

SIE Fund Newsletter | Apr 2022



Pitch in to Develop Innovative Solutions for Social Issues









Latest accomplishments at a glance

Our work continues to bring results. As of end March 2022, the SIE Fund has allocated HK\$500 million and funded 400 projects, expecting to benefit over 303 000 persons.



SI in FOCUS

Task Force Chairperson introduces "Pay-for-Success" on TV

Dr Jane Lee, Chairperson of the SIE Fund Task Force, was interviewed by Phoenix TV to talk about the concept of "Pay-for-Success" ("PFS") and the Fund's objective of promoting it. In an episode of the programme "The Odyssey of Dragon" aired in December 2021, Dr Lee pointed out the need to conduct more research and explore new funding modes, one of which being "PFS", to effectively address new social problems arising from changes in society.



Dr Jane Lee, Chairperson of the SIE Fund Task Force, was interviewed by Phoenix TV's "The Odyssey of Dragon".

Focusing on outcome and impact, "PFS" operates through businesses or foundations paying upfront for the cost of social services while the government repay the funders with financial rewards according to the services' outcome. "PFS" encourages innovative funding approaches that set sights on quantifiable and sustainable impact.

In view of this, the SIE Fund has commissioned the first "PFS" project in Hong Kong, "Start from the Beginning - Chinese Supporting Scheme for Non-Chinese Speaking Students (NCS) in Kindergarten". Launched in September 2020 by Oxfam Hong Kong (Oxfam), the project aims to help NCS kindergarten students improve their Chinese proficiency and learning motivation, enhance kindergarten teachers' capability of teaching NCS students Chinese, and thereby relieve the poverty and social exclusion issues of NCS students in the long run.

Besides Dr Lee, Oxfam's representative, a kindergarten headmaster and a parent also shared in the programme how the project successfully enhanced students' Chinese proficiency.

SIE Fund supported projects win accolades



"Start from the Beginning - Chinese Supporting Scheme for Non-Chinese Speaking Students (NCS) in Kindergarten" won the "Outstanding Social Service Award" in the 2021 Best Practice Awards in Social Welfare.



"RABI" received awards in the 2021 Best Practice Awards in Social Welfare and the International Exhibition of Inventions of Geneva 2022.

The SIE Fund is glad to share the good news that two projects supported by the Fund were on the list of awardees of the 2021 Best Practice Awards in Social Welfare organised by the Hong Kong Council of Social Service.

"Start from the Beginning - Chinese Supporting Scheme for Non-Chinese Speaking Students (NCS) in Kindergarten" commissioned by the SIE Fund and launched by Oxfam Hong Kong was among the recipients of the "Outstanding Social Service Award". Being the first "Pay-for-Success" project in Hong Kong and launched in September 2020, the project seeks to improve the Chinese proficiency and learning motivation of NCS kindergarten students and enhance the capability of kindergarten teachers of teaching NCS students Chinese, expecting to relieve the poverty and social exclusion issues of NCS students in the long run.

Another project "Robot for Autism Behavioral Intervention" ("RABI") received four awards, namely "Outstanding Social Service Award", "Service Delivery Award (Innovative Ideas)", "Service Delivery Award (User Participation)" and "Service Delivery Award (Evidence-based Practice)". The "RABI" team received funding from the SIE Fund in 2016 to implement a project adopting robot drama therapy to help autistic children enhance their social and learning skills. The team was funded again in 2020 to provide online and home-based services and in 2022 to set up a new service and training centre in Shatin to provide services and support to children with autism, their parents, schools and NGOs.

Meanwhile, "RABI" was presented with a silver medal in the International Exhibition of Inventions of Geneva 2022. The Exhibition is an annual event at which research results and new products from around the world are exhibited and outstanding ones receive accolades.

Spreading love and care through FOOD-CO's food collection campaign



FOOD-CO, Hong Kong's first all-dimensional collaborative food support service platform which is funded by the SIE Fund and launched by St. James' Settlement (SJS), rolled out the "New Year Gift Packs and Food Collection" campaign during the Chinese New Year. The campaign aimed to encourage citizens to share the joy of the festival with people in need by donating gifts and food.

The campaign was run between early January and mid-February. To facilitate wider participation, SJS, in collaboration with other organisations, set up 42 collection points across the territory, including its offices, shopping arcades of public housing estates, private estates and corporations. Having received food donations from the catering industry as well, FOOD-CO lined up the efforts from individuals and businesses to put "Save and Share" into practice.

