

# CENTENNIAL Connections

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www.centennialcollege.hku.hk

f hkcentennialcollege

tel +852 3762 6200

## VOLUNTARY SERVICE TOUR IN SICHUAN 2019

Sponsored by the Friends of Sichuan Association, the Office of Student Success (OSS) organised this five-day voluntary service tour in Sichuan again from 11 to 15 March 2019.

12 passionate students immerse themselves in the Sichuan lifestyle and volunteer with rural communities in Wenchuan. They paid visit to local primary schools where they got to talk with kids, play fun mass games together and teach English via popular nursery rhymes, fairy tales and cooperative classroom games. One of the iconic activities was paying home visits to families of selected primary school kids where we made Chinese dumplings together for lunch.

This trip took place in a warm environment of goodwill and gratitude. It was also an invaluable opportunity for our students to cultivate long-term friendship with local students from Sichuan Changjiang Vocational College and Aba Teachers University through participating in tour activities and sharing sessions.

It is beyond doubt that it is a tour for students to develop their empathy and kindness.





## Student Reflections on Voluntary Service Tour in Sichuan 2019

### Vanessa Chan Shu Kwan

During this five-day tour, I have experienced the rich culture of Sichuan through interactions with local educators, professionals, families, and students; through their immersion in nature, food, school and social life. I definitely have widened my horizons and views through the experiential learning activities organised by OSS and voluntary services designed by all of us.

It is so glad to witness those primary kids are having their wonderful life after the disaster.

### Kinson Lau Kin Shun

I was overwhelmed by people we met in Sichuan, they were more passionate than people we met Hong Kong. It was unexpected that they treated us so kind as families. Especially those students from Sichuan Changjiang Vocational College and Aba Teachers University, we ate Sichuan characteristic hotpot, danced and joined sharing sessions together.

Besides, I appreciated the primary kids in Wenchuan very much as they were so eager to learn. I would never forget their participation and encouraging responses when we were singing the nursery rhymes and playing in the classroom.

There was full of fun during the trip with all of my schoolmates and all people we met in Sichuan. Without any one of them, the trip would not be that enjoyable and remarkable. Thanks the College and OSS for offering me such an opportunity to widen my horizons.



### Given Choy Yue San

On 12 May 2008, a catastrophic disaster happened in Wenchuan, the county was completely devastated by earthquake. It caused tens of thousands of deaths, in addition to millions of reported injuries within the Sichuan province, which has become a painful experience among the world. However, I failed to have any strong feeling to sympathise with those victims before this voluntary tour since I was too young in 2008.

However, during the trip, I found that the damage of the earthquake was far more than I expected after visiting the ruins and aftermath: Collapse of schoolhouses and a large area of landform changes, and more. It is hardly to survive under such a hell-like environment. Our life has no take-two and we can never predict when the accident will happen. I must cherish my life and always do my best for my life. If the College offers me a chance to go again, I will accept without any hesitation.



### Tony Guo Yihong

I am so honoured to have spent another five meaningful and amazing days in Wenchuan during the study period. I have learnt something beyond the classroom that has inspired me on how to be a responsible man.

In spite of providing voluntary service, I have to overcome a lot of difficulties during the preparation, such as logistic arrangement of class materials, decision-making with local students on the voluntary teaching contents, and strategies to help engage with kids that were less motivated.

I was so impressed by the facilitation from Edwin. He was always helpful and excited to give me tips and ideas when I was in doubt. When I interacted and communicated with the professionals there, my communication skill has enhanced by his encouragement. I could feel at ease in attending the sharing sessions and giving speech to a few hundred local students and professors.



### Yoyo Cai Kai Yao

It was my second time to visit Sichuan with OSS. It was definitely another unforgettable tour far beyond my expectations. Those kids we visited had more encouraging responses and were fully immersed in our teaching class. They were all sweet and adorable as little angels. I will never forget the smiles on their faces.

... Besides the voluntary service and visit, we have participated the earthquake drill. Some of us pretended to be disabled victims without legs, others pretended to be blind. We have to utilise our team power to find out all rescue resources and escape from the earthquake scene. I will never forget the feeling of hopelessness when there was nothing I could do. I was so scared when I was only able to wait for the others. Sometimes my thoughts are overwhelmed by regrets about past events or anxiety about the future, but if I have to compare that moment with the time I could do nothing, I understand I have to live in the moment.





## HIGH TABLE DINNER 2019

On behalf of the College, the Office of Student Success organised the fifth High Table Dinner on the campus on 29 March 2019. Over 50 guests, including our Council Chairman Professor Edward K.Y. Chen, President Professor William K.M. Lee, members from the Hong Kong Young Chief Officers' Association were invited to this remarkable event. The Guest of Honour, Mr Archie Fong, Founding Director and Chairman of the Fundraising Committee of the Hong Kong Young Chief Officers' Association, gave a speech on "Persistence is the Key to Success". The High Table Dinner is one of our key occasions enabling our students to become well-versed with social and dining etiquettes, and above all, to learn from successful leaders in the community.



