



Putonghua Class



The 8 sessions of Putonghua Course that has been going on for the last 2 months is drawing to a close. For me, it is both an enlightening and a pleasant experience.

The success of this course can be attributed to Mr. Yung, a volunteer, who brought along Mr. Chan Kwong to be our teacher. Mr. Chan is an experienced Putonghua teacher who is passionate about teaching. In his weekly sessions, he points out that if one wants to learn Putonghua properly, he must listen more, talk more, not be shy, and not be afraid of failure since “Failure is the mother of success”. This applies not only to learning a language but also to the way one associates with people.

During the hour-long lesson, we all converse with one another in Putonghua. Man-Ling and I serve as teaching assistants, so we have to review materials taught in class with the others three times a week. I saw how members change from being embarrassed in the first lesson to talking and laughing freely today. This is a big change indeed!

However, the deepest impression I have is: although members are at different levels of Putonghua; some of them have never even touched the language; some do not even quite know Chinese; and one had a problematic vocal cord, they still participate enthusiastically. Their enthusiasm towards learning and their persistence in overcoming difficulties make me feel that the learning process itself is much more important than the results even though that is also good to have.

CAN

Translated By Helen



HARBIN ICE LANTERN FESTIVAL



The Clubhouse went to the Taikooshing shopping center to see the Harbin Ice Lantern Festival in September. This is the first-ever Ice Lantern show held in a shopping center. The show was supposed to be exquisite, so we all looked forward very much to this trip.

I went to there with other members on that day. After we bought tickets and entered the showroom, we were distributed winter coats because the premises were as cold as five below zero. We could

feel the cold air even before we went in! It was a good thing we did not stay there too long! The main theme of the show was the colorful Chinese architecture and artifacts like characters from Xiyouji, dragons and phoenixes, ice houses and huge ice slides. Lanterns lit up these art works of ice, creating a wonderful effect. We all posed in front of every one of them so we had pictures to remember them by.

We went home when it was getting late. When we left, we took off the thickcoats and stepped into the warm world. Hong Kong's warm weather is so good!

Alan

Translated By Cindy

YOGA CLASS

Before I attended the yoga class in the Clubhouse, I had been to one organized by the Leisure & Cultural Services Department. I found that exercise makes me healthy. It improves my flexibility and strengthens my physique. In fact, everybody realizes that exercise is good for us. We just need to persevere in order to obtain results.



In this yoga class, I learn about forming a habit of eating a balanced diet and caring for my body.

The yoga instructor is very nice. She tells us to drink 8 glasses of water every day and brings a lot of relevant information to class so we know to pay attention to osteoporosis.

Besides, she is interesting, amusing and makes the class fun. So, even Man Ling, who is not very active, loves the yoga class. She is also very caring. She came twice to see us practise after just one lesson. She really wants us to do well. We must not let her down, so we need to be persistent in our efforts.

Siu Ching
Translated By Helen





A : What courses are you taking? What are the hours of your classes?

K : Currently I'm taking courses at the Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants Papers 7-9. Since I've enrolled for 3 subjects, I have to attend classes on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, from 7:15p.m. to 9:15p.m..The classes are from June to mid-October.

A : What made you decide to study accounting?

K : My first job was at a Certified Public Accountant (C.P.A.) firm. At that time my position was company & land search clerk. Later on, I was promoted to the position of taxation clerk. this offered me a chance to learn accounting. So I have decided to take up this subject now.

A : What prerequisites are required for enrolling in the courses for professional accounting?

K : Passes in the HKCEE are the requirements. However, I am only a Form 5 graduate who failed my HKCEE, so I needed the company to write a letter of recommendation for me to get an interview. After several interviews, I was fortunate enough to be accepted by City University, and can now take accounting courses.

A : How will you complete the courses and get a CPA's license?

K : I will need to take four years of evening courses before enrolling for and taking exams of the remaining papers; after that I'll need 2 years of accounting or auditing experience, plus a letter of certification by an employer, before finally becoming an Accountant.

A : Which courses are more difficult?

K : I personally find Taxation Law to be very difficult. That's because tax laws get changed or revised every year; this is why this paper is very difficult.

A : What is fun and what is difficult in this process of studying?

K : After enrolling in the faculty of Accounting in the University, I had to attend classes in the evening. After school and on holidays, I had to study and do home work. In the meantime, I was working in the C.P.A. Firm. As a result I didn't have too much time for rest. It was difficult. One and a half years later, I changed to work in a bank, This time it was even more taxing on my will because the workload was heavy and we didn't always knock off at the same time every day. I usually left the workplace after 6 p.m.. After work, I had to rush to City University in Kowloon Tong to attend class. Most of the time, I didn't even get to eat dinner until I got home in the evening; yet I had to go to work early in the next morning. I had thought of giving up but I persisted and completed all four years of courses and obtained the Degree. The fun of the process was that I got to know a bunch of friends and also my ex-girlfriend. Those 4 years were my happiest days. We studied and did homework together and we exchanged insights on our studies. After exams, we would go together on trips and had fun. I had a lot of fun during that time.

