



東華三院

Tung Wah Group of Hospitals

新聞稿

Press Release

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Tung Wah Group of Hospitals Student Ambassador London Delegation

A delegation of student ambassadors from Tung Wah Group of Hospitals (TWGHs), Hong Kong's century-old charitable organization, visited London to meet with local Chinese, get to know British society and learn more about the life of local Chinese people.

As the first charitable organization in Hong Kong, TWGHs has since its establishment served Hong Kong and the Chinese community with a mission "To Heal the Sick and To Relieve the Distressed, To Care for the Elderly and To Rehabilitate the Disabled, To Promote Education and To Nurture The Youngsters, and To Raise the Infants and To Guide The Youth". After more than a century of growth, the Group keeps pace with times to offer medical, education and social services. Education is one of its primary focuses with scope spanning tertiary education, secondary schools, primary schools, kindergartens and special schools. Capitalizing on the latest global social development trends, the Group integrates studying and travel by arranging trips outside Hong Kong for its students so they can learn about different cultures and broaden their horizon through firsthand observation and experience.

This Delegation to London was comprised of 22 student ambassadors who are all Form 5 students from TWGHs' 18 secondary schools. Led by Mrs Katherine MA, TWGHs' Chairman cum Honorary Supervisor, the Delegation visited London from 29 October to 5 November. The tour aims to look into British economy, life and culture, and learn about the experiences of Chinese people living in the UK. This year marks the 150th anniversary of the birth of Dr Sun Yat-sen. To commemorate the anniversary, TWGHs organized a High-Speed Rail Tour in China last July, where more than 70 secondary students visited Shanghai, Nanjing, and other places in East China to learn about Dr Sun's achievements and aspirations. Dr Sun lived in London temporarily in his early years, as a continuation of the Shanghai trip, the Delegation will take this opportunity to follow his footprints in London, understand his experience, as well as his determination and ambition in building modern China.

During the 8-day tour, the students visited the Chinese Embassy, British Museum and Dr Sun's old residence in London to feel the spirit and affection of Dr. Sun to modern China even at difficult situation. Visits to the British Parliament, Victoria and Albert Museum, University of Cambridge and University College London were arranged for the students to allow them experience British culture. They also watched musical, which was an important facet of the country's culture. To understand the life of Chinese living abroad and learn about Chinese culture from a different perspective, student ambassadors visited local Chinese community organization to hear about the past experiences of Chinese immigrants, how they have integrated into British society and passed on Chinese culture to the next generation. The students were given the chance to

interview Lord Wilson of Tillyorn and to look at characteristics of Chinese culture from the Western perspective. They also visited the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in London. After these visits, the students were better able to appreciate British society's inclusiveness and integration of different cultures, and were impressed by the persistent and self-improving spirits of Chinese people, as well as the profoundness of Chinese culture.

At the London Delegation Gala Dinner held by TWGHs on 1 November, the Group's Chairman cum Honorary Supervisor Mrs Katherine MA thanked the Chinese Embassy, Lord Wei, Member of House of Lord, former Hong Kong governor Lord Wilson of Tillyorn, Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office, London, London Chinese Community Centre, Bank of China (London), University College London, Ming Ai (London) Institute, Jesus College Cambridge, MPW College for their support of the tour. She extended her sincere wishes to Student Ambassadors for a fruitful journey that would broaden their horizon in the studies and their personal development.

Since its establishment in 1870, TWGHs has been dedicated to serving local and overseas Chinese, and is well-known among the Chinese community. Back in the early years of Hong Kong, TWGHs started to provide Chinese in need with free medical treatments and medicines, education, funeral services and emergency aid. Moreover, the Group's bone repatriation services for overseas Chinese that started in the 19th century has fulfilled the wishes of several generations of Chinese people that "falling leaves return to their roots." Today, TWGHs is Hong Kong's oldest and largest charitable organization. With over 300 service centres, including hospitals, schools and community service institutions, the Group offers quality medical and health, education, and community services to society. Apart from providing social services, the Group has set up the Tung Wah Museum and TWGHs Maisy Ho Archives and Relics Centre to promote our history, restore and preserve our relics, and protect our cultural heritage and advocate related work.

With education as one of its major services, TWGHs is dedicated to promoting "all-round education", where the comprehensive development of students is emphasized. In recent years, the Group actively creates different life experiences for its students to help broaden their horizon. With this aim in mind, the Group rolled out the Student Ambassador Programme in 2015 to provide student ambassadors with diverse trainings. Before setting off, each student ambassador participates in a series of seminars and trainings on the history of TWGHs and the development of charitable causes in Hong Kong. The Group also works with different subject experts to provide students with training on social, presentation, etiquette and organizational skills. After the tour, Student Ambassadors are required to present what they have observed and experienced on the trip, and share these with their teachers and fellow students, so as to strengthen their knowledge and facilitate exchanges.

