



## Press Release

### **AYP 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gold Award Presentation 2011**

(Hong Kong, November 3, 2011) The Hong Kong Award for Young People (AYP), formerly known as The Duke of Edinburgh's Award, presented the Gold Award Certificates to 72 young people. To celebrate AYP's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, HRH The Prince Edward, Earl of Wessex, KG GCVO came to Hong Kong to officiate the Gold Award Presentation Ceremony.

HRH appreciates very much the effort and perseverance of the young people participating in AYP. He also took the chance to take pictures and share his own experience in participating in the Gold Award with this year's awardees.

Brian Tsang, used to be a quiet person, shared his own experience on stage - AYP made him a totally different person. "When I was still going to school, I always stayed at home and played video games. "Golden Chicken" was the first movie I watched when I was 18. I was such a nerd." Brian said. After going to college, Brian met some AYP participants and he then realized how little he knew, "I was so naïve that I thought that knowing how to throw the ball means knowing how to play basketball. After playing with them, I found that there were a lot of techniques indeed." He then decided to join AYP so as to challenge himself and he targeted to complete the Awards before his 25 years of age. He took part in many activities these years, including playing piano, canoeing and Auxiliary Medical Service. "If I could turn the clock back, I would have been joined AYP earlier." Now, Brian is actively engaged in voluntary service as he believes that he can influence others positively.

Iris Wong is also one of the Gold Award Recipients this year. She wanted to be different from other people, and so she chose to participate in AYP. Iris admitted that she has an arbitrary character. After joining AYP, she learnt that comprehensive plans and emergency plans are important in achieving her goals. "To participant in the expedition assessment journey, my self-confidence is further enhanced. I believe the leadership skills which I have learnt are useful for my future."

In celebrating AYP's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, both the first male and female recipients of Gold Award grasped this special opportunity to go back to Hong Kong for celebration:

Mr. Chris Chan who was a retired civil servant of the Hong Kong Immigration Department; and Prof. Rosanna Peeling, the Head of Diagnostics of World Health Organization. Chan and Peeling flew from the US and the UK respectively to witness and share the joy of this year's Gold Awardees.

Every Gold Award holder has gone through the challenges of five Sections' activities: at least 100 hours of social services, 12 months of skills training, 4-day-3-night of 60km expedition assessment journey, at least 18-week physical recreation activities and 5-day-4-night Residential Project. These trainings help young people to build up confidence and caliber as well as to foster their spirits of self-challenge and perseverance.

The awardees come from 10 Operating Authorities: Schools Operating Authority, Hong Kong Police Operating Authority, Civil Aid Service Operating Authority, The Boys' Brigade, Hong Kong Operating Authority, Vocational Training Council Operating Authority, Hong Kong Playground Association Operating Authority etc. 72 Gold Awardees made well use of their leisure time, took different challenges for self-improvement. In addition, 25 volunteers were awarded the Certificate of Recognition for their effort and support to AYP for the past years.

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**Media Enquiry:**

The Hong Kong Award for Young People

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**Gold Award Presentation Ceremony 2011**  
**Statistics of Recipients**

**Number of recipients of Gold Award totaling: 72**

Male: 33 (45.8%)

Female: 39 (54.2%)

**Number of recipients of Certificate of Recognition: 25**

**Distribution of recipients of Gold Award:**

<u>Name of Operating Authorities</u>	<u>No. of Recipients</u>
1. Schools Operating Authority	28
2. Hong Kong Police Operating Authority	15
3. Award Operating Authority	9
4. Civil Aid Service Operating Authority	8
5. Chinese Y.M.C.A. Operating Authority	4
6. Vocational Training Council Operating Authority	3
7. H.K. Playground Association Operating Authority	2
8. Hong Kong Sea Cadet Corps Operating Authority	1
9. The Boys' Brigade, Hong Kong Operating Authority	1
10. The H.K. Federation of Youth Groups Operating Authority	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>72</b>



## **About The Hong Kong Award for Young People**

The Hong Kong Award for Young People (AYP), formerly known as The Duke of Edinburgh's Award, is one of the active members of The International Award Association. AYP was established in Hong Kong in 1961. To date, we have more than 56,000 young people participating in the Award Scheme in over 600 youth organizations, secondary schools, tertiary institutes, uniformed groups and government departments.

AYP is a programme about challenge, perseverance, enterprise and achievement. With five decades experience in youth development, AYP is the pioneer of Hong Kong non-formal education. It fills the gap left by formal education and encourages young people to achieve whole person development through a unique appreciation system recognized by the society. AYP provides young people (aged between 14 and 25) with chances of facing different challenges and opportunities to utilize their leisure time in a constructive way, to set and achieve personal goals, and to know more about themselves and their community through experiential learning either in groups or in person. There are three levels of the Award, which are Bronze, Silver and Gold. To gain an Award, the participants have to fulfill the requirements of the different sections of activities, namely Service, Expeditions, Skills, Physical Recreation and Residential Project. (Residential Project is an additional section for Gold Award.)

As an internationally recognized award, Gold and Silver Award holders of The Hong Kong Award for Young People are granted merits in the Self-recommendation Scheme of the Joint University Programmes Admissions System (JUPAS) in Hong Kong, listed together with the Olympic Games and Asian Games medal recipients. This proves the identification and importance of the Award Scheme in the society.

The Patron of AYP is The Hon. Donald Tsang, GBM, the Chief Executive of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region. In Hong Kong, before the re-unification with the Mainland China, AYP was honored to have the Governors to present the Gold Award Certificates. Since 1997, we also have The Chief Executive of the HKSAR to officiate at our Gold Award Presentation Ceremonies. The governing body of AYP is the Award Council, with all its members appointed by the Chief Executive. Our present Chairman of Award Council is Mr. Rock CHEN, BBS, JP.

AYP website : [www.ayp.org.hk](http://www.ayp.org.hk)