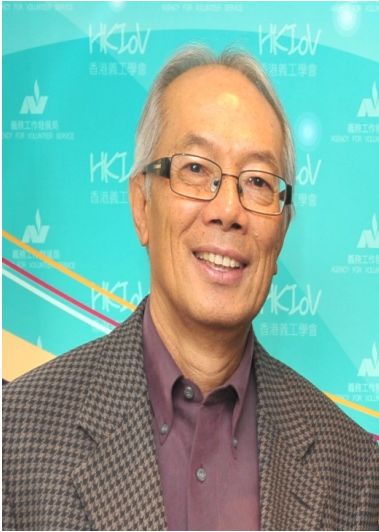


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**Closing Message**



Mr Tang Kwai-nang, BBS, JP  
Vice-chairman, Agency for Volunteer Service  
Vice-chairman, Hong Kong Institute of Volunteers

Distinguished speakers, guests, volunteers, ladies and gentlemen,

This is time to wrap up this Symposium. We have learned that Volunteering has a unique role to play in building a civil and caring society. Volunteering contributes to many areas, not just helping to reduce poverty, relief human sufferings but also, welfare, sports and recreation, environment, culture and heritage and even happy events/mega events such as the Olympics.

We have also learned the public sector and private sector, market forces have limitations in addressing these issues, which call for volunteering and social actions. On the other hand, volunteering is facing enormous constraints in terms of resources. As said, volunteering is not a free service as it requires resources for planning, design, training and coaching, coordination and management but it is certainly excellent for value. As companies put more emphasis on CSR or simply out of goodwill or to motivate employees, partnership with VIO makes a win-win situation. Partnership between corporations and VIO is in its early days, and may take different forms; direct funding, sponsorship, joint projects, training, project design, etc., and we need to keep learning. One thing is clear, free will, the core value of volunteerism, must be observed. Volunteering should not be made mandatory or pressurized, though encouraged.

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We have also learned that volunteers not only benefit other people and organizations but themselves as well. They derive sense of happiness and satisfaction. Volunteering helps self-actualization.

At AVS, we believe there are ample opportunities to enhance the quality and impact of Volunteering by adhering to its core values and standards, by sharing best practices and learning from each other. AVS also believes the identity, status of volunteers and the scope of volunteering should be expanded and recognized. That's the reason why we have launched the HKIoV and published the Volunteer Charter, which we have just come out with a smart phone application version.

Today, we are greatly honored by the CS, Mrs Carrie Lam, also the Acting CE, to officiate the launch of HKIoV and eight community leaders accepted Honorary Fellowship of Institute. This brings out an important message, i.e., Volunteering may take different forms as these leaders made outstanding contributions to the society and people while many people are not conscious they were doing all these as a Volunteer.

We are deeply thankful to the overseas speakers, who came from afar, Ms Margaret Bell and Dr Justin Davis-Smith, sharing their expertise; our local leaders, Dr John Chan, Professor Lian and Mr Shih Wing Ching sharing their wisdom, insight and personal experiences in volunteering.

We are highly appreciative of the AVS Team who worked very hard to put together this Symposium in a very short time. Last but not least, all of you for your support and encouragement and spending the afternoon of your precious time to be with us, and I hope, it has been worthwhile for you. This is only the beginning of HKIoV. The development and sustainability of HKIoV will depend on your continued support, the Volunteering Community, the Government and the private sector.

Thank you very much!