

**Report of
Centre for Civil Society and Governance
Faculty of Social Sciences
The University of Hong Kong**

January 2003 - June 2006

Introduction

The Centre for Civil Society and Governance was established by The University of Hong Kong (HKU) in December 2002 with the aim of enhancing our knowledge of the nature, constituents, and roles of civil society and, in particular, the contribution that civil society can make towards good governance. The Centre seeks to foster the development of a vibrant civil society in Hong Kong, China and other parts of the world through research, advocacy and dissemination.

Objectives and Research Focus

The specific objectives of the Centre are:

- To gain a clear understanding of the character and functions of civil society.
- To study the functioning and consequences of various types of civil society organizations, especially those which can enhance governance in society.
- To develop practical measures which can strengthen civil society and enhance its impact as an agent for improving governance in such areas as public policymaking, accountability, transparency and information accessibility, and development of informed public opinion.
- To foster dialogue and closer partnership among the University, the Government and civil society organizations.

Since establishment, the Centre focuses on three areas in its research activities, publications as well as training and education programmes, namely:

- Macro-level studies on civil society in Hong Kong
- Public governance and civil society
- Micro-level studies on civil society and NGO management

Research Projects

The Centre has been actively involved in research activities in relation to civil society. Within our very limited resources, we have completed or started at

least twelve projects by way of collaborating with scholars from different academic institutions and professionals from relevant disciplines.

A brief description of major research projects conducted or being conducted is as follows.

A. Macro Studies on Civil Society

1. Opinion survey on social cohesion (Completed)

A door-to-door survey of social cohesion in Hong Kong, the first of its kind, was carried out between August and October 2003. The study has been completed and has produced two articles. An article developing a new concept of social cohesion for empirical and policy research appeared in Social Indicators Research (2006) 75: 273-302. Another article on the state of social cohesion in Hong Kong is forthcoming in The China Quarterly in September 2006. This project was funded by the Faculty of Social Science, HKU.

2. Opinion survey on civic education and national identity (Completed)

In collaboration with Policy 21 of HKU, a door-to-door survey on civic education and national identity in Hong Kong was carried out in summer 2004. The survey was commissioned by the Committee on the Promotion of Civic Education, the HKSAR Government. The results were presented to the Committee on 23 May 2005, to the press on 1 June, and to an international conference on national education held in Hong Kong on 7-8 June. An academic paper entitled "Patriotism and nested identities in Hong Kong" was presented in a regional conference held in October 2005 at the Chinese University of Hong Kong.

3. Hong Kong Civil Society Index Research (Completed)

The Civil Society Index Project (CSI) is a flagship research project of the Centre for 2005/06, in collaboration with the Hong Kong Council of Social Service and academics in the Chinese University of Hong Kong and the Hong Kong Polytechnic University. The Project follows the framework devised by CIVICUS, an international alliance of civil society organizations. CSI is a participatory action-research aiming to assess the state of civil society in countries around the world with respect to its structure, environment, values and impact. Since 2003, CSI has been carried out in more than 50 countries and cities, including the PRC and Taiwan. Acknowledging the importance of the research objectives, the Committee on the Promotion of Civic Education, the HKSAR Government, agreed to sponsor part of the Project; the additional funding has allowed the Centre to extend the scope of some studies and go into more depth in others. Members of the CSI research team attended a CSI conference in Scotland in June 2006 to share the findings and research

experience with CSI teams from other countries. The results will also be presented to the Committee on the Promotion of Civil Education in the summer of 2006.

4. Survey on Corporate Social Responsibility (In Progress)

The Centre, in cooperation with Policy 21 of the University, has successfully bided for what is perhaps the most comprehensive study of corporate social responsibility (CSR) in Hong Kong. The study is commissioned by the Committee on the Promotion of Civic Education to find out the situation of CSR in Hong Kong with a view to preparing a handbook and developing a charter for corporate citizenship. Major research instruments of the study include focus group interviews, a survey of a sample size of 10,000 companies, including big corporations as well as small and medium sized enterprises in all industry sectors, and case study of corporations which have already had relatively successful CSR measures in place. The study commenced in March 2006 and is expected to complete in first quarter of 2007.

