

Child Development Fund

Kick-off cum Certificate Presentation Ceremony 2017



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experience with mentees

Child Development Fund 兒童發展基金

Certificate Presentation Ceremony
啟動禮暨頒獎典禮 2017



The Child Development Fund Kick-off cum Certificate Presentation Ceremony 2017

Witnessing project achievements together

The Labour and Welfare Bureau (LWB) held the Child Development Fund (CDF) Kick-off cum Certificate Presentation Ceremony 2017 at the Conference Hall of the Central Government Offices (CGO) on 24 September 2017. The ceremony bore witness to the achievements of CDF projects, including the first-ever batch of school-based projects launched in 2014 and the fourth batch of projects operated by non-governmental organisations (NGOs) during the same period. It also marked the launch of 51 new projects, benefitting more underprivileged children.

Officiating guests at the ceremony included Dr LAW Chi-kwong, Secretary for Labour and Welfare, Ms CHANG King-yiu, Permanent Secretary for Labour and Welfare cum Chairman of the Steering Committee on the CDF, and members of the Steering Committee on the CDF. Special guests from the Legislative Council, including the Hon Michael TIEN Puk-sun, the Hon SHIU Ka-chun and the Hon YUNG Hoi-yan, were also present at the ceremony to show their support for the graduates.

"Space Exploration" was the theme of the ceremony, symbolising that graduates should, like astronauts, remain positive and hopeful in their life journey to explore the unknown, strive for excellence and pursue greater achievements.



Speaking at the ceremony, Dr LAW Chi-kwong indicated that the LWB had commissioned the University of Hong Kong to conduct an evaluation study, which confirmed that CDF projects had effectively enhanced underprivileged children's ability in resources management and future planning, expanded their personal networks and helped them develop a persistent saving habit. These benefits are important for their academic and future career development.



Graduates receiving certificates of recognition.



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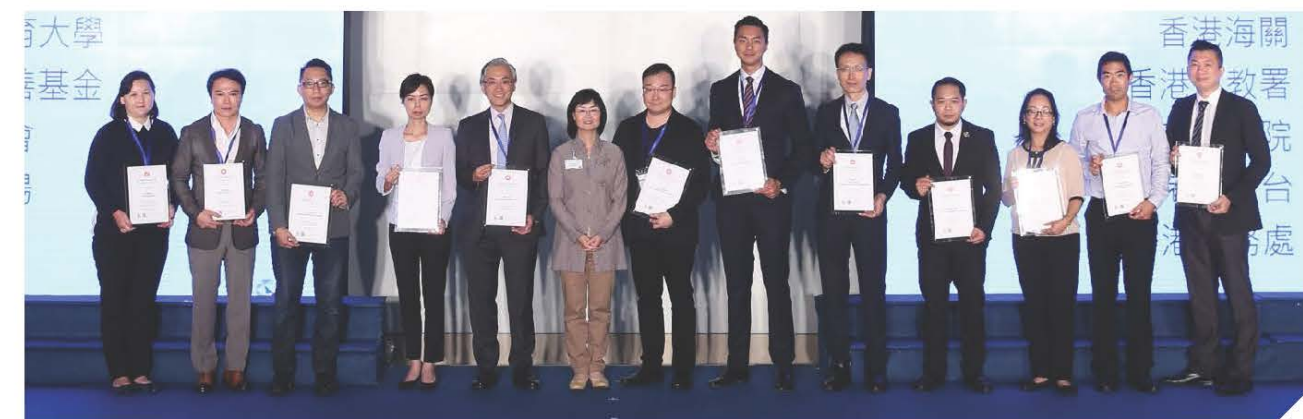
Receiving staunch support from various sectors of the community

Thanks to the support of many enthusiastic enterprises and organisations, project participants were able to realise their dreams. Over 70 enterprises and organisations were presented with certificates at the ceremony in recognition of their all-out efforts to promote the development of children. They came from different sectors of the community, including government departments, international enterprises, professional bodies, churches, the school sector, chambers of commerce, small and medium-sized enterprises and charity funds.

In collaboration with the LWB and project operators, these enterprises and organisations provided matching donations, mentors and value-added activities for project participants to enrich their experience and broaden their horizons, thereby helping them pursue their dreams through these projects.



