

## Workshop Presentation

Topic: Innovations and Good Practices in Volunteering

### Community re-integration of injured workers

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The Hong Kong Workers' Health Centre was founded as a limited company in 1984 by a group of medical doctors, therapists, occupational health and safety professionals and social workers. Our vision is "Working for the Protection of Worker's Health" Since 1984, we devoted to the promotion of occupational health, prevention of workplace injuries and disease, protection of worker's health, and assisting injured workers to return to work and participate in community life.

#### **Highlight of our program:**

With the funding support of Community Investment and Inclusion Fund, the Hong Kong Workers' Health Centre has launched a Volunteer Partnership Scheme for Those Rehabilitated from Occupational Injuries and Disease. It is a community reintegration project which aims at providing volunteer training to those rehabilitated from occupational related injuries, changing their status from a service receiver to a service provider.

#### **Description of our program**

For this volunteer partnership scheme, the program can be divided into different categories:

Training courses for the volunteer: To provide volunteer training to the injured workers, to exert their talents and potentials; to encourage the workers suffered from occupational injury and disease to participate in volunteering work such as helping other disadvantaged groups in Hong Kong e.g. elderly, single parent families and those suffering from chronic illness.

"Volunteering Ambassadors - Striving for a Better Future": those joining the volunteer training will be register as "Volunteering Ambassadors" to provide volunteer services.

Partnership scheme with private sectors or professional groups: volunteers from private sectors/ professional groups work as partners with the injured workers' volunteering teams to provide services to the disadvantaged groups.

3.Sharing sessions: Volunteers can have a sharing on their changes after joining the

volunteer services.

4.To formulate a Volunteer Management Group: The first fifteen volunteers who have participated in most of the activities will be selected to be a member of the Volunteer Management Group. The group will assist in planning and organizing volunteer activities.

### **Conclusions/result**

Up to now, altogether 153 injured workers becomes our volunteers, contribute their strength and reintegrate into community successfully. In order to evaluate the effectiveness of our program, SF12 and Social adjustment scale has been selected to be our assessment tools. It was found that through this volunteer partnership scheme, nearly 90% of volunteers enhance their self-esteem, confidence and get ready to return to work. Besides, this project also builds up linkages among different groups: employees suffering from occupational injuries and diseases and professionals.

In 2005, our volunteers breakthrough the traditional mind and integrate the cooperation of business organizations. By conducting skill training course, provide chances for injured workers to further develop their skills and job placement in business sectors.