5. Programme to Promote Philanthropy in China (In progress)

Since its inception, the Centre has been paying attention to philanthropic development in Mainland China. Over the years, the Centre's fellows have compiled monographs and conference papers on topics related to promoting philanthropy in China, including "Donation, Trust, and Development of NGOs in China" (2003), "China: Breaking New Grounds for Community Foundation?" (2004), and "China's New Foundation Administration Regulations" and "The Prospect of Promoting the Community Foundation Paradigm in China" (2005). The Centre is now in the process of developing a three-year programme to examine the practice of Chinese Diaspora philanthropy, particularly how small and medium-sized Hong Kong and overseas Chinese family foundations have been supporting development work in China.

6. Study on the role of cross-border civil society networks (In progress)

Commissioned by the Conference of Asian Foundations and Organizations (CAFO)—a regional network promoting civil society development in Asia—the study aims to review CAFO's ten-year networking experience and to examine the prospect of promoting cross-border collaboration entering the next decade. The Centre has been engaged by CAFO-HK to undertake the Hong Kong portion of the study, and the emphasis of the Hong Kong study is threefold: 1) selected case studies on past CAFO-HK exchange programs with an aim to examine how cross-border learning could be effectively achieved, 2) the roles assumed by different kinds of civil society networks operating in the regional and international arenas; and 3) the roles of Hong Kong foundations and civil society organizations in supporting development work in China.

B. Governance and Civil Society

7. A study of arts development and government-civil society partnership (Completed)

The Hong Kong Arts Development Council, formally established as a statutory body since 1995/96, is approaching its 10th anniversary, and recently commissioned the International Association of Theatre Critics (IATC, Hong Kong Branch) to conduct a research to review arts institutional and policy developments in the past decade, with an aim to publish the findings in a commemorative volume. The Centre for Civil Society and Governance has been engaged by IATC to take part in this research project. Three book chapters on the institutional and policy aspects of arts development have already been completed and will form part of the forthcoming book on the last ten years of arts development in Hong Kong.

8. A Study of Civic Engagement in Public Policy Making (In progress)

This is the Centre's flagship study for 2006/7. Commissioned by the newly established Bauhinia Foundation Research Centre, this project aims to study how best to engage with civil society actors and organizations in government's policy making process, in order to enhance the quality and effectiveness of governance. The project analyses current patterns of civil-society engagement in four policy areas: arts and culture, environment, planning, and social welfare. The study conducts interviews with government officials, civil society groups as well as study of selected overseas cases. The project commenced in June 2006 and is expected to complete in early 2007.

C. Micro Studies on NGO Management

9. NGO Statistics and Social Auditing Practices in Hong Kong: A Feasibility Study (Completed)

In collaboration with the Research Division of the Hong Kong Council of Social Service, this research aimed to unveil existing NGO reporting, statistics and data collection practices and social auditing in Hong Kong and to explore ways to strengthen these practices. Two task force groups were established to give expert opinions on these issues. A detailed report has been completed. The project is part of the ongoing effort of the Asia Pacific Philanthropy Consortium (APPC), sponsor of the study, to strengthen nonprofit accountability and governance in the region, so as to achieve the regional network's wider goal to enhance the flow of philanthropy in Asia. A final report was sent to the APPC in May 2005

10. Study of social entrepreneurship in Hong Kong (Ongoing)

This is a multi-stage research project commissioned by the Conference of Asian Foundations and Organizations (CAFO). In 2004, in cooperation with CAFO-HK, a research paper entitled "Social Entrepreneurship in Hong Kong: Perspectives, Trends and Prospects" was compiled and presented at the Asian Social Entrepreneurship Forum organized by CAFO in February 2005 at Taipei City. After the successful conclusion of the Forum, three of the participating CAFO members including Hong Kong, Singapore and Taiwan proceeded to conduct a second round of studies to further examine the state of development of social enterprises in the three industrialized economies. The tri-city comparative study would conduct in-depth case studies on selected social enterprises and to give recommendations on public policies and future development directions. The research teams of the three cities plan to meet again in August 2006 and the research findings will be released as a CAFO publication.