## SHARING ON EXCHANGE STUDY

I am studying the exchange programme at Miyazaki International College in Japan. Thankfully, Centennial College offered me this joyful overseas learning experience where I can meet new friends. My roommate, Sumia is another exchange student from Korea, we like shopping and picnicking during the cherry blossom season. Actually, it is not easy for people living here without vehicles since the public transport system is not as well-developed as Hong Kong. We have to walk for 45 minutes from the nearest bus stop to Darumizu Park, one of the iconic travel sites in Miyazaki. I do enjoy the interactions with new friends I met here. Other than Korean, absolutely a lot of Japanese young ladies, they are all helpful and bring me to experience their learning styles and interests in various aspects. Although I am the only student from the College, I am not alone.

by Kate Wong



## STUDENTS' UNION INAUGURATION CEREMONY 2019



The Inauguration Ceremony of the new Students' Union, LED, was successfully held on 25 March 2019. The Dean of Students of the College, Mr Kamsuo Wong, was invited to give a speech to all the guests. The Ceremony was attended by 30 participants, including students, teachers, staffs and parents. LED which means "Lead, Endeavor and Dare", will listen to different views from the students and communicate with both administrative and academic staff members. With the enjoyable and fruitful activities to be organised by LED, it is for sure that students will have a memorable study life in the College.



## CULTURAL TOUR 2019

Visit to the Asian New Giant - South Korea

The tour was held from 3 to 8 January 2019. 18 students, sponsored by Lam Kin Chung Exchange Award, participated in the Cultural Tour.

The major objective of the tour is to encourage students embarking on exchanges in the Belt and Road regions and further internationalise their study experience to South Korea. This tour aims at providing students with first-hand understanding of the economic development, Korean living style and fashion trends of youngsters nowadays of South Korea. Meanwhile, it enables students to examine the challenges and difficulties the country is facing recently.

The itinerary was synchronised with the learning objectives of "One Belt, One Road" strategy. Students learned a lot from the places visited and talks given by the local tour guide. They were inspired by the visit to Hwaseong Fortress which made them learned Korean history by their real presence to the Village. Meanwhile, it was a fun experience for students to make the Korean rice roll and to wear the traditional costumes. The whole group was enlightened.

The students also visited a number of museums and places that are of historic and military values, like the Bukchon Hanok Village, Cheonggyecheon Museum, Insa-dong and Korean Demilitarised Zone, which displayed the lives of Korean and environment during past war times.

This tour has been well-received among students. They were inspired by the exchange of international views and ideas.

### Student Reflections

**Jerry Lam**

*(Year 2, Major in Social Behaviour and Public Policy)*

Having a topic based on the relation between South Korea and North Korea, I definitely hope to know more about South Korea. The study tour enables me to know more about warfare, the Korean fashion, the life of Joseon people, and the development of the advanced Artificial Intelligence technology. The Republic of Korea is getting more influential in the global order.

**Jason Tam**

*(Year 2, Major in Social Behaviour and Public Policy)*

The tour was a great success, I had visited the Korean Demilitarised Zone in Panmunjom which is one of my dream places to go, I would like to take this opportunity to express my great appreciation to our donor Mr Lam Kin Chung who has made my dream come true in these two years.

**Ko Chun Yin**

*(Year 2, Major in Professional Accounting)*

Thank you Lam Kin Chung Exchange Award for sponsoring me to join this trip, I have been inspired by the mannerism of the Koreans in which everyone should "respect the elderly and take care of the young ones".







## TEDX FORUM – MAYBE SOMEDAY

The TEDx Forum is an internationally recognised event, whereby speakers from different backgrounds and industries share their ideas and knowledge with the audience. The Forum was held on 8 March 2019 and this is the fourth time the students of Centennial College have organised the event. The theme was “Maybe Someday”. When we would like to accomplish something bigger than ourselves or facing challenge that scaring us, a though that makes us go “Maybe Someday”. Our invited speakers are all experts within their respective fields and they gave us fresh perspectives on interpreting “Maybe Someday”.

The event featured a talk by each of four special guests. Being an accredited mediator and distinguished toastmaster, Mrs Karen Cheung Dyer reminded us the importance of mediation and shared the way to handle conflicts through Thomas-Kilmanna Conflict Handling Modes with her daily life examples.

Olympic swimmer & Hong Kong martial art gold medalist, Ms Yvette Kong Man Yi shared how Wing Chun brought her serenity in the swimming pool and supported her to break through those challenges when she had missed qualification for the London Olympic by merely 0.1 seconds.



Hong Kong representative and certified coach of Calisthenics Street Workout, Mr M2 Mok Ho Yin demonstrated the audience that persistence is always the key to success by his transformation story from a skinny boy into a muscular man.

Last but not least, Mr Ifzal Zaffar is an ethnic minority, Pakistani, it was a rocky road for him to pursuit knowledge of Chinese. He shared how he dealt with difficulties and setbacks in life and become a police officer to help serve the community.

### Editorial Board

Editor-in-Chief: Dr Anna Lee  
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