

For Immediate Release

3rd KELY Social Circus Competition

(Hong Kong, 18 March 2017) - **KELY Support Group (KELY)** organises our Social Circus Competition with about 100 contestants and more than 250 participants in total this year. KELY has arranged the competition for the third year since 2014, striving to provide a platform for students to exchange knowledge and perfect their social circus skills. Initiated FOR and BY young people with them involved in planning and designing the event, young people can demonstrate their personal growth such as self-esteem, team spirit and positive attitude obtained from KELY's training.

The Social Circus Competition stems from KELY's 'Get Positive!' Programme. Funded by The Community Chest of Hong Kong, our '**Get Positive!**' **stress management programme offers local schools a range of opportunities to support young people under pressure and help students learn positive thinking techniques.** The Social Circus Training component of the programme delivers resilience, peer support and social circus skills in schools while the Juggling Circle enables participants to continue to develop their confidence and life skills in the community.

We are honoured to have **Mr. LAU Ming-wai, Chairman, Commission on Youth, Mr. CHOI Chi Leung, Principal of Caritas Ma On Shan Secondary School, and Mr. LAU Tak Ming, Vice Principal of Chung Sing Benevolent Society Mrs. Aw Boon Haw Secondary School** as the officiating guests of the competition today (18 March). We are also proud to have **DJ Miss Yellow (Wong Yat Tung)** as our guest DJ during the 1-on-1 Battle.

Youth's mental well-being is of great concern these years, following many incidents of students taking their lives. Research conducted in 2016 ^[1] showed that the happiness index for Hong Kong's young people has dropped to the lowest point since a decade ago. More interviewees indicated that they did not have clear life goals and they did not find their lives valuable. Whilst society is trying to attribute the situation to academic pressure, parents' expectation, and youth's lack of future prospect, it is important that we help boost young people's confidence by showing recognition to their efforts and providing them a diverse range of opportunities to showcase their talents.

"Performing on the stage gives me a sense of success," a 15-year-old participant of **KELY's Juggling Circle** remarked. A teacher from participating school, Sing Yin Secondary School, acknowledged that social circus training taught students success requires constant training, endurance and patience. Students learned to help and encourage each other, improving their communication skills. *"A student discovered that diabolo was his favourite hobby besides playing video games, and he got a great sense of achievement from it,"* Registered Social Worker at Kwok Tak Seng Catholic Secondary School recalled.

KELY is proud to have worked with over 10,000 young people in 43 different schools in this programme in 2016. Looking at our Asian counterparts like Japan and Taiwan, Hong Kong has seen rather stagnant development in jugglery. Through this competition, we hope to take up a leading role in Hong Kong's circus arts development and more importantly, offer opportunities for new and young learners from secondary schools to perform and interact, bringing growth and success to young people in Hong Kong.

[1] Researches from Lingnan University, Chu Hai College of Higher Education and AIESEC

3rd KELY Social Circus Competition

Date: 18 March 2017 (Saturday)

Time: 2 pm – 6 pm

Venue: Henry G. Leong Yaumatei Community Centre,
60 Public Square Street, Yau Ma Tei
(Photo album at <http://goo.gl/wb55yN>)

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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