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MIGHTY OAKS FOUNDATION

*Inter generational*  
CELEBRATING HUMAN *for all*  
CONNECTIONS IN AN AI ERA

SEPTEMBER 18, 2025 (THU)

2/F Grand Ballroom, New World Millennium Hong Kong Hotel



# ABOUT MIGHTY OAKS



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Mighty Oaks Foundation brings old and young together for mutual joy and learning. Our goal is to create an age-friendly society by enriching community life through meaningful intergenerational engagement.

We build connections between elder care facilities and nearby schools for the long term, where old and young can develop friendships and flourish together.


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## CONTACTS

 +852 5226 2665 (WhatsApp Available)

 [info@mighty-oaks.org](mailto:info@mighty-oaks.org)

 <https://mighty-oaks.org>

   @mightyoaksfoundationhk

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# WELCOME MESSAGE



**Ms. Poh Lee Tan**  
Founder, Mighty Oaks Foundation

## INTERGENERATIONAL FOR ALL: BUILDING BRIDGES, SHAPING FUTURES

Mighty Oaks welcomes you to Hong Kong's first symposium on intergenerational programmes. Today, we reflect on how the wisdom of age and the curiosity of youth come together—not in contrast, but in harmony—to shape a more compassionate society.

Across families, workplaces, and communities, it is human connection that enables us to navigate complexity and uncertainty. While artificial intelligence facilitates interaction, it cannot replicate empathy, offer comfort, or foster belonging.

In the AI era, youth connect through scrolling yet many experience profound isolation. At the same time, older generations carry stories and insights that have shaped our society, but face the risk of digital exclusion. This is a missed opportunity. Intergenerational practice offers a vital bridge, transforming isolation into inclusion, and data into dialogue.

Let's remember that we are storytellers, memory keepers, and wisdom sharers.

Intergenerational relationships cultivate resilience, broaden perspective, and instil purpose. Let's harness technology to strengthen these bonds, through platforms that enable shared learning and mutual growth across generations.

This symposium brings together government leaders, educators, innovators, social service professionals, and philanthropic partners. All of you contribute an essential perspective to this collective effort.

We extend our sincere gratitude to Mr. Ho Kai Ming, Undersecretary for the Labour and Welfare Bureau; Dr. Raymond Chan of the Shaw Foundation; the New World Millennium HK Hotel; Prof. Thang Leng Leng; and all our distinguished speakers.

This is a celebration and a call to action. Together, let us build not only intelligent systems, but inclusive and compassionate communities.

### | Event Sponsor



Founded by Sir Run Run Shaw over 50 years ago, the Shaw Foundation has supported a great number of programmes in education, healthcare, and community development. We are pleased to be able to sponsor this symposium.

The well-being of Hong Kong society as a whole is greatly enhanced by the strong roots of our older generation and the wisdom which they impart to the younger generation. Poh Lee and her team do admirable work in strengthening intergenerational ties through meaningful and warm social interaction. We feel privileged that we can contribute.

# THEME OF SYMPOSIUM 2025

What makes us irreplaceably human: our ability to connect, create, and care. From social media to artificial intelligence, the value of human connections and role of humanity are being questioned, even redefined, generating anxiety among people of ALL ages.

This is precisely where intergenerational practices play a vital role. These practices encompass various dimensions and offer practical solutions to preserve what makes humans valuable: the inheritance of values and culture, the fostering of bonds, and the strengthening of relationships.

These practices strengthen social inclusion for both old and young, promote empathy, and equip youth to learn from elder wisdom. In the face of a major challenge to humanity, intergenerational practices promote emotional intelligence, trust-building, and compassion, qualities which remain uniquely human. All generations can and must work together, each contributing and benefiting in the process.