Ms CHANG King-yiu (left) presenting certificates of recognition to the strategic partners of the CDF, i.e. the Child Development Matching Fund and the Lions Clubs International District 303 - Hong Kong and Macau, China. The two organisations have been providing matching donations and mentor support for CDF projects since the establishment of the CDF.



Group photo of the representatives of supporting organisations after the presentation of certificates.





Unleashing participants' potential

Graduates attending the ceremony sing "We Almost Fly" together on the stage, a moment which will become one of their lasting memories.

C Capability
Accumulating assets and enhancing capability

D Direction
Laying out long-term vision

F Future
Your future is in your hands

The first batch of seven school-based pilot projects launched in 2014 were completed, together with the 21 projects run by NGOs during the same period, bringing the number of graduates to more than 2,600 in this round. These graduates had achieved the two-year targeted savings and were given one-to-one matching donations and financial incentives by private enterprises and the Government. In addition, they put into action the goals they had set in their Personal Development Plan.

Graduates who attended the ceremony had all enhanced their personal abilities and self-confidence after participating in CDF projects for three years. Hence, they were specially invited to act as CDF ambassadors for the ceremony to receive guests and take up different positions on stage or behind the scenes. This not only showed that CDF projects had offered the participants the opportunities for learning and growth and enabled them to make a significant step towards their aspirations, but also proved the positive effects of the collaboration among the community, the business sector and the Government on the participants' long-term development.

Project participants would like to share their thoughts after the ceremony.

CHENG Lik-wai | Guest emcee

Baptist Oi Kwan Social Service
(Kowloon City & Yau Tsim Mong)

It meant a lot to me for being able to act as the guest emcee for a major event at the CGO. I felt really nervous the moment I stepped onto the stage. Fortunately, with the assistance of a professional emcee, the whole process was completed smoothly. I am generally satisfied with my performance and have found great satisfaction in the job. It is absolutely an unforgettable experience.



CHEUNG Tsz-kit | Band performance

Hong Kong Children & Youth Services (Tai Po & North District)

As the band performance involved the use of four types of musical instruments, together with the fact that the musical skills of my band members varied, I, being the band's chief conductor, encountered huge challenges in music arrangement. I learnt that I had to accept different views, and needed more patience and greater tolerance when communicating with younger band members, so as to give them confidence and boost our team spirit.

Dream Chaser (《追夢人》) is the first song I have ever composed with lyrics also written by me. I hope to encourage young people to chase their dreams bravely. To me, it is definitely a dream that has come true for being able to play my song on the stage. At the same time, it is also an eye-opening experience to witness the achievements made by participants from other organisations in chasing their dreams.



TAM Kwong-san | Taekwondo and Nunchaku performances

Caritas-Hong Kong (Hong Kong Island)

My taekwondo and nunchaku performances this time were more challenging than my previous performances as I had to synchronise my bodily movements with the strong beats of music. Nevertheless, rehearsals helped me gradually build up my confidence. I would like to give my heartfelt thanks to my parents and mentor for giving me continuous support and encouragement, and sparing time to participate in the rehearsals with me. I hoped that they would be proud of me when they watched my stage performance.



LAM Hin-yu | Magic performance

The Boys' & Girls' Clubs Association of Hong Kong (Kwun Tong)

I encountered many difficulties when choosing the magic trick that I was going to perform. My first consideration was the time limit for my performance, and the second was what should be used as the magic props. Although I had placed an order several months before the ceremony, the props I needed were already out of stock. Fortunately, with the assistance of social workers and the LWB, I finally decided to do the "Changing-colour Rose" magic show, in which I would turn a black rose into red. This symbolised that project participants who persistently pursued their dreams could add brilliant colours to their lives. Performing magic before an audience of hundreds of people was really an invaluable experience. In the future, I will continue to learn magic and seek more performance opportunities. I will strive hard to achieve my dream.





Shristi Gurung | Nepali traditional dance performance

Islamic Kasim Tuet Memorial College

It was a rare honour for me and my sister to perform traditional Nepali dance at the CDF Ceremony. It also gave us a good opportunity to show Hong Kong audience our cultural heritage.