Funded projects draw attention of media



While the number of funded projects continues to grow, many of the projects have recently drawn the attention of the media. Between January and March 2022, there were more than 50 pieces of reports about the Fund's funded projects. They ranged from print and online media to social media platforms and interviews by radio and television programmes. The "New Year Gift Packs and Food Collection" campaign of FOOD-CO. Hong Kong's first all-dimensional collaborative food support service platform which is funded by the SIE Fund and launched by St. James' Settlement, was extensively covered from late January to early February. In addition to providing information about the campaign, the media also illustrated how FOOD-CO made use of technology to link up food donors and food support service providers. Other projects featured or interviewed included "Emotional First Aid Team", "Ladies Run", "Online and Home-based Robot for Autism Behavioral Intervention (RABI)", "NEW MOON ARTS DREAM", "JUST CLIMB PowerUP!", "Sensory Restaurant on Wheels", "Legacy transformation — The museum of love", "SEN Sports School", "Rolling Books", "Rugby for ADHD children and their families", etc. The articles and programmes introduced project founders' aspirations, told how people in need benefitted and cited SIE Fund's funding and support.

SIE on the MOVE



Gratitude for opinions regarding engagement of new batch of intermediaries

Intermediaries are strategic partners of the SIE Fund. The Fund has engaged two batches of four intermediaries each in 2015 and 2020 to design and deliver "Innovative Programmes" that provide funding and incubation programmes meeting the needs of the social innovation space. The services of the second batch of intermediaries are due to expire and the Fund is planning to engage a new batch of intermediaries to further take forward its work. To collect views from the social innovation sector regarding the engagement work, online exchange sessions with stakeholders were held on 20 and 22 April 2022. Topics discussed included the existing gaps and opportunities in the social innovation ecosystem; how the Fund, through the new batch of intermediaries, helps fill the gaps and seizes the opportunities; and the essential engagement terms for engaging the most suitable intermediaries.

The Fund wishes to thank all participants and others who provided invaluable opinions through emails. With everyone's support, the Fund will continue to strive to foster the development of the social innovation ecosystem and seek improvements.

Video series on funded projects creating social value with novelties

A new series of videos with the theme of "Creating Social Value with Novelties" has been released by batches since September 2021. The videos allow the public to know more about the funded projects and how project founders, with the support of the SIE Fund, turned innovative ideas into products and services that deliver social value and provide assistance and support for people in need. The series comprises 11 videos. Projects featured are FOOD-CO, "Rolling Books", "CP2Joy", "Online and Home-based Robot for Autism Behavioral Intervention (RABI)", "StarUp Wonders", "Eldpathy", "Rugby for ADHD children and their families", "Social Innovation Design Lab", "KOElderly", "HandyRehab Home Edition (Deployment of hand training robots for rehabilitation at home)" and "Promotion of Strength-based Approach in Understanding and Helping Children with ADHD". The last batch of videos is due to complete by May. Please visit the "Social-Inno Box" on the Fund's website and the Fund's YouTube channel to enjoy the inspiring stories.

To let a wider audience understand the work of the Fund and the social impact the Fund brings about, the videos are also run on the television channels of RTHK and at more than 170 schools and youth centres, whereas the highlights are shown on the screens aboard MTR carriages and at shopping malls.





HK's Social Innovators

Project LEARNT serves students' learning needs in an innovative way

Being an evening school teacher, Jack Wan fully understands the learning difficulties faced by part-time students. The difficulties include the lack of time and space for study and revision which leads to poor learning efficiency and academic results. The students' prospects for further study, employment and job promotion may hence be affected. Joined by his partners, Jack set up "Project LEARNT" in 2019. The project collaborated with a restaurant and surplus teachers to provide students with a study space and tutorial services, addressing students' learning needs in an innovative way.



Gerontechnology Platform holds webinar

The Gerontechnology Platform was rolled out in 2021 as the second flagship project of the SIE Fund. Being taken forward by the intermediary, a collaborative coalition led by the Hong Kong Council of Social Service, the Platform aims to link up different stakeholders on the supply and demand sides and enhance synergy to foster the development and application of gerontechnology. Joining hands with collaborative partners Hong Kong Science and Technology Parks Corporation and Our Hong Kong Foundation, the Platform organised a webinar on 18 March 2022 with the theme "Planning for the next stage of gerontech development". By sharing the latest development in gerontechnology, the webinar helped stakeholders in the sector better understand market needs, plan for product development, and get prepared to cater for the ageing population and grasp the opportunities so arisen.

SIE Fund supports social innovation competition for tertiary students

Following on with the support given to the "Outlier 2021 Creating Shared Value (CSV) Innovation Challenge", the SIE Fund was one of the partners of the "Outlier 2022 Smart Living Innovation Challenge". The Challenge was a social innovation competition organised by the student organisation AIESEC in Hong Kong and came in three tracks, namely Consumerism and Circular Economy; Education; and Mental Health. The competition was completed in February and the champion went to team AddiEvi from the Mental Health track. They proposed setting up a virtual reality social media platform to help users alleviate social isolation and facilitate early identification of symptoms of mental illness so that counsellors can provide timely assistance.



Alleviating Poverty through
Three Priority Action Areas on Innovation



SIE Fund has set up the SIE Fund Advisory Network to facilitate communications between project teams of funded projects and professionals of different fields. Interested parties may register here.