# RUNDOWN

09:00 - 09:30	Registration and Reception
09:30 - 09:40	<b>Intergenerational performance:</b> Mighty Oaks Silver Harmonies Team and HKIS Intergenerational Strings Ensemble
09:40 - 09:45	Founder's Welcome Speech
09:45 - 09:55	<b>Opening remarks: guest of honour</b> Mr. Ho Kai Ming, Under Secretary, Labour and Welfare Bureau
09:55 - 10:05	Kick-off ceremony and group photos
10:05 - 10:15	Coffee break
10:15 - 10:45	<b>Keynote speech:</b> Let's go Intergenerational: Embracing the necessary connection
10:45 - 11:20	<b>Panel Discussion 1:</b> From Silos to Synergy: Reshaping Social Service Delivery for a Stronger, More Empathetic Society
11:20 - 11:30	Coffee break
11:30 - 12:05	<b>Panel Discussion 2:</b> From Screen Time to Shared Time: Fostering Student Growth, Empathy, and Community Connection
12:05 - 12:40	<b>Panel Discussion 3:</b> From Giving to Growing: Strengthening Philanthropic Communities to Shape Hong Kong's Future
12:40 - 12:50	Closing remarks



## AI Speech translation services

The symposium will be conducted in Cantonese and English with AI Speech translation services. Guests can choose languages. If you need to use the services, please have your mobile phone and earphones ready, scan the QR code, and follow the instructions to set up.



## We value your feedback

Thank you for attending Symposium 2025!

Please scan the QR code provided and complete a brief online survey.

# LET'S GO INTERGENERATIONAL: EMBRACING THE NECESSARY CONNECTION



## Keynote Speech

**Prof. Leng Leng THANG**

National University of Singapore

## BIOGRAPHY

Thang Leng Leng is a socio-cultural anthropologist and Associate Professor at the National University of Singapore. Specializing in aging and intergenerational relationships, she co-edited *Intergenerational Contact Zones* (Routledge, 2020) and served as co-editor-in-chief of the *Journal of Intergenerational Relationships*. Currently President of the Singapore Gerontological Society, she actively promotes intergenerational well-being through research and community initiatives.

## ABSTRACT

In the recent years, we are witnessing an emergence in global efforts to link the generations. Why the necessity for intergenerational connections? How have intergenerational initiatives and spaces that create and expand intergenerational interaction had an impact on the wellbeing of elders, the young and the community? Taking Singapore's developments in promoting intergenerational engagements as an example, the discussion will provide ideas on embracing the necessary connection for a better society for all.

# PANEL DISCUSSION I

## TOPIC

### From Silos to Synergy: Reshaping Social Service Delivery for a Stronger, More Empathetic Society

## Moderator



### Prof. Teresa Tsien

Director, Mighty Oaks Foundation  
Hang Seng University of Hong Kong, HKSAR

## BIOGRAPHY

Teresa is an Adjunct Professor at Hang Seng University, Visiting Professor at Respati University (Indonesia), and Honorary Professor at Tung Wah College. Former Professor of Practice (Gerontology) at PolyU, she founded its Institute of Active Ageing. A renowned expert in ageing research, she advises government and NGOs, and represents Hong Kong on the Active Ageing Consortium Asia Pacific.

## Panelist



### Ms. Siu Lai Chan

Social Services Director, The Salvation Army

## BIOGRAPHY

Ms. Chan oversees 90+ service units aiding vulnerable groups. A committed advocate for intergenerational inclusion, she has served on key public committees, including the Lotteries Fund Advisory Committee and Executive Council of The Hong Kong Council of Social Service, driving impactful social initiatives.

## ABSTRACT

The Salvation Army Chuk Yuen Integrated Service combines a Children and Youth Centre with a Neighbourhood Elderly Centre to promote intergenerational inclusion and develop an inclusive community support network. Through this integration of services, it fosters intergenerational interaction and cohesion, offering one-stop support for children, youth, the elderly, and their caregivers. This presentation will share valuable experiences and reflections from the journey of implementing service integration to fostering greater social inclusion.

# PANEL DISCUSSION I

## Panelist



### **Ms. Linda Lam**

Manageress, LinkAges Lam Ki Yip Centre, AKA

## BIOGRAPHY

Ms. Lam has been serving in AKA for more than 15 years, targets of service include children, youth, parents and elderly people. Since 2019, Ms. Lam has been working in the Intergenerational Centre in AKA, the LinkAges Lam Ki Yip Centre, launching intergenerational projects to facilitate mutual understanding, cooperation and respect among different generations.

## ABSTRACT

In response to the needs of an ageing society, AKA established Hong Kong's first Intergenerational Centre in 2012, the LinkAges Lam Ki Yip Centre. Different intergenerational projects have been launched, aimed at strengthening intergenerational solidarity between different generations in both non-familial and familial context. An evidence-proven framework, the Optimal Quality Intergenerational Interaction (OQII) Model has been developed to guide the launch of effective intergenerational programs.

