

“Enhancing the Competitiveness of Social Enterprises in Hong Kong: A Three-Dimensional Analysis” seminar on 30 October 2018



On 30 October, about 50 participants, including social entrepreneurs, policy-makers, researchers, academics, business professionals, and students, attended the seminar “Enhancing the Competitiveness of Social Enterprises in Hong Kong: A Three-Dimensional Analysis”, organized by the Department of Accountancy, the Research Centre for Sustainable Hong Kong of the City University of Hong Kong, and the Hong Kong Council of Social Service – Social Enterprise Business Centre.

The study that was reported at the seminar started in September 2017, and involved face-to-face interviews with 22 social enterprises held between January and April 2018. Dr. Sidney Leung, one of the speakers at the seminar, observed that social enterprises funded by the government or with a non-governmental organization background are more competitive and sustainable, whereas privately funded social enterprises often have insufficient resources and lack comprehensive planning and management.

“Social enterprises have to achieve the primary objective of creating social value and maintain their competitiveness if they are to have sustainable development and generate greater social influence,” Leung said.

Mr. Howard Ling, Chief Consultant of the Hong Kong Council of Social Service – Social Enterprise Business Centre, suggested that social enterprises should improve their investment objectives and financial performance, funding sources, and governance structure, for example by establishing an overseeing/advisory committee, commissioning an audited annual report, and setting realistic and sustainable dual investment objectives.

Professor Phyllis Mo concluded that the number of social enterprises is increasing, and that they are becoming more diversified. “However, the competitiveness and sustainability of social enterprises do warrant concern. All of us should work closely and make better use of resources to generate more social benefits,” Mo said.

The project was funded by the UGC Knowledge Transfer Earmarked Fund. The project team is led by Dr. Sidney Leung, and includes Prof. Phyllis Mo, Mr. Howard Ling, Dr. Yanto Chandra, and Miss Ivy Ho, Research Assistant as members.



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Social Enterprises are important to generate social value and jobs for the socially disadvantaged in the community and promote social entrepreneurship and social innovations. However, running a successful social enterprise is more difficult than running a small and medium-sized enterprise because of the need of social enterprises to balance their primary objective of creating social value and being competitive in order to be sustainable to make a real social impact.

In this seminar, we will discuss the key research findings on what potentially contribute to enhancing the competitiveness of social enterprises in Hong Kong from the perspectives of investment objectives and financial performance, funding sources and governance structure.


Moderator:



Prof. MO Lai Lan Phyllis

Professor
The Department of Accountancy
City University of Hong Kong
Associate Director
The Research Centre for Sustainable
Hong Kong

 30/10/2018 (Tuesday)

 15:00 – 16:30

 Room 221, 14/F, Lau Ming Wai Academic Building, City University of Hong Kong, Tat Chee Avenue, Kowloon

 English (Supplemented by Chinese)

Speakers:



Dr. Sidney C M LEUNG

Associate Professor
The Department of Accountancy
City University of Hong Kong
Member
The Research Centre for Sustainable
Hong Kong



Mr. Howard LING MH

Chief Consultant
The Hong Kong Council of Social
Service - Social Enterprise Business
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Organizers:



Co-organizer:

Online Registration:

<https://social-enterprises-in-hk.eventbrite.hk>

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