TWGHs hopes that through the Student Ambassador Programme it will not only provide students with opportunities to learn about different cultures so they can build a more diverse and multi-dimensional world vision, but also cultivate their leadership, organizational and interpersonal skills. On the other hand, students will promote TWGHs' charitable spirit across the globe through sharing the Group's ideologies and services. Since the Programme rolled out, over 150 student ambassadors have been trained and have visited Los Angeles, Kaiping, Central China, and now London. These activities realize the Group's ideology of providing an "all-round education".

Since its establishment in 1870, TWGHs has been all along upholding its mission "To heal the sick and to relieve the distressed; to care for the elderly and to rehabilitate the disabled; to promote education and to nurture youngsters; and to raise the infants and to guide the children." Nowadays, TWGHs has become the largest charitable organization in Hong Kong. For over a hundred years, TWGHs' medical and health, education and community services have developed rapidly to fulfill the needs of the society and to provide high quality services at low rates. Today, TWGHs operates over 303 services centres, including 5 hospitals

and health services and 28 Chinese and Western medicine treatment and health management centres, 53 education service centres, 215 community service centres that cover elderly, youth and family, rehabilitation and traditional services, whilst the Tung Wah Museum strives to promote, restore and preserve the heritage and relics of TWGHs. TWGHs Maisy Ho Archives and Relics Centre has been set up to preserve TWGHs' valuable cultural assets.

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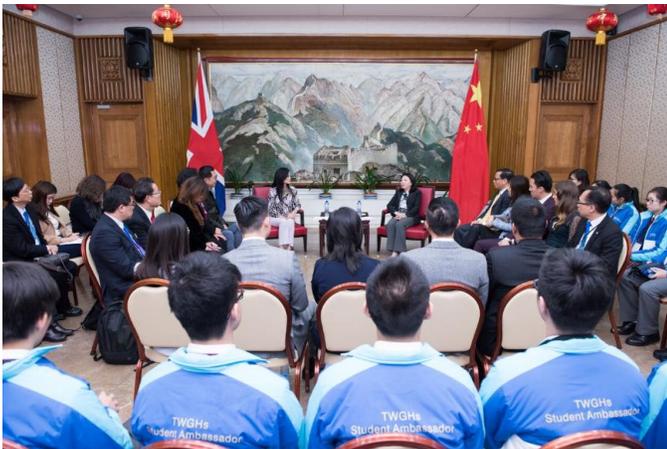
Members of the TWGHs Student Ambassador London Delegation visited the London Chinese Community Centre to understand the life of Chinese living abroad and were warmly received by Ms Christine YAU, MBE (the third row, right 8), Chairman of the Centre and Mr Hanue CHAN (the third row, right 6), Vice Chairman/Hon. Secretary, and other members of the Centre.



Group photo of TWGHs Student Ambassador London Delegation in the campus of University College London



Members of the TWGHs Student Ambassador London Delegation met Lord Wilson of Tillyorn (the second row, left 7) to explore features of Chinese culture from a Western perspective.



Led by Mrs. Katherine MA, Chairman of TWGHs, the TWGHs Student Ambassador London Delegation was received by Ms. SHEN Beili, Minister of Chinese Embassy in the UK and learned about the life of Chinese here.



Group photo of TWGHs Student Ambassador London Delegation with Ms. SHEN Beili (the second row, right 4), Minister of Chinese Embassy in the UK, Mrs. Katherine MA (the second row, left 4), Chairman of TWGHs inside Chinese Embassy.



Group photo of TWGHs Student Ambassador London Delegation with representatives of Bank of China (London) during their visit to the Bank.



Mrs. Katherine MA (left 2), Chairman of TWGHs exchanged souvenir with Mr WANG Huabin (right 2), Deputy General Manager, Bank of China (London) in the accompany of Vice Chairmen.



Speaking in TWGHs than-you dinner, Mrs. Katherine Ma, Chairman of TWGHs extended her sincere wishes to Student Ambassadors for a fruitful journey that would broaden their horizon in the studies and their personal development.



Group photo of TWGHs Student Ambassador London Delegation with staff members of Hong Kong Economic Trade Office London



Mrs. Katherine MA (the second row, left 5), Chairman of TWGHs, led some of the members of TWGHs Student Ambassador London Delegation to meet with Lord Wei (the second row, left 6), Member of House of Lord in the Parliament.