

2012

Highlight

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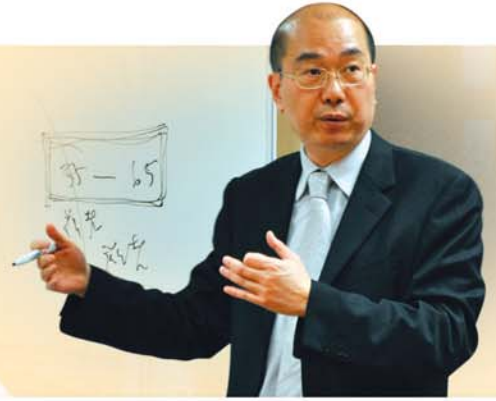
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Guangdong Elderly Public Affairs Research Centre Visit

On 16th April, 2012, the Guangdong Elderly Public Affairs Research Centre visited APIAS. Led by Deputy Director Mrs. Chen Jing, the mission was introduced the overview of Hong Kong's ageing policy, elderly care training, and ageing industry developments.

As invited by the Director of APIAS, Dr. David Dai Lok-kwan (Honorary Secretary), Mr. Henry Shie Wai-hung (Vice-Chairman of Internal Affairs) of The Hong Kong Alzheimer's Disease Association, Dr. Peter Chan Yuk-choi (Chairman and CEO) of Sino Care Enterprise and Mr. Kenneth Chan Chi-yuk (Chairman) of the Elderly Services Association of Hong Kong also participated in the meeting.



Group photo of the mission with APIAS team.

Front: Mrs. Chen Jing (Centre), Prof. Alfred Chan Cheung-ming (Left 2), Dr. David Dai Lok-kwan (Left 1), Dr. Peter Chan Yuk-choi (Right 2).

Back: Mrs. Lu Lin (Centre), Mr. Henry Shie Wai-hung (Left 1), Mr. Kenneth Chan Chi-yuk (Left 2), Dr. Emily Liang Jr-shuihan (Right 1).

The Straits Times Interviewed Prof. Alfred Chan

On 1st June, 2012, *The Straits Times* has reported on Hong Kong's rapidly shrinking workforce, pointing out that by 2029 the working population of Hong Kong will decrease by 7.4% from 3.77 million to 3.49 million. Prof. Chan explained in the interview that such a decrease is due to a significant export of human resources to Mainland China. As the economy in the Mainland booms, many migrate to seek opportunities there.

Prof. Chan commented that not every labourer can shift to a more productive industry, and we cannot, in long term, rely on expatriates or immigrants to refill our workforce. As a solution, he suggested that "optional retirement" can allow those elderly who are capable and willing to continue their contributions by remaining in the workforce.

HK's workforce shrinking rapidly

Living standards and competitiveness under threat, warns govt committee

By LI XUEYING
ASSISTANT FOREIGN EDITOR

HONG KONG'S top-dog status as the world's most competitive economy could come under siege from a looming demographic threat: a workforce that is shrinking faster than expected.

The number is expected to contract to 3.49 million in 2029, from 3.77 million currently.

The 7.4 per cent decline may "reduce the standard of living,"

weaken competitiveness and undermine the economic vitality of Hong Kong society", a government committee on population, led by Chief Secretary Stephen Lam, warned on Wednesday.

The sobering statistics were a dampener on Hong Kong's good showing in a global competitiveness report released the same day, which ranked Hong Kong first for the second year running. Meanwhile, Singapore slipped to fourth place, from third last year.

"The government should consider examining the merits and implications of encouraging the adoption of a higher retirement age," Mr Lam said.

Hong Kong does not have a mandatory retirement age but the civil service - from which the private sector takes its cue - currently sets it at 60.

Two other ploys to tackle the challenge are to encourage more young people and women to enter the workforce and to import skilled foreigners.

The government will add 5,000 places in international schools in the next four years, said Mr Lam. Local universities will also be en-

Some recommendations by committee on population

■ Consider ways to raise the retirement age for both public-sector and private-sector employees

■ Encourage more young people and women to enter the labour market

■ Import skilled foreigners, by reviewing the pull factors that could entice them to work in

Hong Kong, for example

■ Integrate mainland children who have Hong Kong residency, while stepping up surveillance on pregnant women at the borders

■ Develop health-care infrastructure by ensuring land for private hospitals, and encourage active ageing



Japan Corporation of Ageing SMS co. Ltd. Visit

On 28th July, 2012, a Japanese corporation of ageing SMS co. Ltd. visited APIAS. The President Mr. Morofuji Shohei, The General Manager of their Beijing Branch Mr. Sakanashi Kinya, along with several senior staff members from Taiwan, Korea, Indonesia and Vietnam, aimed to have a basic understanding of Hong Kong's silver market before exploring the possibility in developing the South-East Asia market.

Prof. Alfred Chan Cheung-ming and the APIAS team provided the corporation with a brief introduction of Hong Kong's ageing population, medical and welfare policies, as well as the elderly services.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

■ Joint Continuing Professional Development (CPD) Course with Hong Kong Alzheimer's Disease Association (HKADA)

The critical situation of ageing in the Asia-Pacific region is no news to us, and dementia following old age has recorded a rapid increase in the number of cases. Currently we have around 110,000 elderly aged 60 or above suffering from dementia, APIAS along with Hong Kong Alzheimer's Disease Association (HKADA) recognises the need to train sufficient number of professional care workers to meet the demand for dementia related health care support.

APIAS in partnership with HKADA offers the Foundation Award in Awareness of Dementia and the Professional Certificate in Dementia Care. Students completing the above courses are certified by Edexcel, UK's largest awarding body offering academic and vocational qualifications, as achieving BTEC level 3 standards. Upon completion of the courses, students will also be eligible to apply "Continuing Professional Development Credits" (CPD) as required by the Social Workers Registration Board.

■ APIAS as Hospital Authority accredited training body

As from June 2012, APIAS is an accredited by Hospital Authority as the training provider for "Care-related Support Worker Training" programmes. Should you are interested in the programme, please follow our website's updates or contact us!

■ APIAS, as approved by the Department of Social Welfare, serves as the training body for delivering Bridging Courses for Health Workers of Residential Care Homes for Persons with Disabilities

As endorsed by SWD, APIAS is now organizing the following courses:

- Combined Health Worker Training Course
- Bridging Course for Health Workers of Residential Care Homes for Persons with Disabilities (Course A)
- Bridging Course for Health Workers of Residential Care Homes for Persons with Disabilities (Course B)

Stay tuned to our website updates or contact us to find out more about our health workers courses!

