

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

BURNING BRIGHT

FANNING THE FLAMES OF INSPIRATION

"The future of our imperfect world needs the commitment, positivity, compassion, fortitude and resolve of the young people." Hutchison has caught a little of Chairman Li Ka-shing's fire and is spreading its warmth to young people around the world.





From supporting primary school children to engaging unemployed young people and funding postgraduate excellence, Hutchison is helping youth across the globe to grow small sparks of promise into bright flames of success that will benefit the world.

HPH: SPARKING EXCELLENCE THROUGH DOCK SCHOOLS

Bright young people around the world are finding support among local ports operated by Hutchison Port Holdings Limited (HPH). The Dock School Programme has seen schools “adopted” by over 20 ports worldwide. The aim of the Dock School initiative is to match selected schools with a nearby port in the HPH global network. The programme focuses on schools that are in need of support for basic facilities and equipment. Most of the 28 schools adopted thus far are primary schools located in the same district as the ports. Many of these schools provide education for children who come from

underprivileged families. The schools often lack sufficient funds to maintain the bare necessities for providing a quality education.

In 1992, Hongkong International Terminals Limited first provided a local school with book coupons to encourage students to study hard for their exams. Over the past two decades, the philanthropic efforts of Hutchison’s port operators have expanded to include donating money to schools, taking students on excursions, helping to build and repair school facilities, and providing students with books, uniforms, stationery and even meals. This is “a way for us to give back to, and connect with, the communities in which we operate,” according to HPH Group Managing Director Eric Ip.

Projects are varied and typically tailored to match the needs of each school. For example, Huizhou Port Industrial Corporation and Huizhou International Container Terminals in Mainland China

donated 3,000 table tennis rackets to a primary school last year along with 250 desks and chairs. Internacional de Contenedores Asociados de Veracruz in Mexico provided its dock school with urgent renovation work on the school’s broken floors. Last year, Saigon International Terminals Vietnam (SITV) supported the installation of 27 wall-hanging fans to a primary school in Toc Tien Village in Vietnam. Headmaster Dang Phuc Ton has encountered difficulties cooling the classrooms over the summer, but now, he says, “thanks to SITV’s support, children can now study in a better environment with the proper resources at hand.”

The Dock School Programme has given schools around the world tools to assist teachers to give students what they need in the classroom. The A S Watson Group (ASW) in Hong Kong looks beyond the classroom by fanning the flames of competition in the hearts of young athletes to help youth reach their maximum potential.



“Children can now study in a better environment with the proper resources at hand.”

Dang Phuc Ton,
Primary school headmaster in Vietnam

Hola! Schools from China to Mexico benefit from partnership with HPH.



From left to right: Sporting spirit—at school, participation is encouraged. Winners: the best step to the next level. Athletes travel to Nanjing 2014 Youth Olympic Games to get into the sporting spirit.

AS WATSON: KINDLING CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT

“ASW’s corporate brand value is about passion, commitment, teamwork and science,” says Malina Ngai, Chief Operating Officer of ASW. “Competitive sports incorporate all these winning elements. We believe sports build character in young people, which is a key part of their overall development, which will ultimately benefit the society as a whole.”

With this in mind, ASW launched the Hong Kong Student Sports Awards (SSA) in 2005 to recognise the sports achievements of students and encourage broader character development than study alone provides. The project is ambitious in scope: over 7,830 students in Hong Kong have been honoured with the awards to date, and the number of schools joining the SSA has risen more than 50 per cent since the programme started, with over 85 per cent of Hong Kong primary, secondary and special schools joining.

COMPETITIVE SPIRIT

Celebrating its 10th anniversary in 2015, SSA is now a popular programme in the academic field, with the endorsement of the Education Bureau, Home Affairs Bureau and school principals associations in Hong Kong and various sports

authorities in the Mainland. Awards are open to all schools in Hong Kong, but each school can only nominate one student per year. The competition in the schools is intense. Not only do nominees have to demonstrate outstanding performance or great potential in sports, but they must also display good character and academic achievement.

The award has also fostered excellence in sports, producing some of Hong Kong’s top athletes. For example, gymnast Shek Wai-hung was a 2006-07 SSA awardee who went on to win Asian Games gold in the men’s vault at Incheon 2014, defeating the current World and Olympic champion. Mr Shek inspired young SSA awardees in the 2013 award ceremony by sharing his story of persistence after recovering from a serious neck injury. The SSA has nurtured many sports elites who have become role models in their communities.

ROAD TRIP

Each year’s SSA awardees are eligible to apply for a sports exchange tour in August. Only 30 students (roughly half from primary schools and another half from secondary schools), based on a written submission and interview performance, are selected to go on the road with the exchange tour.

