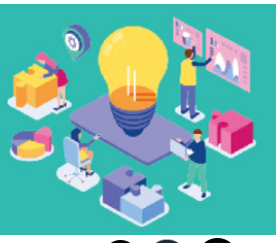
SIE Fund Newsletter | Feb 2021



Pitch in to Develop Innovative Solutions for Social Issues

Latest accomplishments at a glance

Our work continues to bring results. As of end January 2021, the SIE Fund has allocated more than HK$450 million and funded 265 projects, expecting to benefit over 278 000 persons.

Launch of the Fund's second flagship project – Gerontechnology Platform

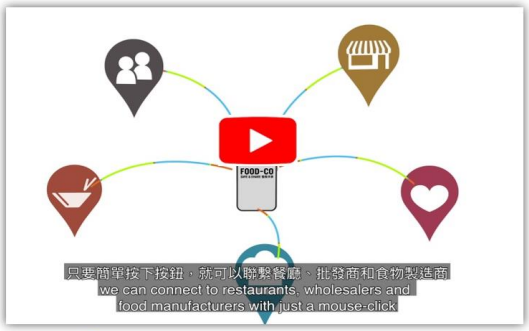
Riding on the success of the food support platform FOOD-CO, the SIE Fund has launched its second flagship project. An intermediary has been appointed to design, develop and operate an inclusive one-stop Gerontechnology Platform to promote the development of the gerontechnology ecosystem in Hong Kong, with the goal of addressing the challenges and tapping the opportunities arising from the ageing population. The three-year project has commenced on 1 January 2021.

Earlier, the SIE Fund has appointed a collaborative coalition of ten organisations led by The Hong Kong Council of Social Service as the intermediary to take forward the Gerontechnology Platform. The Platform will comprise four basic functionalities, namely (1) a knowledge hub; (2) network and capacity building; (3) consultancy, localisation and testing support; and (4) impact assessment. It will link up different stakeholders on the supply and demand sides and enhance synergy by way of engagement, cross-sector partnership and collaboration, with the aim of fostering the development and application of gerontechnology to enhance the well-being, quality of life, independence and self-reliance of the elderly as well as provide support to their families, caregivers, healthcare staff and institutions, particularly under the "new normal".

Funded projects receive recognitions in "Hong Kong ICT Awards 2020"

The results of the "Hong Kong ICT Awards 2020" were announced in December 2020. The SIE Fund is glad to learn that its funded projects were awarded in various categories.

Josephine Lee, Chief Executive Officer of St. James' Settlement (left) and Dr Jane Lee, Chairperson of the SIE Fund Task Force (right).



Click here to watch the video to know more about FOOD-CO

St. James' Settlement was presented Silver Award in the “Smart People (Smart Inclusion) Award” for the Fund’s food support flagship project FOOD-CO. Making use of information technology and data analysis, FOOD-CO connects food support service operators, food donors, supporting organisations and volunteers to enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of food support services in Hong Kong. Significant results have been achieved since its launch in 2017. The second stage of the project “FOOD-CO 2.0” was launched in July 2019 with wider adoption of information technology to further enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of the food support service sector and step up advocacy for donation of food surplus.

Another two grantees of the SIE Fund were also recognised. Zunosaki Ltd (funded project “Deployment of Stroke Rehab Robots in Communities”) and Fung Ka-yan, post-graduate student of The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology and the founder of Gabi Education Limited (funded project “DLTD”) received Silver Award in “Smart Living (Smart Healthcare) Award” and Bronze Award in “Student Innovation (Post-Graduate) Award” respectively.

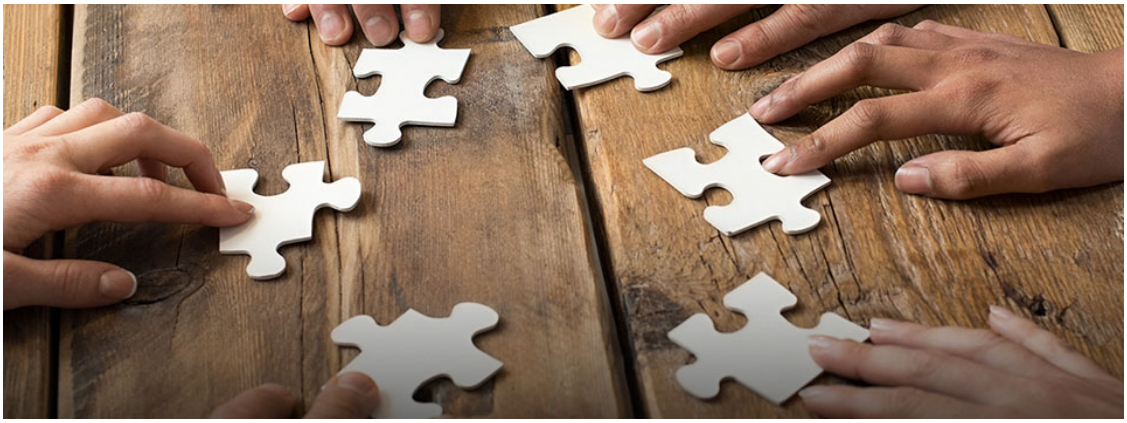
Steered by the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer, the "Hong Kong ICT Awards" aims at recognising and promoting outstanding information and communications technology (ICT) inventions and applications, thereby encouraging innovation and excellence among Hong Kong's ICT talent and enterprises in their constant pursuit of creative and better solutions to meet business and social needs.

