

Organizer:



Supporting Corporate



Press Release

Support employment in Hong Kong

Make it possible for grassroots, mental illness recovery, and ethnic minorities to find gainful employment

(27 July 2023, Hong Kong) The Department of Census and Statistics reported in February that the unemployment rate is 3.4%, with a total of 118 thousand unemployed individuals. Due to the impact of the pandemic, even though the economy is recovering and normal travel between Hong Kong and other countries has resumed in full, there are still many unfilled job openings. In light of this situation, Baptist Oi Kwan Social Service (BOKSS) held the "YOUR CAREER YOUR CHOICE" Inclusive Job Fair today at Nina Hotel Tsuen Wan West. We aim to assist grassroots and vulnerable groups in the community with successful employment matching and to promote cultural diversity and an inclusive workforce. There are more than 200 participants join and have a chance to do the on-site interviews.

11 corporations from various industries, including hotel, hospitality, retail, beauty, vehicle detailing, and security, have posted more than 200 job openings. Some employers are prepared to hire those who have recovered from mental illness, ethnic minority, or are elderly or middle-aged. In order to meet their requirements, they offer both full-time and part-time positions with flexible hours. In addition, information regarding ERB courses is shared at the Job Fair to assist participants to add value and improve their practical skills.

"This job fair aligns with the government's initiative to promote employment opportunities for people with disabilities and provide support to ethnic minority groups. We believe everyone possesses a unique and exceptional set of skills and abilities. The Hong Kong government is committed to delivering services to people with disabilities. We are dedicated to implementing effective measures that will facilitate their employment opportunities," said Ms. Wong Siu Fan, Phoebe, District Social Welfare Officer (Tsuen Wan / Kwai Tsing), Social Welfare Department.

"The commercial sectors have a greater need for workforce, and it is clear that corporations have recently begun to focus on ESG development within their organisations and hire those who are less advantaged. We emphasise our partnership

with corporates. Our organisation had a forging strong partnership with over 300 corporates and have been working closely with these industry leaders, collaborating hand in hand to achieve remarkable results. To create a real inclusive workforce and make the service users marketable workers, we will provide tailored pre-job training and ongoing follow-up after employment for both employers and employees.” Said Mr. Chiu Han Man, Raymond, Chief Executive Officer, Baptist Oi Kwan Social Service.

Additionally, Nina Hospitality, which supports us, is willing to hire people who are either recovering from mental illness or who belong to a minority group. “We are committed to encouraging all staff members to learn about their colleagues' unique characteristics and cultures actively. We aim to facilitate a smoother adaptation period and enhance overall productivity by making necessary adjustments to job duties. We firmly believe that the individual possesses the requisite skills and qualifications to excel in the said position and make valuable contributions to our organization.” said Mr. Simon Manning, Managing Director, Nina Hospitality.

Case Story:

Kishan Babu, from Nepal, previously served as a chef five years ago. Unfortunately, due to a bad leg injury, he has been unable to actively engage in his profession for the past five years, consequently impacting his overall mental well-being. And he approached our organisation to avail assistance from the "Racial Diversity Employment Programme". Last year, he had a successful employment opportunity at another restaurant. "Employment has provided me with a reliable source of income, as well as an invaluable opportunity to reestablish connections with the society. I am grateful to my company and coworkers for modifying the workday and dividing up the tasks to accommodate my medical schedule. This action reinstates my confidence to return to the market."

Hou Kwan, a 27-year-old young man with a diagnosis of ADHA. Despite facing challenges, Hou Kwan has been diligently seeking a stable employment opportunity. However, the symptoms significantly impact his performance during interviews, resulting in a noticeable lack of confidence. However, he refrained from taking a step back. With the help of his family and a social worker, he changed his approach to looking for work, beginning with a part-time job and moving up to a full-time position after retraining. Despite occasional challenges posed by Kwan's ADHD symptoms, he remains steadfast in maintaining a positive attitude. With the aid of medicine, he has experienced a significant enhancement in his working performance. Kwan is poised to embark on a promising career in the public sector, where he will diligently strive to

uplift and empower individuals with special education needs. He kindly requests that employers consider providing pre-job training or internship opportunities, as this would facilitate a comprehensive understanding between the employee and the employer. Such initiatives would greatly benefit both parties involved, fostering a mutually beneficial relationship. The suggestion allows candidates to seamlessly acclimate to their new working environment, fostering a sense of satisfaction and fulfilment in their job. Simultaneously, the employer will also be less concerned about losing talent.

There is also a kiosk set up by the social enterprise "Room for Life," which displays the handicrafts and products created by mental illness recoverees and low-income people. This opportunity allows service users to not only demonstrate their creativity but also to practise their selling skills.

With more than 200 attendees participating in this job fair, we aim to provide successful job matching for grassroots and vulnerable groups, as well as promote cultural diversity and workforce inclusion.

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Photo caption:

- 1) The objective of this Job Fair is to provide employment opportunities to grassroots and vulnerable groups in the community with the support of NGOs and commercial corporations.
- 2) Ms. Wong Siu Fan, Phoebe, District Social Welfare Officer (Tsuen Wan / Kwai Tsing), Social Welfare Department(second from left), Mr. Chiu Han Man. Raymond, Chief Executive Officer, Baptist Oi Kwan Social Service(second from right) , Mr. Samuel Dong, Director of Property Services, Chinachem Group (first from right), and Mr. Simon Manning, Managing Director, Nina Hospitality Group (first from left) are the honoured guests at the opening of the Job Fair.
- 3) Employers offer over 200 employment openings and conduct on-site interviews with participants.
- 4) Nina Hospitality Group as a supporting organisation and employer is willing to hire cultural diversity groups and support local employment.
- 5) There are exhibits from various social enterprises and an inclusive DIY workshop.

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About Baptist Oi Kwan Social Service (BOKSS)

In 1978, under the commission of the Baptist Convention of Hong Kong, BOKSS was founded by Hong Kong Baptist University (formerly known as the Hong Kong Baptist College) and came into service in 1982. We provide diversified district-based social services in Hong Kong for infants to elderly, including Integrated Children, Youth and Family Services, Integrated Elderly Services, Integrated Mental Health Services, Training and Employment Services, Clinical Psychological and Counselling Services, Pre-Primary School, Catering Service, Poverty Alleviation and short-term food assistant service, etc. In 2009, BOKSS was incorporated under the Hong Kong Companies Ordinance (a company limited by guarantee) and is one of the tax-exempted charitable institutions under the Inland Revenue Ordinance.