Past exchange tours were held in Beijing, Shanghai, Nanjing and Hangzhou in China, destinations chosen in light of upcoming international events at the time, such as the 2008 Olympics in Beijing, 2010 World Expo in Shanghai and the Nanjing Youth Olympics Games in 2014. During exchange tours, participants spend five days sightseeing, visiting national training bases and—most importantly—interacting with young, world-class athletes in the Mainland.

The SSA has not only helped students grow into well-rounded individuals but has also instilled a sense of stewardship in them. Acknowledging the generous support of ASW, many previous participants of exchange tours have returned as volunteers to lead subsequent juniors on the tour. ASW selects some of the volunteers and trains them to be group leaders.

Not all students shine so brightly straight out of high school. While the ASW programme uses sports to help gifted students further develop character, students in other parts of the world struggle to find the motivation to pursue goals. **3 UK** is there to help.

3 UK: IGNITING THE FIRE OF AMBITION

For many, leaving school can be a terrifying experience. Aimlessness and



drift can assail those who don't leave school with the drive, direction and skills needed to succeed in the next stage of life. In the UK, there are 737,000 young people aged 16 to 24 who are unemployed (September 2014 figures). The unemployment rate of this age group is a staggering 16.2 per cent. However, with the help of HWL, some of these young people have found a way to enter the workforce.

Since 2013, **3 UK** has been working closely with Tomorrow's People, an employment charity that helps disadvantaged young people to get and keep jobs. The two organisations collaborate in a work placement programme targeting unemployed youth. The programme includes mentoring sessions with **3 UK's** London store managers that enable participants to develop the skills and experience they need to find work. Many are offered permanent retail positions in **3 UK** stores at the end of the programme.

"Young people told me that they found their life very dull before participating in our Tomorrow's People programme," says **3 UK's** Tomorrow's People Programme Executive Claire Garner. "They said that they did not have a routine and that being unemployed caused them to have low self-esteem. They also explained that they felt

as though they were not getting much help from the job centre and that not being able to find employment opportunities was immensely frustrating."

REAL OPPORTUNITIES

Participants of Tomorrow's People receive general training on the working environment and attend workshops aimed at building confidence and improving their presentation and communication skills. There is also a session at **3 UK's** Discovery area in Maidenhead, where participants are trained on mobile technology and money management. The young people then take part in **3 UK's** induction session and the "Experience Three" course that all retail staff attend before spending two weeks working in one of **3 UK's** stores in London. At the end of the programme, participants are interviewed for a full-time retail position with **3 UK**.

Over 100 participants have joined the programme since 2013, and 45 graduates have found employment in **3 UK's** retail team. The numbers will undoubtedly grow as **3 UK** expands the programme.

Tomorrow's People succeed today with **3 UK** in their corner.

"This programme has demonstrated the value of giving young people with the right attitude and aptitude a chance."

Celina Benedict,
3 UK's Corporate Responsibility Manager





The state of the art Lakeland College Energy Centre is built with industry support including Husky Energy. Real equipment and Husky Energy support make real education happen.



"This programme has demonstrated the value of giving young people with the right attitude and aptitude a chance, even if they have limited experience," says **3 UK's** Celina Benedict, Corporate Responsibility Manager. One of the participants, now a permanent staff member of **3 UK**, admits that at the beginning of the programme, he "hid behind the counter, too afraid to speak to customers", but now he receives positive feedback from customers. Another participant says the programme changed his life from one that was "dull and boring, with no purpose" to one where he is "bouncing out of bed" to get to work.

The young people who are now employees of **3 UK** thank the company for the opportunity they were given and for changing their lives. "They all feel sure that, without the experience that they gained through participating in the programme, their lives would have been very different and could have possibly headed down much less optimistic paths," says Ms Garner.

Big cities aren't the only places Hutchison is making a difference. In Alberta and Saskatchewan, Canada, Husky Energy Inc supports training and job opportunities that create high-tech careers in rural areas. Keeping the region's best and

brightest on the Prairies invigorates local communities, turning their youth into world-class engineers.

HUSKY ENERGY: POWER ON THE PRAIRIES

Power engineers are some of the most sought-after skilled workers for oil production and refining operations, especially in rural areas where it can be difficult to attract talent. However, for those from these areas, training has been previously near unattainable without travelling far from home. This created a dissonance among industry needs, personal desires to stay on the Prairies (Western Canada) and education. Husky Energy has stepped in to close the gap.

Saskatchewan and Alberta are known for endless fields of wheat that are the granaries to the world. The provinces are also home to massive reserves of oil and gas—as well as many Husky Energy operations, including an upgrader, ethanol plant, pipeline terminal and refinery. The company also has a suite of thermal heavy oil projects in production and development that relies on power engineers. However, attracting engineers can be challenging. Getting smart, qualified local talent to work in Husky Energy's expanding operations is the ideal solution.

