

Student Development Section

Domestic Workers Empowerment Project

Domestic workers have long been part of the labor force in Hong Kong. They contribute as much as \$13.3 billion a year, or 5% GDP in Hong Kong in 2012. They play an essential role on providing a homecare service to the children and elderly in most local households and thus releasing the Hong Kong women into the workforce. The purpose of this project is to empower the domestic workers with a positive state of body and mind, so that they can maintain a safe, healthy, joyous and rewarding life during their time in HK and beyond. Moreover, HKU students will advocate and promote cultural understanding, inclusion and respect for domestic workers in Hong Kong. The ultimate aim of the project is to create positive energy for both domestic workers and their employers for mutual benefit.

Objectives

For HKU students, they will:

- i) Take a leadership role in the organization of different activities for the domestic workers
- ii) Enhance understanding on domestic workers and their culture through direct interaction
- iii) Be empowered to become cultural ambassadors for domestic workers
- iv) Help promote cultural understanding, respect and appreciation of domestic workers in Hong Kong
- v) Help nurture a positive and constructive working relationship between the domestic workers and their employers

For the domestic workers, they will:

- i) Be empowered physically and emotionally through a series of educational activities organized by HKU students
- ii) Be equipped with new knowledge, skills and ideas that can be useful in their daily lives and beyond
- iii) Cultivate a positive attitude towards their current work and future aspirations or endeavors and lead a healthy lifestyle
- iv) Learn the basic rights and responsibilities as employees and the safety concerns related to their working environment

Activities

A. Health & Nutrition Talks

Date	Time	Topic
March 15 (Sunday)	1:30 - 5:00 pm	Awareness on Breast Cancer
April 12 (Sunday)	1:30 - 5:00 pm	What should you know about Menopause?
May 10 (Sunday)	1:30 - 5:00 pm	The Sweet in You: Diabetes and its Symptoms
June 7 (Sunday)	1:30 - 5:00 pm	Feeling the Heat: Why do Gout & Arthritis happen?
July 12 (Sunday)	1:30 - 5:00 pm	Sexually Transmitted Infections: Prevention & Treatment

B. Workshops

Date	Time	Topic
March 22 (Sunday)	1:00 - 5:00 pm	Inception Training for HKU Student Volunteers*
April 19 (Sunday)	1:00 - 5:00 pm	Personality Development & Enrichment
April 26 (Sunday)	1:00 - 5:00 pm	Film Screening
May 3 & 24 (Sunday)	1:00 - 5:00 pm	Cultural Dance & Parade
June 10 (Wednesday)	10:00-12:00 pm	Learn how to Conduct & Sing
June 21 & 28 (Sunday)	1:00 - 5:00 pm	Sharing with HKU Students
July 19 (Sunday)	1:00 - 5:00 pm	Prevention of Sexual Harassment
August 16 (Sunday)	1:00 - 5:00 pm	Sharing Session of Employer & Employee

* Compulsory for all HKU volunteers.

C. Philippine Madrigal Live in Concert

Date: June 9, 2015 (Tuesday)

Time: 6:00 - 9:00 pm

Venue: Grand Hall, HKU

D. Documentation and Publication

Participants will work in small teams to interview the domestic workers and collect their inspirational and motivational stories for the production of a coffee-table book from March to August 2015.

Roles and Responsibilities of HKU Volunteers

1. Help organize the activities
2. Work as group facilitators in workshops
3. Interview and collect stories from the domestic workers for the production of a coffee-table book

Application

Please complete the application online at goo.gl/forms/DZz1Du28Kx before **13 March, 2015 (Friday)**. Successful participants will be informed by email on 17 or 18 March.

Enquiries

For enquiries, please contact Dr. Michael Manio by email: mikemd03@hku.hk.