# Weez Walk 2025 Participants Reaches New High

Community and Youth Involvement Cultivates a Culture of Care in Hong Kong

26 March 2025, Hong Kong – <u>Weez Walk 2025</u> (the Event), a charity run / walkathon co-organised by <u>the Weez Project</u> and <u>KELY Support Group</u>, achieved a record-breaking participation of over 3,000 individuals this year, raising more than HK\$ 1.4 million in charity donations. A prize presentation ceremony was held on 25 March 2025 to celebrate the achievements this year's remarkable achievements, which aims to raise awareness and funds for youth mental health and suicide prevention

### **Tremendous Youth Involvement & Corporate Support**

After joining Weez Walk in 2022, Marco Law, a Year 10 Student at the Victoria Shanghai Academy (VSA), proposed to establish a student club called *Impact Runners* that encourages fellow schoolmates to support youth mental health through running.

"We support Weez Walk because of its incredible mission to help others my age and raise awareness for youth mental health. As it was our school's 20th anniversary, I pitched the idea to senior management and they agreed to not only become lead sponsor, but also allow the Impact Runners to host a whole-school Weez Walk event. I am happy that we were able to fundraise a substantial amount to send a powerful message about the importance of mental health," said Marco.

Thanks to the Impact Runners and their promotion efforts, VSA was the winner of the Top Fundraiser Award in the School Team category, as well as the Champion of the Mountain Mover Awards for School Teams. The 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Runner-up of the award went to West Island School and Peak School respectively.

Weez Walk 2025 also welcomed back previous sponsors, including King and Wood Mallesons (KWM), who once again served as the In-One-Go Challenge Sponsor for this year's event.

The event garnered support from various corporations and education institutions, many of which had participated in the previous walk. Sponsors included The Bank of Montreal (Hong Kong Branch), A&O Shearman, HOKA, and St. James's Place Charitable Foundation, who served as Stage Sponsors. A full list of corporate sponsors for Weez Walk 2025 is available in the Appendix.

## **Weez Walk Spirit Kept Alive by Dedicated Participants**

Participants were inspired to take action in support youth mental health and suicide prevention. Chris Garvey, a teacher from West Island School, exemplified this commitment by completing the In-One-Go Challenge three times, embodying the stellar model of "going the extra mile" for fundraising.

Garvey stated on his own fundraising page, "For every 5k raised I will repeat the course. That is 5K = 60 km. Get me to 10k and I will go for 120km." Staying true to his words, he repeated the event route on 15 February 2025 when donation on his page reached HK\$ 13,000, and completed the same distance on a treadmill at the end of February. Through his campaign, a total of HK\$ 18,400 was raised to support the youth of Hong Kong.

All the aforementioned personnels were present at the Weez Walk 2025 Celebration and Prize Presentation Ceremony for a last hurrah for Weez Walk 2025. As a conclusion, **Godi Li, Deputy Director of KELY Support Group**, invited everyone to start conversations on mental health.

"I want to say to every participant, volunteer, sponsor, and supporter – your dedication is transforming lives. You are breaking silence, challenging stigma, and creating a more compassionate, understanding environment for youth mental health. We're always happy and ready to discuss mental health-related issues and explore how we can help the young people in our community - we look forward to more conversations in the future!"



The Weez Walk 2025 Wrap Up and Prize Presentation ceremony was successfully held on 25 March 2025. All guests did the "W" sign for Weez Walk in a group picture.



Godi Li (left), Deputy Director of KELY Support Group, took a picture with Tony Bruno (middle) and Ann Pearce (right), who are Co-founders of The Weez Project.



Dr. Shirla Sum, Secondary School Principal of Victoria Shanghai Academy, was the Guest Speaker at the ceremony.



A special acknowledgement was given to West Island School teacher, Chris Garvey, who personally completed Weez Walk three times to fundraise for youth mental health and suicide prevention.

More high-resolution photos can be downloaded at: https://bit.ly/WW25-ppc-highres

Appendix I - List of Winners of Weez Walk 2025

Award	Category	Winner / Winning Team Name
Best Time Awards	Individual (Male)	Tai Tak Loong
	Individual (Female)	Maya Tobback
	Family / Non-corporate Team	Wisers
	Corporate Team	SJP x Joint Dynamic
	School Team	MERC
Top Fundraiser Awards	Individual	Andy Ng
	Family / Non-corporate Team	The Fittish Fifties
	Corporate Team	KWM WEEZWALK TEAM
	School Team	VSA Sharks!
Mountain Mover Awards	Corporate	Champion – King & Wood Mallesons 1 <sup>st</sup> Runner-up – MTR Corporation Limited 2 <sup>nd</sup> Runner-up – Bank of Montreal
	School	Champion – Victoria Shanghai Academy 1 <sup>st</sup> Runner-up – West Island School 2 <sup>nd</sup> Runner-up – Peak School

## Appendix II - List of Sponsors of Weez Walk 2025

Type of Sponsorship		Company / Organisation Name
Lead Sponsor		Victoria Shanghai Academy
In-One-Go Challenge Sponsor		King & Wood Mallesons
Stage Sponsor	Stage 1	Bank of Montreal Hong Kong Branch
	Stage 3	A&O Shearman
	Stage 4	нока
	Stage 6	St. James's Place Charitable Foundation

Gift Sponsors	AIA Carnival
	Altra Hong Kong
	Avo
	BigPack
	Encompass HK
	Enjoyce Yoga
	The Estee Lauder Companies
	FLOAT Co.
	Gone Running
	НОКА
	Hong Kong Pilates Association
	Joint Dynamic
	Metta Wellness
	Ocean Park Hong Kong
	OmSkool Yoga
	Sol-Walker Limited
	Pirata Group Limited
	Tanner De Witt
	Т8
Mental Health Champions	The Estee Lauder Company
	MTR Corporation Limited
	Stephenson Harwood
Event T-shirt Sponsor	Т8
Event Registration Support	Sportsoho
Event Tracking App	TrailMe
Supporters	English Schools Foundation

New Monday
The Star Ferry
Time Auction

### **Media Enquiries**

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## **About The Weez Project**

Founded in memory of Jamie Bruno, The Weez Project is dedicated to raising awareness about youth mental health and preventing youth suicide in Hong Kong.

Vision: Zero youth suicides in Hong Kong.

**Mission**: To provide accessible mental health support for young people in Hong Kong, especially those at risk of self-harm or suicide.

**Goals**: Encourage youth to seek help and support one another. Educate parents and teachers on mental health. Advocate for improved mental health services with a focus on suicide prevention.

**How We Work:** We partner with youth mental health organizations to fund programs offering resources, support, and practical tools for suicide prevention in Hong Kong.

**Partnership with KELY Support Group:** Together, we support peer training, positive social media campaigns, and a mental health program for schools, with an emphasis on suicide prevention. **Supporting Coolminds:** We also back Coolminds, a KELY and Mind HK initiative, bringing global best practices to Hong Kong for youth mental health support.

#### **About KELY Support Group**

KELY Support Group (KELY) is a Hong Kong-based nonprofit organisation whose mission since 1991 is to equip young people with the skills, knowledge, and opportunities needed to support themselves and each other. KELY envision a world where young people are empowered to reach their full potential, and collaborate with schools and various partners to offer programmes to Chinese- and English-speaking youth between the ages of 14 and 24 around our three core focus areas: Mental Health and Wellbeing, Drug and Alcohol Awareness, and Positive Youth Development. Please visit KELY.ORG for more information.