



香港青年獎勵計劃

THE HONG KONG AWARD FOR YOUNG PEOPLE



For immediate release

Hong Kong Youth Celebrated at Government House Gold Ceremony for being #WORLDREADY

Hong Kong, 30/11/2018 - *The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award* known in Hong Kong as *The Hong Kong Award for Young People* is hosting its annual Gold Award ceremony at the Government House on Monday, 3rd of December 2018, to honour 86 young people with the prestigious Gold Award and Certificate of Recognition in the presence of the Chief Executive of HKSAR.

The ceremony is taking place one month after the launch of *The Hong Kong Award for Young People* #WORLDREADY campaign, which promotes the inspirational activities of young Award participants in Hong Kong and all over the world.

The campaign also brings to light the sometimes overlooked perspectives of more than 10,000 young people from 130+ countries and territories. In a series of global surveys¹ *The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award* found a staggering 82% of young people felt pressured to strive for perfection.

In Hong Kong, this result resonates with the "hidden youth" phenomenon. Also known as *Hikikomori*, this term refers to a generation of young people who aren't in education or employment, and isolate themselves from friends and family, feeling demoralised by the challenges today's world presents.

Karsten Lee, a Gold Award Holder of 2018 and former *Hikikomori* youth, speaks about her life changing experience through the Award:

"After not doing very well in my public exams, I had been hiding at home for three years, without going to school or finding a job.

One day I thought of the Silver Award I did during my high school years, those were such happy memories. So, I decided it was time for me to step out of my home and get my Gold Award.

With the support of the Award team, I made unbelievable progress. I learnt Spanish and went to Spain for an internship programme. Although I got a sunburn from camping and canoeing, I survived my 7-day Korea exchange programme! The Award has brought great changes to my life. And although the process was tough and there were many challenges, I knew that I could do it and I did not want to give up on myself again! I wanted to take on this challenge!

¹ Survey of 7,681 13-25 year olds, through U-Report, September 2018. U-Report is a free social messaging tool which enables 13-25 year olds globally to speak out on development issues, support child rights and help to improve their communities. www.ureport.in. Survey of 3,487 16-25 year olds and 1,825 adults (25+), July – September 2018. In partnership with The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award family around the world.



香港青年獎勵計劃

THE HONG KONG AWARD FOR YOUNG PEOPLE



The Award made me step out of my comfort zone after not doing anything for 3 years. I have finally discovered the real me and I am very proud of who I have become! Having achieved the Gold Award, I recognise what I have done, what I can be, and what I will do."

The Award helps young people to combat these issues by challenging them through a variety of self-identified activities that forge practical life skills such as resilience, confidence, adaptability and communication, preparing them for the world of today and tomorrow.

Expanding the learning experience outside traditional classroom education gives young people the opportunity to feel valued and explore their full potential in a supportive environment.

Joyce Chan, CEO of *The Hong Kong Award for Young People*, encourages young people from Hong Kong to come out of their shell and become world ready by joining the Award and finding their purpose, passion and place in the world:

"It doesn't matter where you are or how many years you've been hiding, the Award is accessible to every young person and welcomes them to make positive life changes. Together we can make it!"

Remarkable young people such as Karsten are happy to share their experiences and are available for interview upon request.

###

For more information please visit: <http://www.ayp.org.hk/ch/home.php> or www.worldready.org.

Contact:

The Hong Kong Award for Young People
Ms. Esther YAU
Event Management Officer
Email: estheryau@ayp.org.hk
Contact number: (852) 2157 8630

Notes to Editors

- The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award is a global, non-formal education framework which challenges young people to develop new skills, get physically active, learn about teamwork and leadership through adventurous journey and volunteer within their community.
- The #WORLDREADY campaign is a global effort amongst the Award family, to showcase the inspirational activities of young Award participants around the world and how, through the development of skills such as resilience, confidence, adaptability and communication, young people can be ready to take on the world of today and tomorrow.



香港青年獎勵計劃

THE HONG KONG AWARD FOR YOUNG PEOPLE



- The #WORLDREADY global launch video can be viewed [here](#).
- There are currently 1.3 million young people completing their own unique Award programme, via hundreds of thousands of youth-focused partners and operators - including schools, youth organisations, examination boards and youth offender institutions.
- Since its launch over 60 years ago, millions of young people have participated and received Awards, with millions more benefitting from its impact in communities around the world.
- Both national and international case studies, imagery and additional video content are available on request.

The International Award in Hong Kong:

- In 1956, HRH Prince Philip established The Duke of Edinburgh's Award. Mr. George Stokes brought it to Hong Kong in 1961.
- It gives young people aged between 14 and 24, whether able-bodied or with special needs, an opportunity to experience challenge and adventure, acquire new skills and make new friends. It fosters self-discipline, enterprise and perseverance.
- There are currently 45,000 young people doing the Award in Hong Kong and 2,000 volunteers.
- There are three levels of Award: Bronze, Silver and Gold, each has an increasing degree of commitment.
- To gain any of these levels, each young entrant must complete four Sections: Expeditions; Skills; Physical Recreation and Service. For Gold, participants must also complete a Residential Project, for at least five days.
- The Award Council licenses organizations to run the Scheme as Operating Authorities. Currently, we have over 700 User Units, including youth organizations, government departments, uniform groups, schools and special schools.