Unfortunately I had a surgery right before the Ceremony which left me unable to move freely. While I felt really sad about it, I was mostly thankful that my sister ended up joining me in this dance and helping me out.

I lack many things and confidence is the one thing I lack more than anything. I have never been confident when dancing in front of others. I am really grateful for this experience as it has certainly boosted my confidence.



CHEN Wenjing | CDF Ambassador

SKH All Saints' Middle School

At the ceremony, I was responsible for receiving the officiating guests. There, I happened to meet Ms Karin ANN, a member of the Steering Committee on the CDF. During our conversation, I found that she engaged in education work. It was a pleasant surprise to me as I was studying a course in early childhood education. Ms ANN shared with me the Montessori teaching method and encouraged me to keep up my enthusiasm to become a kindergarten teacher. I felt very encouraged at once. She also invited me for a photo with her. The brief encounter with Ms ANN was truly rewarding.



LAI Sin-wan | Singing and beatbox performances

Christian Action (Kwun Tong)

My voice got hoarse after a minor operation one week before the event. My rehearsal performance was therefore not satisfactory, which made me feel upset. One day before my performance, I went to the Conference Hall of the CGO. When I stepped into the hall, I was really astonished to see that a professional stage was set up with sound equipment. This made me determine to do my best and not to disappoint anyone. As my younger brother would do beatbox to produce rhythm and musical sounds for my singing performance, we had to work in sync with each other. During practice, we went into every detail to make things better, which unavoidably led to arguments. Nonetheless, we gradually learned how to tolerate each other and compromise. All we wanted to do was to bring to the audience our best performance. After the show, the bond between my younger brother and me has been strengthened. It is absolutely an unexpected bonus to us.



CHAM Sheung-yui | Photographer

Lok Kwan Social Service (Wong Tai Sin)

I bought a camera and took courses in photography with my targeted savings. Previously, I only took photos for my friends and family, and had never applied the skills I acquired in a formal event. This time, I felt honoured to be nominated for joining this major event as a photographer. I am really proud of myself for being able to take photos for the guests and participants there, while making precious snapshots for the ceremony. I am also grateful to my mentor, who was there to give me continuous encouragement and strengthen my confidence in actively taking photos for different guests. I hope that there will be more opportunities for me to give full play to my skills in the future.



CHAN Ting-ting | Singing performance

SKH All Saints' Middle School

When I was told to lead a group of nearly 100 participants to sing in a major event, I was very nervous. A social worker arranged more practice chances for me to sing at the covered playground after school with the aid of an amplifier, which made me feel as if I were singing in a mini-concert. As a result, I did build up greater courage and confidence to sing.

Apart from singing, it is also my dream to become a fashion designer. I have never thought that I could have an opportunity to display my designing potential in this event. I was allowed to incorporate my design into the official T-shirt for the event. I am grateful to my visual arts teacher for having been there with me and giving me guidance on design and cutting while I was beating deadline. I am very satisfied with the finished work.



LEUNG Tsz-tung | Make-up artist

Tung Wah Group of Hospitals (Tuen Mun)

I was responsible for doing make-up for the performers. At first I thought I should only be concerned about the make-up technique, overall styling and complexion, but it turned out that time management and allocation were the greatest challenges. I was required to do make-up for a total of four performers within just an hour or so. While I was doing make-up for a performer, he was suddenly urged to go on stage for rehearsal. This made me feel nervous and everything was in chaos. From this experience, I deeply realise the importance of the ability to respond to changes. Previously, I had also served as a voluntary make-up artist in other events. But I rarely had an opportunity to do make-up for men. This event indeed gave me a good chance for a try. Looking at the beaming faces of all the performers on the stage, I knew that I had chosen the right make-up for them. I was also satisfied with my performance.



Outstanding mentors sharing life experience with mentees

Mentorship is one of the components of CDF projects. Volunteer mentors are deployed to serve as participants' life guides for three years. Through interaction across social strata and age groups, mentorship enables participants to develop a positive attitude and set off for their goals as early as possible by learning from the life experience of their mentors.

In the completed projects of this round, nearly 1,700 volunteer mentors participated in the mentorship programme. Nominated by mentees and endorsed by project operators, 30 mentors received the Outstanding Mentor Awards at the ceremony in recognition of their selfless contribution to the work of shaping the lives of our next generation. They have not only set a role model for the social services sector, but also made their mentees feel the care and love in the community.

