



Phoenix Newsletter

Special Feature

Issue 38

August, 2004

A Morning at the Beas River Country Club

On June 8, I breakfasted at Maxim's with Catherine in the morning before Mary picked us up in her car. Eli was the other passenger. We started our trip from the South Horizons, picked up Eva at the Hong Hum train station, and drove all the way to the Beas River Country Club in Shangshui. We chatted happily in the car. Since we were driving on the freeway, we got to our destination in no time at all. The rows of pretty bungalows with nicely kept grass in front provided a comfortable setting for our meeting.

In this brain-storming session with Anette, a director of ICCD, were Dr. K.Y. Mak, Raymond Wong, Dr. Chetwyn Chan, Linda Chan, Stella Poon, Dr. Michael Wong, Mary Chu, Eva, Catherine, Eli and myself. We expressed our opinions freely in the meeting, and I was totally rapt up in the discussion. A Q&A session after the break ended the meeting on a high note.

We had lunch in the club restaurant. I ordered a medium rare steak as the main course on top of the salad and dessert buffet, so I was very full afterwards. That was a really enjoyable meal and everyone enjoyed it very much.

Written by Mimi Wong

Translated by Mimi Poon



Member's Voice

LABOUR DAY

May Day is a golden opportunity for the average workers to unite together to fight for a respectable working environment. Workers from different parts of the world joined forces to participate in the annual May Day parade. Since our salaries are reduced year after year, our jobs are not guaranteed, and jobs are harder and harder to come by, I decided to participate in this May Day March.

We boarded the coach after lunch, and arrived at Victoria Park around 2:30 p.m., ready to march to the Government Secretariat in Central. Along the way, we sung and shouted slogans, waved “wish” posters and banners with all our signatures. We also brought a “workers’ stress machine” to symbolize the way large companies treated us. Hong Kong workers have long working hours, low wages, and a lot of government jobs are contracted out to the private sector while we only get temporary work and short-term contracts. This is unfair and is the epitome of selfish behaviour on the employer’s part.

Privatization and policies of free management have become a global nightmare as workers lose their job securities and rights. Local workers are facing problems such as low-pay, lack of job security and unemployment. Even overseas workers suffer from this demoralizing work environment. On top of that, the government has reduced spending on medical care and education, evading responsibility towards the basic working class whose lives are subsequently made harder and harder. The government is only interested in pleasing big corporations that are likely to give it fringe benefits. The World Trade Organization will hold a ministers meeting in Hong Kong next year and we fear that more anti-workers policies would be introduced. We must, therefore, fight for reasonable protection and benefits!

Work stability is a must behind a prosperous society - something that has always been a top priority to HK people. We ask Tung Chee Hwa’s administration for a better working environment by addressing the following:- (1) introduce minimum wage and maximum working hours, (2) abolish contracting services out to the private sector and short-term contracts, (3) observe the rights of women and introduce laws against age discrimination, (4) be open-minded and listen to our opinions.

There were Chinese, Caucasians, Philipinos, Indonesians and others in the march. More people joined us along the way because pedestrians understood the aim of our rally. We walked to Wan Chai and Central, and arrived at the Government Secretariat at about 4 p.m. We expressed our discontentment, shouted slogans, while our president delivered a speech. Some overseas workers performed, the representative of the workers gave a speech, some Asian workers gave a show, our chairman read the May Day Declaration, handed over our signatures to the government representatives and drew attention to the “workers’ stress machine”. All these are part of our efforts to get the government to pay attention to the average worker and to improve our working conditions.

Soon it was evening. We left, hoping and looking forward to working in a fair and respected environment—a dream of the average working person.

Written by Janet

Translated by Jeffrey



Employment's Voice

Hi, I'm Rowena. I started work in the H.K Disneyland Company as an office assistant on December 1, 2003. I work mainly in the mailroom to receive and distribute letters and to keep records. Besides, I have to prepare snacks and clean the two pantries. At first I needed to remind myself to keep the paper cups, milk, coffee-mate, different kinds of teabags, drinks, biscuits etc. in stock. What's more, I had to remember the names of the 70 staff members on that floor. In the first week, I could remember only a very limited amount of information, and I was so nervous that I became tongue-tied! Even if I talked, I could only do it very slowly!