KEEPING IT LOCAL

Husky Energy has reached out to two centres of higher learning in the Prairies with funding to support education for power engineers. Saskatchewan Polytechnic is one institute using Husky Energy's financial support and a close working relationship to create opportunities for young people. It runs a network of technical schools across the province laser-focused on ensuring graduates emerge from programmes knowing where to deploy their new skills.

Across the provincial border in Alberta is Lakeland College. Whereas in the United States, the terms "university" and "college" are used interchangeably, Canadian colleges offer two- to four-year degrees focused specifically on technical training. Lakeland does just this and has a campus in Lloydminster, the city that straddles the Alberta-Saskatchewan border and is home to Husky Energy's upgrader and asphalt refinery.

Husky Energy works with the school to improve facilities and provide scholarships for high-potential students. Funding for labs has topped over CAD1.125 million for Saskatchewan Polytechnic—the school's largest corporate donation ever. Edward Connolly, Husky Energy's Senior Vice President, Heavy Oil, explains the importance of the project: "The success of the company, and Saskatchewan as a whole, is dependent on ensuring we have the people with the skill sets needed for today and tomorrow. And one of the areas of highest demand is power engineering." Two-thirds of the donation funds have gone to the newly renamed Husky Energy Power Engineering Lab, allowing the school to work year round to provide education for power engineers. The remainder of the donation is dedicated to scholarships.

In 2012, Husky Energy donated CAD1.1 million to Lakeland College, allowing improved facilities to help power engineering graduates better explore the scientific and technical implications of their work, making them more prepared for the workplace. Husky Energy has been supporting programmes at Lakeland since 1983. "In the college's almost 100-year history, Husky Energy stands out as one of Lakeland's most generous supporters," Glenn Charlesworth, President & CEO of Lakeland College explains. "This contribution helps us expand and enhance our Lloydminster Campus facilities so we

can offer more power engineering training and other industry-related programming.”

In addition to improving lab facilities, funds provide scholarships to encourage top-notch local students to enter the industry and succeed.

HANDS-ON EXPERIENCE

The connections that graduates build with Husky Energy throughout their programmes are critical to their success. Working as a power engineer requires not only theoretical knowledge, but also real experience in facilities, known as “steam time”.

Husky Energy recruits power engineers at all levels and supports trainees in obtaining hands-on experience with actual equipment. This has led to permanent job offers for scholarship recipients who meet Husky Energy’s high standards. The first group will graduate in June 2015, confident in their skills and many with a job in hand. More Husky Energy-supported graduates will follow.

In different parts of the world, young people have different needs. On the Canadian Prairies, it may be access to world-class training so they can have meaningful careers close to home. Other youth may hope to travel the world to pursue their dreams.

ALIGHT WITH ACADEMIC PASSION: HUTCHISON CHEVENING SCHOLARS

For students who excel academically, tremendous opportunities await. HWL helps those with the brightest potential to

further their ambitions. The rare few are rewarded with the prestigious Hutchison Chevening scholarship.

The global Chevening scholarship programme was founded in 1983 by the British government with the aim of providing talented young people from around the world the opportunity to study in the United Kingdom and immerse themselves in British culture. HWL has supported the Hutchison Chevening Scholarships since 2002.

Chevening’s global budget each year is approximately GBP18 million, the majority of which is funded by UK’s Ministry of Foreign and Commonwealth Office. The remaining funding is donated by organisations around the world, including HWL. For the past 12 years, HWL has donated over GBP6.5 million to sponsor more than 710 scholars from Hong Kong and Mainland China to study in the UK.

“Since taking up my post in Hong Kong last September, I have been struck by what a great friend and commercial partner Hutchison Whampoa is to the UK,” said Caroline Wilson, British Consul General to Hong Kong, in 2012. “This is exemplified by the fact that HWL is the most generous funding partner for Chevening. I am very proud that we have the Hutchison Chevening scholarship and want to thank HWL for their massive contribution. The work ensures that a fantastic pool of talented candidates have access to the opportunities the programme provides.”

“The strong financial support from this scholarship has been incredibly helpful.”

Chung Pui-shan,
Hutchison Chevening scholar

With the support of HWL, young people in Hong Kong can access one of the best education opportunities in the world. Alongside their formal studies, they can experience all the history, heritage, scenery, art, culture and sport that Britain offers to broaden their horizons. “I think the strong financial support from this Scholarship has been incredibly helpful, allowing us not only to focus on our studies, but also to participate in extracurricular activities,” says Chung Pui-shan, a current Hutchison Chevening scholar at the Institution of Development Studies in the University of Sussex.