A : How did the clubhouse help you?

K : The Clubhouse helped me to re-gain self-confidence. When I came to work in the clubhouse, I always had a positive attitude. .

A : After the completion of accounting courses, would you want to take up other courses?

K : If I ready get to become a Certified Public Accountant, it is my aspiration to take up Company Secretary Courses that have more female than male students. This may offer more opportunities for me. .

A : What are your plans for the future?

K : I haven't carefully thought about it yet. I will carefully think about it after taking the C.P.A. Exam. I may work towards being a company secretary or in a bank because these are my two favorite jobs. But whether I can become an accountant or not will depend on the job market and available opportunities!

Administration Unit

Administration

1. Regarding the removal of David Trench Rehabilitation Centre, every unit would aim at increasing 20% measure of area as our principle after several discussions taken. Phoenix Clubhouse had already expressed that we would like to retain the balcony. As the venue of constructing the new building has not yet been confirmed, it is expected to take 2 to 3 years.
2. The Clubhouse will organize Clubhouse Orientation Course in January, 2007. This time, the participants come from Hebei, Hanzhou and Taiwan. Organizing work is now in progress.

Employment

1. Maria takes over the post of Clerical Assistant in Eli Lilly.
2. Keung takes over the post of Database Operator in Baker & McKenzie on 1/9/2006.
3. Wilson takes over the post of General Assistant in Shearman & Sterling LLP on 31/10/2006.
4. Lisa works as General Assistant in Morgan Stanley on 25/10/2006.
5. There are 8 members who will go to Pizza Hut on 14/11 to do Group Placement.

Unit Report



Clerical Unit

1. The Clubhouse has started using the newly designed web page. You are welcomed to browse www.phoenixclubhouse.org.
2. Kenneth, Kit and Anita introduced the Clubhouse to doctors at the Queen Mary Hospital in September.
3. We have started enrolment for the Healthy Life Day Camp.
4. The Clerical Unit has moved the telephone from the leisure room to the unit in order to avoid interference with sending & receiving faxes. The new telephone number of the Clerical Unit is 2517 3703. The fax number of the Clubhouse is 2517 8169.
5. The registration report is still being translated. Completion is expected before November.
6. We thank every unit for sending members and staff to help distributing the Clubhouse's brochures daily during the months of September and October to patients and their family members who are waiting for medical appointment on the 5th floor. In total, we have distributed 686 brochures. A few patients who had received the Clubhouse's brochure have already joined Phoenix Clubhouse as members.
7. The new Tour Guide Training Class has started in October.

Supported Education

1. The two-year Supported Education Funding Scheme will be finished in November. As members reacted enthusiastically, we now plan to continue this project.
2. A Putonghua Course was held in September and October. A professional instructor, Mr. Chan Kwong, came to teach us. Can and Man Ling were teaching assistants in tutorial classes.
3. An Excel Course will be held in November. For details, please watch out for upcoming events and enrolment.
4. We issued \$500 student aid fund to Alan, May and Keung.
5. Wilson is now studying F.5 Commercial Class in night school.
6. Ling is now studying F.5 in night school.

Environmental Protection & Tuck Shop Unit

1. We have completed the poster and the contents of the Q&A contest for the "Getting Slim in a Sporty Way" programme
2. We thank Carmen, our volunteer for helping us to make an exquisite plate for promoting clubhouse.
3. The printer has already been changed. The new machine gives us a faster printing rate and does not jam up paper.
4. We started the 10-session yoga course. This is jointly organized by Phoenix Clubhouse and the Leisure & Cultural Services Department.



Food Services Unit

1. The damaged cup tube of the distilled water machine has already been changed.
2. The Contest of Sports Slogan Design has been completed satisfactorily. There were about 10 participants. The champion is Can. Her slogan is "Diet must be balanced. Exercise strengthen the body."
3. The Food Services Unit will supply more types of healthy breakfast. Members are welcomed to come back to patronize.



