

Inauguration Ceremony

The work of UNICEF Young Envoys Club Session 2013 officially began at the Inauguration Ceremony on 10th March !

The Inauguration Ceremony was organised to mark the start of the cabinet's work and present year plan of Session 2013. We were honoured to have Ms Au King-chi, Mrs Corina Wong and Mr Maurice Leung, Council Members of Hong Kong Committee for UNICEF, together with Ms Irene Chan, the Chief Executive and Ms Kitty Chan, the Head of Advocacy and PR of UNICEF Hong Kong to attend the ceremony as guests. Pleasing attendance at the ceremony was observed with a breakthrough in the number of YEC members participating in the ceremony!



The ceremony began with Ms Au King-chi, Council Member, and chairpersons of YEC Session 2012 & 2013 giving opening remarks and insights on YEC's development. Their valuable suggestions and words of encouragement definitely fuel the cabinet's strive for proper rights protection in the community. Then, the ceremony came to a presentation session to reward participants of the YEC Theme Song Composing Project. The ceremony came to a mini-climax when Jason Yu (YE 2012) and Natalie Wan (YE 2012), winners of the Composing Project, performing their winning piece live for the audience!

Following the musical performance, the ceremony came to the climax of the day with self-introduction of Executive Committee members and presentation of year plan. This year, the Executive Committee consists of 7 members with both university and secondary school students. Working to engage club members and promote children and women rights are our focus and do expect various events to be organized in the future !

The ceremony eventually came to an end with members of the YEC commenting on the work of YEC and oath-taking by the Executive Committee. Although the Inauguration Ceremony lasted no more than two hours, yet the motivating attendance, encouraging messages and pleasing smiles we received from all guests and YEC members are all impressive supports to our goal of perfecting the work of YEC.

YEC is ready ! Let's join hands to achieve the goal of zero suffering for children !

Member's Story: Steven Lam (YE 05)

Do you remember your YE experience? Do you remember your field trip visit? Why did you join the YE programme? Longing to learn more about children rights? Or to learn more about the situation of children in developing countries?

We are delighted to interview Steven Lam, a Young Envoy of year 2005. Throughout this interview, we've gone through Steven's past to understand more about the YE programme in his year and to see how his experience deeply affects his work now.

Steven in 2005

Steven has definitely found his YE experience a rewarding one. Compared with the other participants, Steven, who was in form 6 in 2005, was a big-brother. Different leadership training activities have improved his communication skills. At the beginning, Steven found it difficult to work with the younger YEs because of his age difference. However, afterwards, he started to change. He began to integrate himself with the younger envoys, yet when they were required to be serious, he would remind his groupmates, which brings him into a big-brother play.



In 2005, Steven was chosen from the 100 participants to attend an overseas field trip. Without any hesitation, he chose the one to Shaanxi. He said, 'At that time, Shaanxi was very poor. People there had to walk 30 minutes or more to visit the local clinic. Although the clinic was pretty small in size, it was very important to the local people.'

Steven had a very different understanding about livelihood of people outside HK before he visited Shaanxi. He joked that he was merely a "frog in a well" who knew little about the world before the trip, thinking that lots of people share his well-off lifestyle. He said, 'After the field trip, my scope of world has been widened and I have grown matured. Looking back, I really find myself ridiculous in the thoughts.'



Steven in 2013 ---- Dream on in your daily life

Steven suggested us to memorize clearly the experiences of every activity we joined, especially the words you heard and the thing you learnt in the field trip. He said, 'When you grow up, you have to understand that your ability to help the needy will grow too. Although we may not have the financial capital to help them, we can still contribute through other means.'

Although Steven enjoys his work, the things he learnt in the field trip will never be forgotten. After graduating from the University of California Berkeley, where he majored in Business Administration-Global Management, he has established a company. The company plans corporate social responsibility scheme for corporations, and it aims at helping the needy and NGOs using the surplus of the corporations. The company also gains appreciation and support from Angel Investor, which helped building a foundation for the company's future.

Steven said, 'Teenagers should consider how to use their career to serve the society. Although merging the elements of business and charity is difficult, you can still overcome such obstacles when you spend more time to think.' At the same time, Steven believes that corporate social responsibility scheme should be recommended because it guides you to do meaningful work. During the establishment of the company, he didn't forget to spend some time serving the society. Every experience enriches his learning and he understands more about the needs of different people. He also gained satisfaction from his service, which then generates willpower for his work.

When we grow up, we will easily forget dreams we had in our childhood because of all sorts of reasons, such as academic and work. UNICEF Young Envoys Programme allows dreams to come true. Through leadership trainings, we know how to get along with different people. Through community services, we understand the needs of the society. Through observations, we understand happiness can be very simple with just a pen and a book. Do you still remember the caring heart you had? Do you still recall how simple being happy is? Do you remember?