11. NGO management local case studies (In progress)

The Pun Kam Kai Institute of Management of the Faculty of Business and Economic is collaborating with the Centre in doing ten local NGO management and governance case studies. Three such cases are being carried out, and more will be conducted in the second half of 2006. These case studies will be essential to the teaching and research on NGO management. Expected completed date: December 2006.

Publications and Conferences

The research projects have led to participation in the following conferences/workshops:

1. **Conference on Social Cohesion**, co-organized by the Faculty of Social Sciences and the Hong Kong Council of Social Service, November 2003. Joseph Chan and Elaine Chan presented a paper entitled, "An Exploratory Research on the State of Social Cohesion in Hong Kong."

2. **Social Cohesion Workshop**, organized by the Council of Europe, Venice, February 2004. The Centre; Honorary Director Dr. Joseph Chan and Research Officer Dr. Elaine Chan were invited to present their work on social cohesion to participants of the workshop.

3. Biannual Conference of the Asia Pacific Philanthropy Consortium (APPC) on **Governance, Organizational Effectiveness and the Nonprofit Sector**, Manila, September 2003. Dr. Joseph Chan and fellow Terence Yuen attended the conference.

4. **The Third ISTR Asia and Pacific Regional Conference of the International Society of Third Sector Research (ISTR)**, Beijing, October 2003. Dr. Joseph Chan served as a member of the Program Committee and a reviewer of conference papers.

5. ***International Conference on National Education***, Hong Kong, June 2005. Dr. Joseph Chan presented a paper on the results of opinion survey on national identity.

The following articles/manuscripts have been completed or published:

1. Terence Yuen, "Governance, Organizational Effectiveness and the Nonprofit Sector: The Case of Hong Kong." Published in Conference Proceedings of the Biannual Conference of the Asia Pacific Philanthropy Consortium, September 2003, pp.90-109.

2. Terence Yuen, Building Philanthropic and Social Capital in Hong Kong: A Proposal to Establish the Hong Kong Community Foundation. Monograph, 2003.

3. Kin-man Chan, Joseph Chan, and Terence Yuen, "Donation, Trust, and Development of NPOs in China," in Fan Li-Zhu ed. Globalization, Social Change, and NGOs (Shanghai: Ren Min Publisher, 2003), pp. 325-349. (In Chinese)

4. Terence Yuen, "Social Entrepreneurship in Hong Kong: Perspectives, Trends and Prospects." Monograph, 2004.

5. Joseph Chan, Benny To, and Elaine Chan, "Reconsidering Social Cohesion: Developing a Definition and Analytical Framework for Policy Research." Social Indicators Research, 75 (2006), pp. 273-301.

6. Joseph Chan and Elaine Chan, "Perception of Universal Suffrage and Functional Representation in Hong Kong: A Confused Public?" Asian Survey, XLVI, 2 (2006), pp. 257-274.

7. Joseph Chan and Elaine Chan, "Charting the State of Social Cohesion in Hong Kong," The China Quarterly. Forthcoming, September 2006.

8. Terence Yuen, Ten Years of Arts Development: Government-Civil Society Partnership, contributed three chapters to this monograph forthcoming in 2006.

Multi-disciplinary Collaboration

Most research projects of the Centre are multi-disciplinary and have involved practitioners and academics in various fields.

Apart from colleague in the Department of Politics and Public Administration of HKU, academics from the Law and Business Faculties of HKU, social research experts from the Policy 21 of HKU, as well as sociologists and social policy experts from The Chinese University of Hong Kong and the Polytechnic University of Hong Kong are engaged in the Centre's research projects.

We have been actively collaborating with various NGOs and Government units, including the Hong Kong Council of Social Service, the Asia Pacific Philanthropy Consortium, St. James's Settlement of Hong Kong, Hong Kong Arts Development Council, The Bauhinia Foundation Research Centre, and the Committee for the Promotion of Civil Education, Home Affairs Bureau.