## Panelist



### **Ms. Iris Wong**

Head of Programmes, Mighty Oaks Foundation

## BIOGRAPHY

Ms. Wong brings over 10 years of nonprofit expertise. She specializes in creating impactful intergenerational connections, bridging elder care facilities and schools through innovative programs that foster mutual learning, joy, and lasting bonds between generations.

## ABSTRACT

Mighty Oaks bridges generations by fostering institutional collaborations between schools and elder care facilities. As a non-subsidized NGO, Mighty Oaks make use of our unique position and flexibility to leverage existing community resources to meet shared needs for the old and young. Strong leadership, trust-building, and mindset change are necessary for such cross-sector collaboration, to build a more inclusive and harmonious society in Hong Kong.

# PANEL DISCUSSION II

## TOPIC

### From Screen Time to Shared Time: Fostering Student Growth, Empathy, and Community Connection

#### Moderator

##### Dr. Anissa Chan



#### BIOGRAPHY

Dr. Chan holds a BSc and PGDE (HKU), MA (London), and PhD (Monash). A seasoned educator, she served as principal at prominent Hong Kong schools (1993–2017) and supervises Sheng Kung Hui Kindergarten. She chairs SCOLAR, holds honorary roles at HKUST and EdUHK, and led curriculum reform. She has been awarded scholarships and HKU's Distinguished Alumni Award.

#### Panelist

##### Dr. Daphne Ho

Headteacher, Diocesan Boys' School Primary Division



#### BIOGRAPHY

Dr. Ho is dedicated to nurturing students' well-being and holistic development, emphasizing the importance of a supportive environment that cultivates compassionate leaders prepared to make positive contributions to society.

#### ABSTRACT

AI education enhances data processing and student learning, but schools must also foster empathy and communication. Through STEAM projects, like designing an app for elders, students learn to listen, adapt, and create meaningful solutions. This balance of tech and empathy prepares students for real-world challenges and human-centered innovation.

# PANEL DISCUSSION II

## Panelist



### Mr. Andy Li

Principal, The Salvation Army Tin Ka Ping School

## BIOGRAPHY

Mr. Li is dedicated to promoting innovative education and driving reform in school curricula and teaching methods. With extensive experience in advancing and implementing e-learning, STEM education, and computational thinking, he has launched various innovative education initiatives at his previous school, Ling To Catholic Primary School, making it a renowned institution for innovative learning in Hong Kong.

## ABSTRACT

The school actively pilots intergenerational programmes with Mighty Oaks, fostering empathy and responsibility in students. These initiatives evolved to promote social responsibility, cross-subject learning, and community engagement. In the AI era, bridging the digital divide is vital—students must recognize the wisdom elders offer and embrace intergenerational learning as essential.

## Panelist



### Mr. Herman Chan

Executive Director of Eldpathy

## BIOGRAPHY

Mr Chan, raised by his grandparents, founded Eldpathy to bridge generational gaps and promote elderly empathy. Through Elderly Simulation Programmes, over 30,000 participants have experienced aging challenges, while 30+ Elderly Instructors foster intergenerational understanding. Despite financial hurdles, his NGO has hosted 800+ activities since 2012, advocating active ageing.

## ABSTRACT

With rising screen time and reduced human interaction, students face shrinking attention spans and weakened familial bonds. Intergenerational practices with non-familial bonds, like a baseball league pairing elders with students, foster connection, physical health, and mutual respect. These initiatives bridge generational gaps, inspire youth, and promote emotional well-being through shared experiences and teamwork.

# PANEL DISCUSSION III

## TOPIC

### From Giving to Growing: Strengthening Philanthropic Communities to Shape Hong Kong's Future

#### Moderator

##### **Ms. Nancy Yang**

Co-founder, Asian Charity Services

#### BIOGRAPHY

Ms. Yang has dedicated over 17 years to strengthening Hong Kong's social sector. ACS has served more than 1,000 NGOs and 60 family and corporate foundations, advancing a vision to empower those serving vulnerable communities through strategic capacity-building and leadership development.

#### Panelist

##### **Ms. Irene So**

Executive Director, ZeShan Foundation

#### BIOGRAPHY

Ms So, a mission-driven leader with 25 years' experience, has spearheaded initiatives for Oxfam, Porticus Asia, and HKJC Charities Trust. Former journalist and sponsored child, she addresses complex issues like ageing, migration, and social inclusion. As Executive Director of ZeShan Foundation, she drives change management and cross-sector collaborations. Holds MBA and journalism degrees.

