



# Phoenix Newsletter

## SPECIAL FEATURE

Issue 40  
December, 2004



It took about more than a year to prepare for the Asian Clubhouse Conference in November 2004. Many committee meetings were held in order to decide on conference venue, dinner, hotel accommodation, program schedule & shuttle bus arrangements etc. In the end, we decided to hold the conference in the Hong Kong Academy of Medicine from November 17 to 20, and the welcome reception was arranged for at the Royal Hong Kong Yacht Club in Causeway Bay. An evening program with Chinese Dinner was booked at the Sheung Wan Treasure Lake Seafood Restaurant on Nov 19. During the last eight months, we had a lot of work to do. We needed to handle printing

posters, application forms and ordering T-shirts. Co-operation and division of labour between staff and members enabled the smooth running of all preparation work. Meanwhile, the number of applicants turned out to be beyond our expectation. More than 340 people were attending and we all looked forward to the first day of the ACC.

About 200 people from the East and West attended the welcome reception at the "Royal Hong Kong Yacht Club" Amidst laughter and a warm atmosphere the reception ended at 7:00 p.m. Shuttle buses provided transportation to our guests between the hotel and all other venues during the conference.

The next morning, we arrived at the Hong Kong Academy of Medicine at 8:00 a.m. and started to ready the premises for registration, program information, and distribution of name cards and T-shirts. Soon, conference delegates arrived in the shuttle buses. The opening ceremony began at 9:00 a.m. when our honorary guest gave a speech, which is then followed by a Lion Dance. Since there was limited seating, some of us had to stand through the whole ceremony. Delegates, whether staff or members of clubhouses, or physicians from different countries, shared their experiences on the clubhouse model of rehabilitation. We provided delicious snacks for coffee break and a buffet lunch at noon. The conference ended at 5:00 p.m. the first day.

I presented my talk about my experience on transitional employment the next morning. I was nervous while I talked, but was able to complete my speech with the encouragement from Eva. We only had half a day of plenaries and workshops that day. Delegates were taken to Phoenix Clubhouse by shuttle bus in the afternoon where they toured the facilities and mingled. Tour guides tried their best to introduce the clubhouse to our visitors. I was not needed to be a tour guide for I had to do an interview with the Press on the 6<sup>th</sup> floor.



Many reporters were present at our Press Conference. The questions revolved around transitional employment and how it could help us back to full time work in the society. I shared with them my own experience and I took photos with my employer. The Press conference ended at 3:00 p.m. At 5:00 p.m. Tung and I took a taxi to the hotel where we met up with the delegates to go for dinner at the Treasure Lake Seafood Restaurant. The festive activities ended at 9 p.m. The next day was the final day of the conference. After a morning of discussions and sharing, the conference closed officially at noon.

We worked hard to make this conference a success. I feel very good because my efforts were appreciated. All the delegates were satisfied with the arrangements.



*Written by Kenneth  
Translated by Starry Sky*

## *Visitors at the clubhouse*

Nov 19 was a great day for us. About two hundred people from all over the world visited us that afternoon. We, being host and hostesses of this special event, started preparations for it way before hand.



At 2:30 p.m., the first group of guests arrived. Every member and staff geared up to receive our visitors. Scores of people from China, Japan, Korea, America, and even some locals poured in. All of a sudden, the clubhouse was filled with different languages and dialects like Cantonese, English & Putonghua. The atmosphere was very pleasant. We guided them through the clubhouse and they listened attentively, taking pictures and movies with their video cameras. The reception, the clerical unit, the balcony, the tuck shop, everywhere was filled with sounds of pleasant conversations and laughter. Flashlights went off incessantly while visitors tried to capture these precious moments.



It was even more crowded when the second and third group of visitors arrived. I stood frozen at the clerical unit, wanting to greet some of them, but I found myself nervous and tongue-tied. I simply could not pick up the courage to reach out to anyone, let alone being tour-guide! But I also felt stupid just standing there and

doing nothing. Fortunately, Amanda came to my rescue. She asked me to help Marge at the reception. I felt relieved as I could then follow Marge without having to stand there by myself.

The visitors left us at 4 p.m. The clubhouse was quiet again. I felt bad for I did nothing to help. I recalled the scenes of the afternoon on my way home and regretted that I had not been able to help out at all!