After one month, I started to feel more at ease at my job and after three months, I could memorize all the names. However, just as I was feeling more relaxed, the departments on the 17th floor and the 22nd floor exchanged places with each other, so I had to re-learn all the names of the staff again. Fortunately, my supervisor gave me a list of the new names, facilitating my work a great deal.

My contract is going to be finished in another 2 weeks. During these past months, I got along well with my colleagues, some of which even joked with me! I appreciate my colleagues very much because they always helped me and encouraged me so that I could perform my work smoothly.

Written by Rowena

Translated by Samurai & Shing Cheung



Work Unit Report

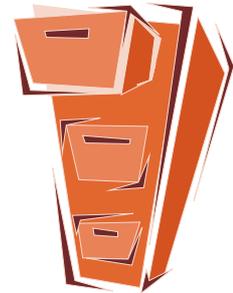


Administration Unit

1. Anette, chairwoman of the directors of the ICCD, met with Eva, Mary Chu, Dr. Wong, Raymond Wong, Dr. Chan, Prof. Mak, Linda Chan, Stella Poon and our members Mimi Wong, Eli, Catherine Ng to talk about the development of Phoenix Clubhouse on June 8. They also visited the Clubhouse in the afternoon.
2. A second set of ACC promotion leaflets has been sent out.
3. The 6th anniversary celebration of Phoenix Clubhouse took place on June 26.
4. The administration unit is growing. They have now moved the office to where the education room was.
5. Our new staff Mr. Chan Hon-Wing took over from Ah Chou on July 5.

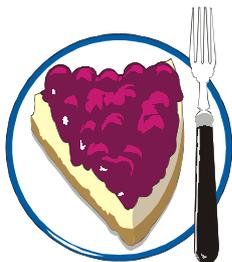
Clerical Unit

1. Awaiting reply from QMH for approval of the continuing education fund.
2. Proposal on funding of supporting education is completed and is handed to the volunteer worker Mr. Yung for prove reading.
3. We participated in the Heart to Heart Ceremony organized by Take Your Way on the July 29.
4. We summarized members' opinions on the need for language lessons and computer lessons and have asked Mr. Yung to arrange for volunteer teachers.
5. The Adult Continuing Education Program organized by the Hong Kong College of Technology was introduced in the monthly meeting on July 8.



Environmental Protection and Tuck Shop Unit

1. We thank Mr. Chung for buying the gardening tools and changing the flower pots.
2. We have been paying additional attention to prevent water from accumulating on the balcony to minimize mosquito growth.
3. We now have new sofas at the reception and the leisure room.

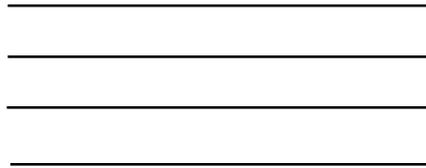


Food Services Unit

1. Encourage more members to participate in the search for better cooking ingredients so our food is more nutritious.



Phoenix Clubhouse
4/F, 9B Bonham Road,
David Trench Rehabilitation Centre,
Hong Kong



Asian Clubhouse Conference Hong Kong 2004

Date : 17/11/04 - 20/11/04

Venue : Hong Kong Academy of Medicine,
Hong Kong Academy Medicine Jockey Club Building,
99 Wong Chuk Hang Road, Aberdeen, Hong Kong

Preliminary Topics :

1. New Trends in Psychiatric Rehabilitation
2. Evolution of the Clubhouse Model
3. Implementing the Clubhouse Model
4. Outcomes of the Clubhouse Approach

Deadline for Hotel Reservation and Payment : 15/09/04

Deadline for Conference Registration and Payment : 30/10/04

This activity is held by Phoenix Clubhouse, everybody is welcomed to join.

Latest News

Phoenix Clubhouse Address:-
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David Trench Rehabilitation Centre,
Hong Kong
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Website : www.phoenixclubhouse.org
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Opening Hours :-
Monday-Friday : 8:30a.m.- 5:00p.m.
Saturday : 9:00a.m.- 12:00pm.

*Special Thanks to Ms. Stella Poon
for Proofreading the Newsletter*

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