



For Immediate Release
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Citi Sponsored NGO Internship Strengthens Link between Business and Community

Hong Kong – For the seventh year running, the Citi-HKCSS Community Intern Program (CIP) marked its successful completion with a recognition ceremony for the 79 business students from nine local universities who took part in this year's program.

Between July and August, the students were interns with 40 NGOs (non-governmental organizations) in Hong Kong, serving various groups including low-income, elderly, young people and persons with disabilities as well as helping in environmental conservation.

Officiating the ceremony were Dr. Law Chi Kwong, GBS, JP, Secretary for Labour and Welfare, Hong Kong SAR Government; Mr. Weber Lo, Citi Country Officer and CEO for Hong Kong and Macau and Mr. Chua Hoi Wai, Chief Executive of The Hong Kong Council of Social Service.

Sponsored and organised by Citi and co-organized by The Hong Kong Council of Social Service (HKCSS), the program is a pioneering cross-sector collaboration between academia, business and non-profit sectors which offers unique opportunities for students majoring in business studies to become interns with local NGOs. It also aims at inspiring students to contribute their knowledge and expertise to the NGOs to help these organizations build capacity. In addition, it cultivates the concept of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) among the students and provides them with a broader understanding of the community.

The Grand Award for Excellence to recognize their outstanding performances as interns was presented to four students: Chan Ching To of the University of Hong Kong, Wong Man Ching of Shue Yan University, Ho Sin Tung of City University of Hong Kong and Lee Tsz Lam of Chinese University of Hong Kong.

Speaking at the ceremony, Mr. Lo said: “Young people are our future, leading Hong Kong to become a better place in which to live and work. There is a growing importance in empowering our future leaders with the concept of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) and a broadened understanding of the community and social needs. I hope the students will treasure this valuable learning experience and insights gained in the internships and will carry on the concept of CSR wherever their careers take them.”

Mr Chua said, "CIP is not only popular among social service agencies, but also a precious platform for business students to apply their business knowledge and skills to support social organisations. This unique tri-sector collaboration pulls the energy and wisdom of different parties together to serve our community. This year, over 90% NGOs agreed that the interns had contributed to their service development, marketing and branding.”



The interns worked in pairs to use their business knowledge to assist their assigned NGOs in various projects including event management, social media development, brand-building, operations and social service. The students participated in 20 hours of in-depth skills training to enrich their knowledge of pressing community issues such as the poverty gap, an aging population and environmental conservation. The training comprised seminars on CSR and cross-sector partnerships, visits to non-profit and social enterprises as well as opportunities to interact with various underprivileged groups. Since the program's inception in 2010, around 500 university students have benefited from the experience.

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About Citi

Citi, the leading global bank, has approximately 200 million customer accounts and does business in more than 160 countries and jurisdictions. Citi provides consumers, corporations, governments and institutions with a broad range of financial products and services, including consumer banking and credit, corporate and investment banking, securities brokerage, transaction services, and wealth management.

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About HKCSS

The HKCSS is an umbrella organisation of 460 agency members that provide over 90% of the social welfare services in Hong Kong. HKCSS launched the Caring Company Scheme in 2002 to build a cohesive society by promoting strategic partnership among business and social service partners and inspiring corporate social responsibility through caring for the community, employees and the environment. HKCSS puts much effort in building capacity for social enterprises through the Social Enterprise Business Centre (SEBC) to advance social entrepreneurship and mobilize social innovation.

Additional information may be found at www.hkcss.org.hk | Facebook: www.facebook.com/hkcssfans