

SIE Fund Newsletter | Sep 2022



Pitch in to Develop Innovative Solutions for Social Issues





Latest accomplishments at a glance

Our work continues to bring results. As of end August 2022, the SIE Fund has allocated HK\$530 million and funded 428 projects, expecting to benefit over 322 700 persons.



SI in FOCUS

The Secretary for Innovation, Technology and Industry visits SIE Fund's food support flagship project FOOD-CO





Professor Sun paid a visit to FOOD-CO together with Dr Jane Lee and Alvin Mui, the Chairperson and Vice-chairperson of the SIE Fund Task Force, and representatives of the Efficiency Office.

The Secretary for Innovation, Technology and Industry, Professor Sun Dong, has earlier visited the Kindness Centre of St James' Settlement (SJS), the intermediary of the food support flagship project FOOD-CO launched under the SIE Fund, to keep abreast of the latest operation of the food support programme. He also encouraged the organisation to continue to enhance the effectiveness of the food support service sector in Hong Kong through information technology, as well as strengthen the promotion of food donation.





Professor Sun joined Dr Jane Lee and Alvin Mui, the Chairperson and Vice-chairperson of the SIE Fund Task Force, to distribute food packs, mooncakes and fruit to grassroots families.

With the Mid-Autumn Festival around the corner, Professor Sun, joined by Dr Jane Lee and Alvin Miu, the Chairperson and Vice-chairperson of the SIE Fund Task Force, distributed food packs, mooncakes and fruit to grassroots families and chatted with them. He was also briefed by Josephine Lee, the Chief Executive Officer of SJS, on the operation and latest development of FOOD-CO and the implementation of the anti-epidemic food support programme.

In his remarks, Professor Sun praised FOOD-CO for connecting food donors and service operators with technology that enables both parties to use a mobile app to share information and match the demand and supply of food at the same time in a convenient and time-saving manner.

Delivering powers of good



Since its inauguration in 2013, the SIE Fund has endeavoured to promote cross-sector collaboration, foster collaborative platforms and fund different innovative projects to create social impact through innovative solutions, products and services.

As a collaboration between SIE Fund and Metro Radio, an eight-episode programme series (collectively titled "香港仲有好能量", meaning "There are powers of good in Hong Kong") was launched on 24 June. In each of the weekly episodes, guests shared how the SIE Fund connects the powers of different sectors to spark innovative ideas for alleviating poverty and promoting social inclusion. Guests participating in the programme were Dr Jane Lee, Chairperson of the SIE Fund Task Force, and owners and collaborative partners of funded projects. Topics covered were the Fund's work, the "Pay-for-Success" funding model, the Gerontechnology Platform, the all-dimensional food-sharing platform FOOD-CO, inter-generational digital inclusion, anti-pandemic support, and the performance of the SIE Fund.

Click here for audio clips of the eight episodes to learn more about the powers of good that the SIE Fund brings to society.

PFS project showcase day

Striving to promote the "Pay-for-Success" (PFS) funding model, the SIE Fund has commissioned Oxfam Hong Kong (Oxfam) to take forward the city's first PFS project, namely "Start from the Beginning - Chinese Supporting Scheme for Non-Chinese Speaking Students (NCS) in Kindergarten". Launched in 2020, the PFS project aims to help NCS kindergarten students improve their Chinese proficiency and learning motivation, as well as to enhance kindergarten teachers' capability teaching NCS students Chinese, thereby relieving the poverty and social exclusion issues of NCS students in the long run.



SIE Fund Task Force Vice-chairperson Alvin Mui and representatives of Efficiency Office attended the PFS project showcase day organised by Oxfam Hong Kong.

A "showcase day" was held earlier by Oxfam, introducing to the public how the PFS project provides support for kindergartens, teachers, students and parents through various means including an enrichment curriculum, improved teaching materials, training programmes and experience exchange for teachers and a supportive platform for parents. Also presented were the project's achievements in the two years since its inception. Among them were huge improvements in students' Chinese proficiency, significant enhancement in teachers' overall teaching skills, and the launch of teaching kits and an online resource platform. On the same occasion, headmasters of participating kindergartens and students' parents shared with the audience what benefits the project has brought.







SIE on the MOVE



Engaging the third batch of intermediaries



The SIE Fund announced in early June the invitation for proposals for intermediary services. A briefing session was held soon after. Representatives of the Secretariat of the SIE Fund Task Force introduced the scope of intermediary services, the eligibility and submission requirements, the assessment process and selection criteria, as well as key engagement terms while questions from the floor were taken.

Following the close of submission on 4 August is the proposal assessment process. It is hoped that the work will be completed duly with the suitable intermediaries appointed to start the new round of innovative programmes to provide support for more social innovators and innovative projects, thereby fostering the continuous development of the social innovation ecosystem.

SI Showreel



Utilising the power of social innovation to fight the virus together



The COVID-19 pandemic has lasted for more than two years and many are living under greater pressure. Since the early stage of the pandemic, the SIE Fund has been standing by fellow Hong Kong citizens and timely provided funding support for various innovative projects. Through products and services in areas ranging from healthcare, food, living and transport to community participation, education and learning, etc., these projects help to alleviate the hardship and pressure of the grassroots, the elderly, children and people of diverse race. Want to know more about how the SIE Fund connects different sectors and works hand in hand with Hong Kong people in the fight against the coronavirus? The video "Utilising the power of social innovation to fight the virus together" available now on the Fund's website and YouTube channel is just the thing you should not miss.

SIE Fund takes part in Golden Age Expo & Summit

For another year, the SIE Fund has participated in the Golden Age Expo & Summit (GAES). The exhibition this year was held from 5 to 7 August. SIE Fund's current work and funded projects benefitting the elderly, including the Gerontechnology Platform and projects promoting intergenerational digital inclusion, were featured at the Fund's booth. Besides static exhibits, an interactive game about Chinese calligraphy developed by the innovative project NeuroGym was also on display for visitors to try on-site. Through playing the game, which helps identify signs of dementia and improve patients' conditions, visitors could gain first-hand experiences about how innovative products bring convenience and better living to the elderly.

Organised by the Golden Age Foundation, GAES aims to foster cross-sector collaboration and drive "smart ageing" in the city.



Products developed by the funded ventures were showcased.



SIE Fund's booth attracted more than 700 visitors.



Visitors tried the calligraphy game on NeuroGym App.



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.