What they say ...



Participant NG Chui-yi thanked Ms IP Chi-fun, the outstanding mentor (right) for having been there for her through thick and thin.

Winner of the Outstanding Mentor Award: Ms IP Chi-fun

Project participant: NG Chui-yi
Project operator: SKH All Saints' Middle School

A retired teacher taking up the role of mentor to provide guidance for students and help them go through ups and downs

At the ceremony, NG Chui-yi was the first project participant to express her gratitude to her mentor on the stage. She recalled that there was a mishap in her family a year ago. After knowing what happened, Ms IP immediately went to stay with her until very late that night. This moved her very much.

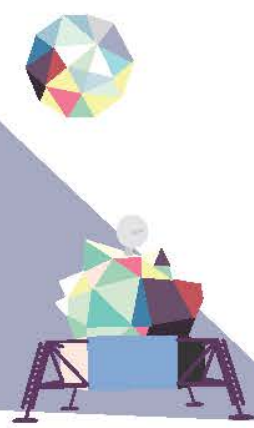
What does Ms IP think about this mentor-mentee relationship?

With the encouragement of her former colleagues, Ms IP, a retired teacher from the SKH All Saints' Middle School, took up the meaningful role of mentor three years ago and continued to dedicate herself to youth activities in a different capacity. Ms IP said that "teachers" and "mentors" were like teammates working together in nurturing the growth of students. "Teachers have a specific role to play and they have to teach students according to syllabus to enrich students' knowledge, whereas mentors are responsible for providing companionship and guidance for students during their growth. Complementing each other, teachers and mentors can exert positive influences on students," she explained.

In order to become an outstanding mentor, Ms IP must have devoted much time and effort to this cause. But to her, it can also be rewarding to serve as a mentor.

She chuckled that she would get infected by Chui-yi's youthful radiance every time when they met. She also thought that retirement was not the end of life journey. "After becoming Chui-yi's mentor, not only could I use my teaching experience to guide her in her studies and career development, I could also take this opportunity to learn a lot of new things from her. For example, I did not speak Putonghua previously and it was her who taught me Pinyin!"

Although the project has been completed, they are still in touch with each other. "Both of us treasure our friendship and enjoy the moments of hanging around, dining and chatting together. I deeply believe that our friendship will go on even with the passage of time," said Ms IP.



Ms SIN Yuk-wah, the outstanding mentor (centre) has become the role model for participants SHEK Sau-lai (left) and CHUI Lok-yi (right).

Winner of the Outstanding Mentor Award: Ms SIN Yuk-wah

Project participants: SHEK Sau-lai and CHUI Lok-yi
Project operator: The Neighbourhood Advice-Action Council (Tai Po and North District)

Sharing personal growth experience to change participants' values: personal character comes first

Ms SIN Yuk-wah, another outstanding mentor, once used a basketball game as a metaphor to explain to her mentees that a person's character was more important than his/her academic results. She believed that if one team was losing in the first round of a basketball game, there were still chances for them to catch up in the second, third and fourth rounds. However, if players of that team fouled and were sent off, then they would lose all the chances to hit back. The metaphor was simple but, to Ms SIN's surprise, its effect was far-reaching.

"I have never thought that they would remember my words by heart and share them with others at the ceremony. These are actually the experiences I have learnt after joining the workforce. In recruiting employees, employers might perhaps first consider the personal experience and achievements of candidates, but in the long run, they will give more weight to their employees' working attitude and character," she remarked.

Although Ms SIN had been participating in voluntary work for many years, it was the first time for her to serve as a mentor. She frankly admitted that she had been hesitant about the "three-year" commitment. She said, "I share the visions of the CDF. If I take up the responsibilities of a mentor, I will require myself to at least maintain regular contacts with my mentees. I don't want to quit because of any improper arrangements on my part, for this will have a bad impact on my mentees."