“One of the biggest gains from this programme is definitely the connections I’ve made,” says Paul Li, the 2004 Chevening scholar and current Vice President of the British Chevening Scholars (Hong Kong) Association. “Even when I travel abroad, I frequently meet up with other foreign Chevening scholars through its extensive global alumni network.”

While the complex needs of students vary from place to place—from the heights of British education to humble Vietnamese villages—Hutchison is making a difference in the lives of young people all around the world. □



Chevening scholars congregate in Britain.

LKSF sparks innovation



The source of the tech success of Israel, also known as the “Start-up Nation”, is unknown to many Hong Kong people. It is no mystery, however, to the Li Ka Shing Foundation (LKSF), which has long supported connections between Haifa’s Technion - Israel Institute of Technology and Guangdong’s Shantou University (see *Sphere* #35), seeking to link Israel’s innovative spirit with education in China.

The Techcracker Lab programme continues that bridge building by giving enterprising young people a chance to see Israel up close to learn how to cultivate innovation and operate successful start-ups.

This new programme supported a large cadre of carefully selected university and high school students, accompanied by their teachers and professors, to visit the “Start-Up Nation” for a week in early 2015. The Consulate General of Israel sponsors media to document the exchange. The over 100 participants found the experience an eye-opener.

Davon Hui, from Hong Kong Polytechnic University, and Felix Yung, a student in the University of Hong Kong, shared their thoughts with *Sphere*. “I am grateful for the sponsorship of LKSF,” says Mr Yung. “Not only have I had the opportunity to learn about entrepreneurship and experience the culture of Israel that breeds innovation, the trip made me realise that the development of a society will depend on the advancement of technology. And thanks to the Foundation, I am able to visit a place where people normally will not go at

this young age and learn something that cannot be possibly learnt in Hong Kong.”

THE CAN-DO SPIRIT

Apart from learning about the conceptualising, funding and development of start-ups, participants interacted with prominent entrepreneurs and, at the end of the visit, had the chance to pitch a business plan to start-up experts.

Mr Yung cited meeting Waze founder Uri Levine as one of the highlights of the trip. Waze is a traffic and navigation app that was sold to Google for USD1.1 billion in 2013. One thing that struck Mr Yung was the perseverance Mr Levine has demonstrated, explaining, “Uri shared with us that every start-up faces a cycle—the motivation will drop as a start-up struggles to materialise a business idea and later rise again. He says it is like crossing the desert, where you find the scenery is always the same, but as long as you keep walking, you will find your way out of the desert one day and see a different picture.”

Mr Hui too was impressed with the spirit of the entrepreneurs. He worried he lacked the technical skills to set up his business but, after hearing from Wibbitz founder Zohar Dayan, Mr Hui discovered that Mr Dayan once felt he too lacked the technical background to build his groundbreaking app that allows users to literally watch news articles. And even though Mr Dayan failed many times in the early days, he persisted and finally emerged as a success.

CITY TOUGH, DESERT TOUGH

Mr Dayan’s spirit is perhaps part of Israel’s national fibre. With limited natural resources, resilience in the face of adversity has created the Israel of today, rewarding the nation’s innovation and perseverance. These are the exact qualities required for a start-up to blossom and an entrepreneur to be successful.

LKSF sought to give the relatively sheltered Hongkongers a taste of Israel-style mental toughness needed to reach their goals. Apart from spending a night camping in the desert, participants went swimming in the cold Dead Sea and trained to shoot with an M-16 rifle and a pistol in the heavy snow. “We were wet and it was very cold,” Mr Yung recalls of his first-ever shooting experience. “The weather condition was not good, but we pulled ourselves together and stayed till the end of the shooting exercise.” To him, the training was an experience he would never forget.

FROM LEARNING TO APPLICATION

Mr Hui had the idea to take styrofoam and transform it into condoms. He is keen to emphasise the environmental upside of recycling. Moreover, “apart from being a gimmick, I believe my idea will really help the Third World to fight HIV.” It might take some time before we see the next-generation condom in the market, but Mr Hui has learned from this trip to be persistent.

Mr Yung, on the other hand, is eager to dive into the online shopping business as he sees the market potential growing. Leveraging the network he established on his trip and the lessons learnt from successful entrepreneurs, he has firm plans to open his business someday.

Both students were excited about the insights they gleaned on their trip. “It is not easy to become an entrepreneur in Hong Kong, but this trip has provided me an invaluable opportunity to move in this direction,” says Mr Hui. At a time when Hong Kong is exploring ways to encourage young people to become entrepreneurs, LKSF is fanning the flames of innovation in eager young minds to help them become the next Thomas Edison, Craig Venter or Elon Musk.