

For Immediate Release

Moody's RiseUp Youth Photo Exhibition - In Light Of

(Hong Kong, 25 January 2017) – **KELY Support Group (KELY)** launches the 'In Light Of' Youth Photo Exhibition, where Ethnic Minority (EM) and local Chinese students express the 'light' in their lives through photographs, showing their passion and what inspires them in their daily lives using shadows and contrast.

The photo exhibition is a showcase of the final works of students from KELY's programme Moody's RiseUp. Expanding students' creativity and self-awareness while equipping them with crucial life skills, the programme aimed at helping youth from low-income households gain knowledge, networks, and skills for advancing their studies and future careers. Through the exhibition, the public will have a closer look at the lives of Ethnic Minority and Chinese speaking students. Despite their personal struggles, they are able to find strength, hope, happiness, and an outlet for their future.

We are honoured to have Professor Alfred CHAN Cheung-ming, SBS, JP, Chairperson of Equal Opportunities Commission, Mr Nikhilesh MATHUR, Regional Head of Talent Acquisition and APAC Regional HR Oversight from Moody's, and Mrs. YEUNG KWONG Mong-ha, Principal of Sir Ellis Kadoorie Secondary School (West Kowloon) as the officiating guests of the exhibition launch on 25 January (Wed).

There are currently more than 45,000 ethnic minority students in Hong Kong with Filipino, Indian, Nepalese, Pakistani, Thai, Vietnamese backgrounds, etc. Many of these youth are from low socio-economic and disadvantaged backgrounds. Recent studies have shown that because of discrimination, cultural, and language barriers, most EM youth experience difficulties in striving for more in their life. They often lack the ability to successfully apply for universities or acquire jobs in Hong Kong to contribute back to their families or even the wider community. It is revealed that only 1% of EM students are admitted into universities via the Joint University Programmes Admissions System ("JUPAS") each year[1]. With gloomy prospects, this population of young people may face issues of low self-esteem and self-awareness, ultimately resulting in some to indulge in risky behaviours such as substance abuse as a means to escape their predicament.

Funded by The Moody's Foundation, with WanderSnap being the photography trainer, the programme is on its third cycle, supporting 32 students aged 15-19 from Sir Ellis Kadoorie Secondary School (West Kowloon). With the guidance from 30 mentors from Moody's, participants attend a series of photography and life-skills training workshops targeted at fostering integration, developing their confidence and motivating them to achieve higher aspirations in life. *"They have better attitudes towards learning new things. [...] The students have broadened their horizons after participating in different activities in this programme,"* said **school social worker Wendy**.

"Taking photos has light up my life. It changes the direction of my emotions, leaving me feeling happier and more joyful." - Gurung Sriya, Programme participant

"I'm inspired to capture this time and use it to think of what I want to do in the future." - Chan Shuk Ying, Programme participant

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Launch Date & Time: 25 January 2017, 1:30 pm - 3 pm

Venue: Platform, 1/F, 120 Connaught Road West, Sai Ying Pun

The exhibition runs from **25 January to 20 February**[2].