*Written by Ching*  
*Translated by Starry Sky*

## ACC Comments

- Sam Sharing experiences with people from different countries would be a great help to the development of our Clubhouse.
- Mui Great success in ACC! Nice to meet different kinds of people. Hope the rehabilitated person would soon return to society.
- Amy Many computers were overused.
- Derek Speeches were impressive and guests were friendly!
- Rowena Got to know many people from different countries. Even learnt a little Japanese like Good morning and hello.
- Michelle Learnt how to be a MC. Learnt how to be a good speaker with a partner (Amanda).Lion dance was most memorable to me.
- Mimi I felt good on stage and was proud to be a speaker. I received a lot of compliments.
- Ada Felt nervous during my presentation. The general atmosphere of the meetings was good
- Brian It was my first time assisting in the preparation of a large conference. Though there is still some room for improvement, the conference as a whole was very successful.
- Eva I was deeply touched by the help and co-operation of the staff, members, Friends of PC and ACC Committee during the yearlong preparation work. I gained more experience by co-operating with local and overseas clubhouses.
- Daniel This is the third time I presented my story but I still felt nervous. Fortunately, it went very smoothly and I felt I had contributed to the conference.
- Kelvin Nice to participate in an international conference in HK. The effort of members and staff was appreciated.We were proud of ourselves for our contributions to this conference.
- Wendy Although I was busy, I gained experiences very different from what I had in my job.
- Amanda Learnt how to be a master of ceremony and prepared many activities, Very good experience!
- Wing On the whole, most of the activities were on schedule. We were very successful. Can be better with more division of labour.
- Lin An international conference in HK uplifted the spirit of our clubhouse. We were excited from beginning to end.
- Lam Delightful! Learnt a lot!
- Fong I was happy. The atmosphere was good.
- Ching I experienced some big-scale events and learnt how to be hospitable.
- Samson The ACC conference was a great success.
- Linda Increased my understanding of the clubhouse model. Got to know many doctors and patients.
- Marge The most memorable thing was the realization of our inadequate preparation for the occasion. Almost every event presented us with surprises.
- Matthew Got to know a lot of overseas friends.
- Wah I remember gift-wrapping, washing the balcony, and name card making.
- Chiu People from differentclubhouses were given a chance to communicate.
- Lung Got to know a lot of overseas friends.
- Kun Every staff and member chipped in to prepare for the conference. We were of one mind and worked well together.



*(continued)*

*Translated by Michelle*

*ICCD*

- Jack You did a masterful job in your organization and operations of the conference and deserve to feel very proud of your efforts.
- Joel Your willingness to host and manage this event is truly appreciated. I am sure I echo the sentiments of many when I say, WELL DONE!
- Ralph Really fabulous overall, everyone was surprised by your preparation, organization, care with every detail. I believe the ACC dramatically moved clubhouse movement forward in Asia.

*Progress Place*

- Brenda Singer It was great to hear the TE employers talk about their partnership with your clubhouse. Bravo! Thank you all for a fabulous experience in Hong Kong.

*Kildehuset Fountain House*

- Hanne Juul I hope you will succeed getting more clubhouses in China. You have done what you can do to tell the Asian people how successful the Fountain House Model is.

*Stepping Stone Clubhouse*

- Avanka Thank you for being such a fantastic host
- Danny I hope members can help promote a better life for the mentally ill in Hong Kong, Asia and across the world.
- Melanie Congratulations on the magnificent job you have done on hosting the First ACC.
- Pat Congratulations to Phoenix Clubhouse for your hosting of the conference and the quality of your clubhouse facility
- Sophie Excellent
- Will Congratulations

*Clerical Unit*

1. Phoenix Clubhouse pamphlet had been printed up.
2. Education unit had already swapped with administration unit.
3. Supported education scheme committee had meeting for two times, checked part of the application forms.

# WORK UNIT REPORT

*Administration Unit*

1. Very pleased that twenty members had each donated U.S. \$1 to ICCD as the support to Members Leadership Training Fund, we had given this sum to ICCD via Ralph.
2. All staff of Phoenix Clubhouse had the honour to receive the Outstanding Team award from Queen Mary Hospital..
3. 2/11 to 6/11 Eva had gone to Chang Sha Psychiatric Conference to promote Clubhouse.
4. From ACC report: about 350 local and foreign participants.

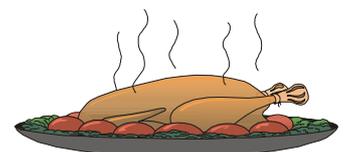
*Environmental Protection and Tuck Shop Unit*

1. We had packed up the souvenir for the ACC Speakers.
2. We had put the Anniversary photo album on the shelf in the leisure room.
3. The dried flower bookmark for ACC speakers is successfully finished by us..

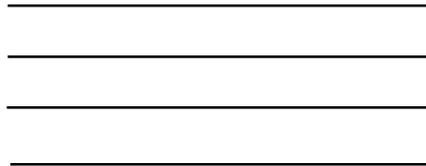


*Food Services Unit*

1. Soy-beaned chicken wing and egg with rice.
2. Tomato ham egg with rice or spaghetti.



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



### *Latest News*

- 1 Clubhouse members will visit the Chinese New Year Flower market on Feb 4, 2005. Interested parties please contact Man Kit, Anita, and Mui
- 2 Chinese New Year gathering will be held on Feb 9, 2005 in clubhouse. Interested parties please contact Janet, Sam,, and Mui
- 3 Spring Lunch will be held on Feb 23, 2005 in the afternoon. Interested parties please contact Janet & reception.

*Special thanks to Stella Poon for the proofreading the newsletter*

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Opening Hour

Monday-Friday : 8:30a.m. - 5:00p.m.

Saturday : 9:00a.m. - 12:00p.m.

### **Phoenix Newsletter**

#### **Production Crew:**

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Wing,*

#### **Cover design:**

*Ching*