Translated By Helen



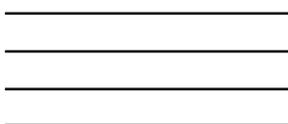
November 2006

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 Weekly Meeting (4:15-5:00)	2 Putonghua Class & Tour Guide Training Class Sir Chan, Ching, Man Ling (3:30-4:30) Chess & Cards Playing Gabriel David (5:00-7:00)	3 Computer Class : Excel (3:30-4:30) Wing, Helen, Alan, Sindy	4 Employment & Education Lunch: Mandatory Provident Fund & Effective Studying Method Anita, Wendy, Mandy (10:00-11:30) Chinese Porridge, Chinese Pancake Mui, Wai Fong
			Eva, Derek, Sandy Au attend Asian Clubhouse Conference 2006 in Korea			
5	6	7 House Meeting & Understanding Slimming Medication & Food Supplement Forum Wendy, Environmental & Tuck Shop Unit (3:30-5:00) Professional Yoga Class Wendy, Siu Ching (5:00-6:30)	8	9 Rehabilitation Services Talk (including housing service) (3:00-5:00) Social Worker Karaoke Wendy, Wing Ming (5:00-7:00)	10 Computer Class : Excel (3:30-4:30) Wing, Helen, Alan, Sindy	11 Chinese Tea, Birthday Party: Gabriel, Rowena (10:00-12:00)
12	13	14 Standard Meeting (2:15-3:00) Professional Yoga Marge, Siu Ching (5:00-6:30)	15 Yoga Class June, Eva, Sandy Au (5:00-7:00)	16 Weekly Meeting (4:15-5:00)	17 Computer Class: Excel (3:30-4:30) Anita, Helen, Alan, Sindy	18 Hiking Wing, Alan Professional Volunteer Hair Cutting Didi, Marge, Ocean (10:00-11:30) Waiter Training Workshop Anita
19	20	21 Standard Meeting (2:15-3:00) Professional Yoga Class Wing, Siu Ching (5:00-6:30)	22	23 Weekly Meeting & Fat & Illness Forum Marge, Food Services Unit (3:30-5:00) English, Putonghua Class Mr. Daniel Brindle (Employer of Eli Lilly) Amanda, Michelle (5:00-7:00)	24 Computer Class: Excel (3:30-4:30) Anita, Helen, Alan, Sindy	25 Health Festival of Central -Western District Amanda, Man Ling (9:30-12:00)
26	27	28 Standard Meeting (2:15-3:00) Professional Yoga Class Eva, Siu Ching (5:00-6:30)	29	30 Weekly Meeting (4:15-5:00)		

December 2006

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THR	FRI	SAT
					1	2 Healthy Lifestyle Day Camp Anita, Wing, Wing Kwong (8:45-5:00)
3	4	5 Standard Meeting (2:15-3:00) Professional Yoga Class Eva, Siu Ching (5:00-6:30)	6	7 House Meeting (3:30-5:00) Audio/Video Entertainment Marge, Wah Sun (5:00-7:00)	8	9 Employment Lunch : How jobs affect benefit Anita, Wing, Ka Fai Meat & Vegetable Rice Noodle, Birthday Party Mui, Fong (10:00-11:30)
10	11	12 Standard Meeting (2:15-3:00) Professional Yoga Class Gabriel, Siu Ching (5:00-6:30)	13	14 Weekly Meeting (4:15-5:00)	15	16 Christmas Party Clerical Unit, Rowena (9:00-1:00)
17	18	19 Standard Meeting (2:15-3:00)	20	21 Weekly Meeting (4:15-5:00) Clubhouse Dinner Party Mui, Mandy, Ming (5:00-7:00)	22	23 Badminton Gabriel, Kin Ching (9:30-11:00)
24	25 Christmas Holiday Flourishing Winter Festival Lighting & Laser Performance Wendy, Mui, Mandy (5:30 - 8:30)	26 Day after Christmas Day	27	28 Weekly Meeting (4:15-5:00) Hong Kong Expo Gabriel, Rowena (5:00-7:00)	29	30 Basketball Wing, Kam Kin Professional Volunteer Hair Cutting Didi, Wendy, David (10:00-11:30)
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Printed Matter

Latest News

1. Eva, Derek and Sandy Au will attend Asian Clubhouse Conference 2006 from 1-3 November in Seoul, Korea.
2. The Clerical Unit will organize Computer Classes on using Excel worksheet every Friday in November at 3:30-4:30pm. Wing, Alan, Helen and Sandy are responsible. Those members who are interested, please register at the reception.
3. The Clubhouse will organize a Healthy Lifestyle Day Camp on 2 December. On that day, we will gather at the clubhouse at 8:45am. Please arrive on time. The Clubhouse will be closed on that day.
4. The Clubhouse will have a Christmas Party on 16 December. We invite all of you to participate. For details, please see the Appendix.
5. After the “Survey of Opening Hours of Leisure Activities” the Clubhouse decided to lengthen the opening hours on public holidays. Please be aware that starting from 2007, the Clubhouse will be opened on Chinese New Year’s Day, 2nd day after Chinese New Year’ Day, Day after Good Friday, Dragon Boat Festival, Mid-Autumn Festival night and Christmas Day.
6. After discussion, the Clubhouse decided to lengthen the opening hours on Saturdays. Details will be announced later. Please come back to the Clubhouse to inquire.

Translated By Helen

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