Time flies and Ms SIN has already completed her three years' service. She shared that she had built a very strong relationship with two mentees, a relationship which needed not be deliberately forged as she had originally thought. Her greatest gain in serving as a mentor was that now she could be sure about her capabilities and values in certain aspects. She explained, "It is easier for me to understand how my mentees feel, possibly because I have a similar growing experience. When I was with them, I felt like I was reliving my past. But one thing is definitely different: I now have a better understanding of my thoughts and standpoints."

Every end is a new beginning. Ms SIN plans to serve as a mentor again for the participants of a new batch of projects. For those who are interested in becoming mentors, Ms SIN offers the following advice: "Anybody can be a mentor, as long as he or she is not afraid of being rejected at the beginning, and is willing to care for their mentees' well-being and needs, sincerely communicate with them, and work out a timetable that suits both sides."



Participant LAI Pui-hing gets along well with Ms KWONG Yuk-ping, the outstanding mentor (left) whom LAI regards as her sister.

Winner of the Outstanding Mentor Award: Ms KWONG Yuk-ping

Project participant: LAI Pui-hing
Project operator: The Urban Peacemaker Evangelistic Fellowship (Tsuen Wan & Kwai Tsing)

Helping a depressed participant through difficult times

Choking with sobs at the ceremony, participant LAI Pui-hing said that she suffered from depression during the project period. Fortunately, Ms KWONG Yuk-ping (outstanding mentor) stood by her and gave her support and encouragement all along. Pui-hing ended by saying "I love you" to her mentor, which greatly impressed the attendees.

The mentor and mentee hit it off when they met for the first time. "We share common interests and beliefs and thus we feel particularly close to each other. When she was in trouble, she would tell me and we would work it out together. Similarly, I would also tell her mine. No matter what problems we had come across, we would face them together and give support to each other," said Ms KWONG.

When mentioning Pui-hing's admission to hospital, Ms KWONG recalled that she was at the office when Pui-hing called to tell her the news. She felt very sorry for her. She said, "Pui-hing has been working so hard to make her dream come true, but unfortunately she was hit by such a heavy blow at that moment."

With the support from those beside her, Pui-hing eventually chose to face her problem with a positive attitude and was determined to finish her studies. Ms KWONG said, "Her perseverance not only gave me motivation, but also reinforced my confidence to continue to move on together with her. While noting her growth over the past three years, I think I have enhanced myself too."

Ms KWONG once doubted if she was capable of leading her mentee to develop her potential as it was not easy to insist on doing so for three years. "Looking back, I now have come to realise that what she needs most is the company and support of her mentor. Over the past three years, I have been filled with gratitude."

"Although the three-year project will come to an end, our relationship will last forever," Ms KWONG concluded.



51 new projects rolled out across the territory to benefit over 4,000 underprivileged children

The ceremony also marked the launch of 51 new projects, of which 24 were school-based projects in the third and fourth batches operated by 29 schools, and the remaining 27 were projects in the sixth batch run by 22 NGOs. More than 4,000 underprivileged children would be benefitted from these projects.

With an injection of another \$300 million into the CDF as announced by the SAR Government in the 2017 Policy Address, it is expected that the additional number of children to be benefitted will be about 9,000.

Since its establishment in 2008, the CDF has implemented a total of 156 three-year projects. Each project comprises three key components, namely "Personal Development Plan", "Target Savings" and "Mentorship". A total of 75 NGOs and schools have joined as project operators. More than 14,000 children, including those from ethnic minorities, with disabilities and living in cubicle apartments, were given the opportunities to realise their dreams through CDF projects.

The successful "launch" of the CDF rocket symbolised the official roll-out of 51 new projects across the territory.



Group photo of the guests and members of the Steering Committee on the CDF.



Group photo of the representatives of the first batch of school-based projects and the fourth batch of NGO-run projects.



