

Sustainable Wan Chai Community Development 21

St. James' Settlement Community
Development Services

Old Wan Chai faces a lot of problems such as economic downturn, urban renewal, as well as environmental and human capital deterioration. We must revitalize it by co-ordinating the various forms of social capital to establish a sustainable community in Wan Chai.

Project Objectives

- (1) To develop, with active community participation, a people-oriented and economically, environmentally and socially sustainable community, as a blueprint for future development; and
- (2) To promote and share the experience in implementing Agenda 21 for sustainable development communities.

Activities and Progress

July to December 2004

Recruited staff and promoted the project in the community. Started to collect antiques, as well as launched two road exhibitions and one special workshop. Two community forums were conducted for discussion on how to set up a "livelihood museum" in Wan Chai.

Interviewed 40 small shops in Wan Chai regarding their businesses in the district, and explored local buildings of historical values, for planning and organizing the "Wan Chai Cultural Tour". Besides, we established a steering committee to plan and set up the "Wan Chai Livelihood Museum". We started to explore the feasibility of co-operating with the "Community Oriented Mutual Economy" (COME) Project.

January to June 2005

Organised activities and courses on the natural resources in Wan Chai and organic living/organic gardening. Also mobilized Wan Chai residents to form an environmental concern group. We conducted five Wan Chai cultural tours.

Collaborated with an Art Group AiR to plan and organize Wan Chai cultural tours of different themes, including ghost stories, nightlife and visual culture. These tours were guided by residents from Wan Chai and scholars.

July to December 2005

Established a temporary exhibition venue for "Wan Chai Livelihood Museum" in the community centre of St. James' Settlement. The first exhibition theme was "Chinese Traditional Wedding" which introduced the various customs involved in traditional wedding ceremonies in the old days. Organized an exhibition on "Wan Chai Grass-root Professions" in CC Wu Building in Wan Chai. Through the exhibition, the operation and wisdom of these professions, as well as their contributions to Wan Chai and Hong Kong as a whole were made known to the public, so as to enhance the public understanding of these almost-forgotten traditional professions and recognition of the importance of these professions in making Wan Chai a distinctive district as it is now today.

Collaborated with the COME project to promote organic farming of coral mushroom, in order to introduce the concept of organic farming at home to the Wan Chai community. Organized radio station "Community Forum" in the community centre of St. James' Settlement and invited local residents and stakeholders to discuss various local issues twice a month.

January and February 2006

Promoted "Wan Chai Community Tour" to secondary schools in the district, to encourage students' interest and participation in local heritage and cultural preservation. Held a "Community Ambassador Training Workshop" to provide training for local residents to become Community Tour Guides.



透過「社區導遊訓練班」，培訓熟悉灣仔區的老街坊成為社區旅遊的講解員。

Through the Community Ambassador Training Workshop, local residents were trained as Community Tour Guides