SIE on the MOVE

Enhanced Social Innovation Co-working Space Subsidy Scheme opens for application

Aiming to provide subsidy to social entrepreneurs and ventures for leasing desks or offices in co-working spaces with supporting services where they can co-work, co-make and co-create with their counterparts, the Enhanced Social Innovation Co-working Space Subsidy Scheme launched by the SIE Fund is now open for application. Successful applicants will receive a monthly subsidy for leasing desks or offices in the chosen co-working space registered under the Scheme and chargeable business services provided by the co-working space which will help address the needs of their business operation. The subsidy will be given on an actual reimbursement basis and capped at HK$144,000 in total during the subsidy period which shall in aggregate last for not more than 36 months. Application is open all year round. More information about eligibility and application method can be found on the SIE Fund website. Operators are welcome to apply to register their co-working spaces under the Scheme.

Release of research findings on Shared Value



With funding support from the SIE Fund, Hong Kong Social Entrepreneurship Forum launched a research project entitled "Business for Good: Understanding the Motivations for Business to Create Shared Value" in July 2019. The project aimed to identify the push and pull factors for businesses to transform from profit maximisation to “business for good” through adopting Shared Value, create the community demand for “business for good” in Hong Kong, as well as recommend concrete steps to foster the development of “business for good” among Hong Kong businesses. Findings of the research project were released in November 2020. Through 18 case studies of "business for good" in Hong Kong and other parts of the world, the motivation and catalysts for adopting the Shared Value strategy were revealed. The research also looked into the factors the younger population would consider in their consumption and employer choices, and factors relating to “business for good” were identified as increasingly important. Please click here for the executive summary of the research report.

HK’s Social Innovators

Promotion of social innovation through different professions

Dr Dawning Leung, the founder of Audio Description Association (Hong Kong)

KK Ling, Director of Jockey Club Design Institute for Social Innovation of The Hong Kong Polytechnic University

Social innovators may have different backgrounds but share the same vision of addressing social problems with innovative solutions. Dr Dawning Leung, the founder of Audio Description Association (Hong Kong), endeavours to promote audio description services that help persons with visual impairment enjoy equal rights to take part in cultural and outdoor activities. KK Ling, Director of Jockey Club Design Institute for Social Innovation of The Hong Kong Polytechnic University, leads his team to foster community engagement and cross-sector collaboration for stakeholders to co-create solutions. Despite working on different fronts, both of them make good use of their expertise to promote social innovation. Read their stories and be inspired.

Event Snapshots

SIE Fund at Social Enterprise Summit

Dr Jane Lee, Chairperson of the SIE Fund Task Force, shared her insights at the "Policy Dialogue" on the first day of the Summit.

The Social Enterprise Summit 2020 was held online from 19 to 21 November 2020 with the theme "new normal · collective power". At the "Policy Dialogue" held on the first day of the Summit, Dr Jane Lee, Chairperson of the SIE Fund Task Force, discussed with other speakers on how to build a city of shared value through cross-sector collaboration under the "new normal".

The SIE Fund continued to hold a Social Innovation Exhibition during the Summit. Going online for the first time, the Exhibition featured the work and achievements of the Fund. Among them were the new batch of Intermediaries, the Food Support Flagship Project, and the first Pay-for-Success project in Hong Kong. Online interactive sections were also held at which representatives of the four intermediaries answered inquires of the participants.

Gerontech and Innovation Expo cum Summit

Jointly hosted by the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region and The Hong Kong Council of Social Service, the fourth Gerontech and Innovation Expo cum Summit was held from 18 to 22 November 2020 with the Summit and workshops going online. At a workshop themed on "Promoting Gerontechnology Development and Adoption through Cross-sector Collaboration", Dr Jane Lee, Chairperson of the SIE Fund Task Force, and other speakers shared their insights with the participants.

The fourth Gerontech and Innovation Expo cum Summit was held from 18 to 22 November 2020.

CP2Joy System, a funded venture of the SIE Fund, exhibited at the Expo the software programme that helps persons with severe disabilities use computers with ease.

There were around 160 exhibitors at the Expo, displaying more than 500 gerontechnology products and solutions. Among them were four ventures funded by the SIE Fund, namely "Deployment of Stroke Rehab Robots in Communities", "STICKu", "NeuroGym" and "CP2Joy System", showing the different ways by which gerontechnology could cater for the needs of the elderly.