#### ABSTRACT

ZeShan is focused on integrated generational (IG) projects, emphasizing collaboration across academia and the ecosystem. Its notable initiative, the Geron-Infusion Education Program, showcases significant IG impacts, fostering innovation and scalability while enhancing relationships among diverse stakeholders. ZeShan advocates for systems-level change in Hong Kong.

# PANEL DISCUSSION III

## Panelist



### **Ms. Nadine Maurellet**

Director, Hong Kong Club Foundation

## BIOGRAPHY

Ms. Maurellet, Founder & CEO of Eden Retirement Lifestyle, merges hospitality, real estate, and legal expertise to revolutionize senior living. A dedicated advocate for elder care, she holds leadership roles in The Hong Kong Club Foundation, The Hong Kong Funders' Network on Ageing Well, and The Community Chest, driving intergenerational impact through innovative solutions.

## ABSTRACT

The Hong Kong Club Foundation adopts a venture capital approach to support smaller NGOs, including growing intergenerational initiatives. Their funded project with Mighty Oaks serves as a foundational step, connecting like-minded organizations to enhance programming. This collaboration fosters long-term intergenerational projects, demonstrating the potential of shared expertise in community engagement.

## Panelist



### **Ms. Rachel Tay**

Program Director of Tencent Foundation

## BIOGRAPHY

Ms Tay drives philanthropic initiatives in Hong Kong and the Greater Bay Area. She led the team in establishing Tencent WeTech Academy to empower youth in tech innovation through hands-on learning and competitions, leveraging Tencent's resources to advance STEM education and nurture future tech leaders for social good.

## ABSTRACT

Tencent Foundation focuses on youth and elderly integration through technology and STEAM learning. The "STEAM for Good" initiative exemplifies intergenerational principles, benefiting primarily youth, while promoting mindset shifts and experiential learning. Tencent advocates for leveraging technology to expand intergenerational programming, aiming for impactful community transformation in Hong Kong.

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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## GUEST OF HONOR

**Mr Ho Kai Ming**  
Under Secretary  
Labour and Welfare Bureau

## KEYNOTE SPEECH

**Prof. Thang Leng Leng**  
National University of Singapore

## ALL OUR MODERATORS AND PANELLISTS

**Mr. Andy Li**  
Principal  
The Salvation Army Tin Ka Ping School

**Ms. Iris Wong**  
Head of Programmes  
Mighty Oaks Foundation

**Ms. Rachel Tay**  
Program Director  
Tencent Foundation

**Dr. Anissa Chan**

**Ms. Linda Lam**  
Project Manageress  
LinkAges Lam Ki Yip Centre, AKA

**Ms. Siu Lai Chan**  
Social Services Director  
The Salvation Army

**Dr. Daphne Ho**  
Headteacher  
Diocesan Boys' School Primary Division

**Ms. Nadine Maurellet**  
Director  
Hong Kong Club Foundation

**Prof. Teresa Tsien**  
Hang Seng University of Hong Kong,  
HKSAR  
Director  
Mighty Oaks Foundation

**Mr. Herman Chan**  
Co-founder  
Eldpathy

**Ms. Nancy Yang**  
Co-founder  
Asian Charity Services

**Ms. Irene So**  
Executive Director  
ZeShan Foundation

## OUR VOLUNTEER MC

**Ms. Chee May Chow**

## INTERGENERATIONAL MUSIC

The 2025 Symposium opens with a heartfelt intergenerational performance by the Mighty Oaks Silver Harmonies Team and the HKIS Intergenerational Strings Ensemble.

The Mighty Oaks Silver Harmonies Team was formed through the Jockey Club iGen Wellness with Harmonica programme, funded by The Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust. With guidance from world champion harmonica player Mr Gordon Lee and his team of young instructors, older adults have discovered the joy of music and the power of connection, performing at schools, concerts, and community venues.

HKIS Intergenerational Strings Ensemble is a student-led initiative dedicated to building meaningful relationships with seniors through shared musical experiences.

Together, the two teams exemplify the symposium's theme by showcasing how music can bridge generations and foster authentic, human connections.