[1] The Status of Ethnic Minorities in Hong Kong 1997-2014

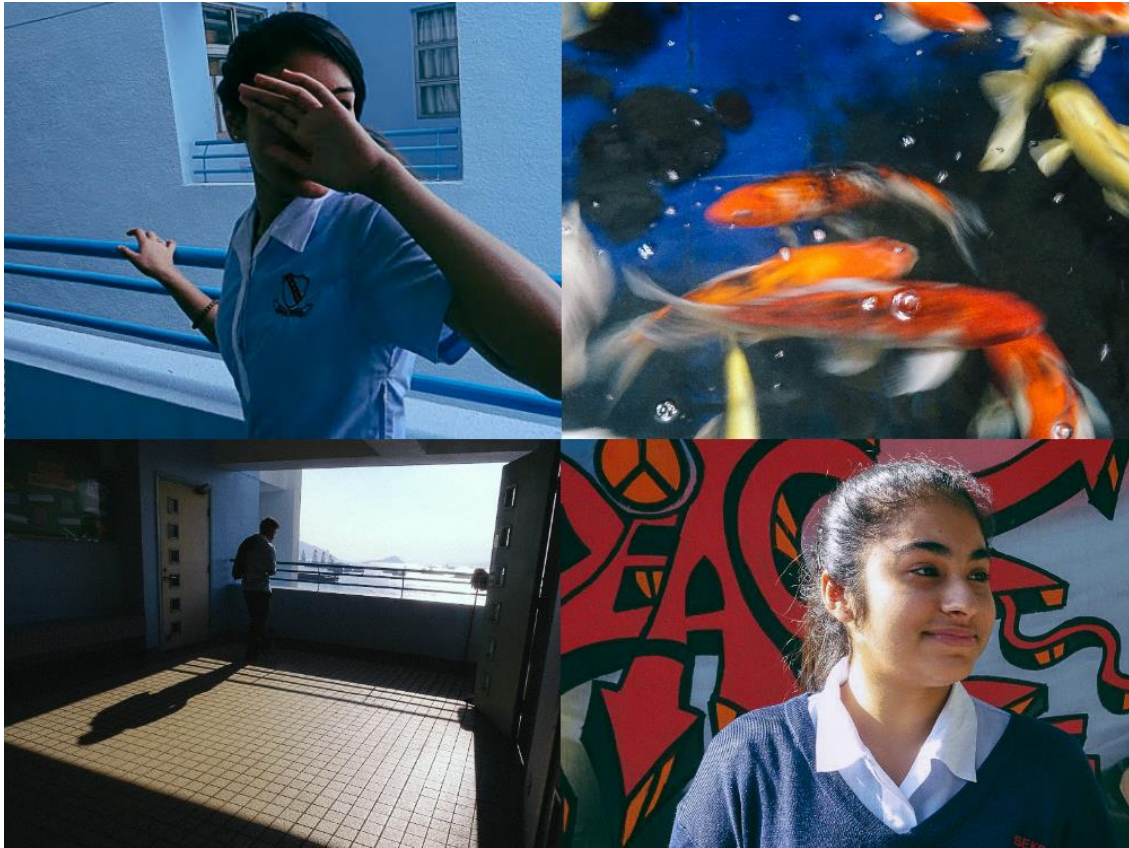
[2] closed on Sundays, Public Holidays and 6, 8, 11, 13, 18 February

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Words from student photographers (clockwise from top-right):

1. **Chan Shuk Ying:** The Golden fish is one of my favorite photos. It is so fantastic that I'm surprised I could do that. [...] I hope I can tell everyone that anything can happen. It just depends on you and whether you want to do or not.
2. **Kaur Navneet:** This is a picture of my best friend and i really appreciate her support.
3. **Chan Kit Yu:** Sunset is stunning but it will disappear soon. Yet, if we use our hearts to feel it, to experience it, we will understand we all need to cherish the time.
4. **Pun Roshan:** It means to engage in things I enjoy and get a sense of happiness.

Visit <https://goo.gl/8rSk1b> to see full-size pictures.

About KELY Support Group

KELY Support Group (KELY) is a non-government funded bilingual organisation which provides empathetic, non-judgmental, confidential and inclusive support to youth between the ages of 14 to 24 in Hong Kong from Chinese speaking, English speaking, and Ethnic Minority backgrounds.

Our mission is to empower young people through non-judgmental peer support to make informed choices in reaching their potential.

Our programmes and services focus on drug and alcohol prevention and intervention and are specially designed to tackle the root causes of misuse, including boredom, peer pressure, lack of self-awareness, low self-esteem, poverty, unemployment, and discrimination. This includes:

- Prevention & Harm Reduction
 - School-based drug and alcohol education
 - Long-term capacity building and life skills training
 - Harm reduction and outreach
- Advocacy
- Intervention

kely.org

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