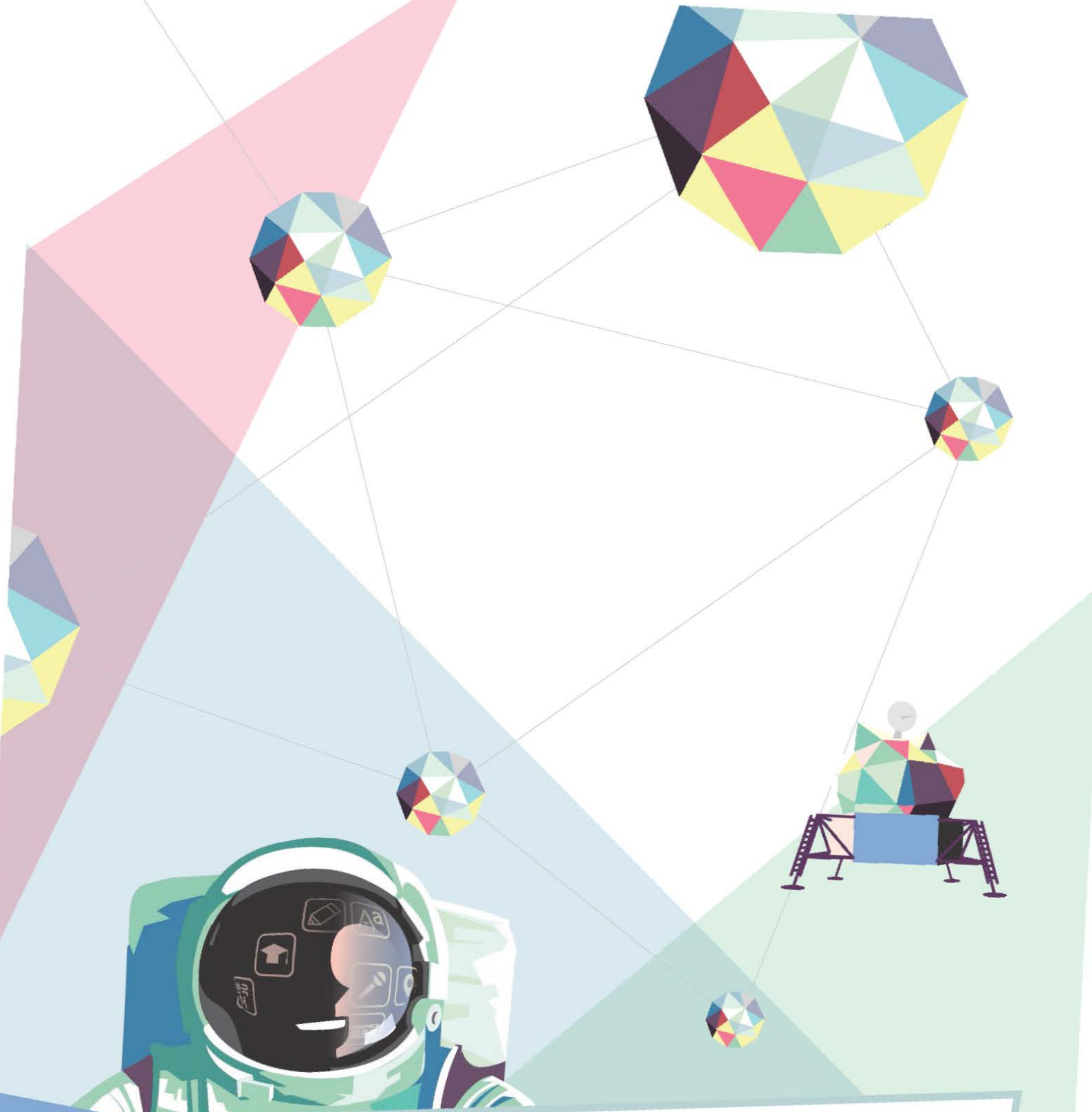
Group photo of the representatives of the third and fourth batches of school-based projects.



Group photo of the representatives of the sixth batch of NGO-run projects.



For more information about the Child Development Fund Kick-off cum Certificate Presentation Ceremony 2017, please visit CDF website.



You are welcome to show your support for children by contributing in the following ways:

- **Being a mentor:** serving as participants' life guide for three years to directly help them lead a positive life.
- **Providing matching donations:** providing matching donations for targeted savings as a corporate or private donor.
- **Arranging activities:** co-organising activities with the LWB to provide opportunities for participants to gain new experience, learn new knowledge or understand the operation of different trades.



Published by Labour and Welfare Bureau's Child Development Fund | Telephone: 3655 4402
Fax: 2523 1973 | Email: cdf_newsletter@lwb.gov.hk | Website: www.cdf.gov.hk

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