Major Project Sponsors

The following organisations have sponsored or commissioned major projects of the Centre:

- Commission for Promotion of Civic Education, Home Affairs Bureau of Hong Kong SAR Government
- Hong Kong Council of Social Service
- Asia Pacific Philanthropy Consortium
- Conference of Asian Foundations and Organizations
- Bauhinia Foundation Research Centre

Future Development

Research on the development of civil society in Hong Kong remains the Centre's primary focus. We will continue to explore opportunities for new research projects in the three major areas; namely, macro-studies on civil society, governance and civil society, as well as micro-level NGO management studies. In addition, the Centre will seek synergy with the Department of Politics and Public Administration of HKU to explore developing NGO-related training and education programmes.

Research Team (2003 – June 2006)¹

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| Director | |
| Dr Joseph C W CHAN | Associate Professor, Dept of Politics and Public Administration, HKU |
| Associate Director | |
| Prof Ian SCOTT | Honorary Professor, Dept of Politics and Public Administration, HKU |
| Research Officer | |
| Dr Elaine CHAN | Honorary Associate Professor, Dept of Politics and Public Administration, HKU |
| Advisers | |
| Prof Helmut ANHEIER | Director, Center for Civil Society; Professor of Social Welfare, School of Public Policy and Social Research, UCLA |
| Dr Barnett F BARON | Executive Vice President, The Asia Foundation |
| Prof James S FISHKIN | Director, Centre for Deliberative Democracy, Department of Communication, Stanford University |
| Prof Mark LYONS | Professor of Social Economy, School of Management; Director of Centre for Australia Community Organizations and Management, University of Technology, Sydney |
| Dr Darwin CHEN | Vice-chairman, Agency for Volunteer Service |
| Mr CHONG Chan-yau | Executive Director, Oxfam Hong Kong |
| Ms Christine FANG | Chief Executive, Hong Kong Council of Social Service |
| Mr LAI Kam-cheung | Chief Executive Officer, St. James' Settlement |
| Mr NG Shui Lai | Director, Hong Kong Christian Service |
| Mr Peter H Y WONG | Consultant, Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu |
| Mr Danny YUNG | Artistic Director, Zuni Icosahedron |
| Fellows | |
| Prof John P BURNS | Chair Professor, Dept of Politics and Public Administration, HKU |
| Dr Peter T Y CHEUNG | Head and Associate Professor, Dept of Politics and Public Administration, HKU |
| Ms Lusina HO | Associate Professor, Dept of Law, HKU |
| Dr P S Y HO | Associate Professor, Dept of Social Work and Social Administration, HKU |
| Ms Rowena Y F KWOK | Assistant Professor, Dept of Politics and Public Administration, HKU |
| Dr LAM Chiu-wan | Lecturer, Dept of Social Work and Social Administration, HKU |
| Dr W F LAM | Associate Professor, Dept of Politics and Public Administration, HKU |
| Dr Sonny S H LO | Associate Professor, Dept of Politics and Public Administration, HKU |
| Dr James T H TANG | Dean, Faculty of Social Sciences, HKU |

¹ The names and titles are as at the time of appointment in 2003.

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| Dr Ian S THYNNE | Honorary Professor, Dept of Politics and Public Administration, HKU |
| Ms Irene L K TONG | Assistant Professor, Dept of Politics and Public Administration, HKU |
| Dr Gilbert Y Y WONG | Executive Director, Poon Kam Kai Institute of Management, HKU |
| Ms Jessica YOUNG | Associate Professor, Dept of Professional Legal Education, HKU |
| Mr Terence YUEN | PhD candidate, Dept of Politics and Public Administration, HKU (no letter is required) |
| Associate Fellows | |
| Dr CHAN Kam-tong | Principal Lecturer, Dept of Applied Social Sciences, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University |
| Dr CHAN Kin-man | Associate Professor, Department of Sociology, The Chinese University of Hong Kong |
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