



For Immediate Release

**Project WeCan Announces 2016-2017 Project WeCan Scholarship Recipients
A total of HK\$9M to help relieve financial burden of 131 grass root students
An Unprecedented Cross-school Project WeCan Alumni is officially established**

December 17, 2016, Hong Kong — Project WeCan today announces the 2016-2017 Project WeCan Scholarship awardees with a Presentation Ceremony held at Lecture Theatre, Shaw College, The Chinese University of Hong Kong. The event was officiated by Stephen Ng, Chairman of Project WeCan Committee and Professor Joseph Sung, Vice-Chancellor and President of The Chinese University of Hong Kong.

This year, 73 Project WeCan students are awarded. Together with the 58 awardees last year, a total of 131 students from humble background are provided with financial aid involving a financial commitment of over HK\$9 million.

Each year, only the top 20% of DSE graduates in Hong Kong are admitted to local UGC-funded tertiary institutions. It takes extra efforts for students who are disadvantaged in learning to make it to the university. Since its inception in 2011, Project WeCan has been supporting the most resources-thirst secondary schools in Hong Kong, providing their students who are disadvantaged in learning with additional resources and opportunities unavailable to them otherwise.

Among the various programmes under Project WeCan, Project WeCan Scholarship Scheme was launched in 2015 to provide applicants who are admitted to pursue four-year bachelor degree programmes at one of the eight local UGC-funded tertiary institutions or the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts, with a maximum amount of HK\$100,000 throughout the four-year study.

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Speaking at the ceremony, Stephen Ng, Chairman of Project *WeCan* Committee, said, “University is like a treasures box, I hope students can use 3Os – open your eyes, open your mind and open your heart – as a key to open it, to discover the ‘knowledge gem’. Project *WeCan* Scholarship aims to motivate students to keep up with the hard work as they embark on their new page at the university, at the same time to ease their financial burden, to enjoy university life and pursue their dreams.”

I hope our Project *WeCan* students will be inspired and motivated by the achievements of the members of Project *WeCan* alumni. Students getting into university is great, but we hope for those who don’t take this path would still find their own strengths and ways, and pursue their goals.”

Fung Kai No.1 Secondary School (“FK1SS”), one of the partner schools which first joined Project *WeCan* in 2011 has shown continuous improvement over the past five years. This year, the school got eight students awarded a scholarship. Wong Tsang-cheung, Principal of FK1SS, said, “Project *WeCan* has made a difference to the students and the school overall with a host of learning opportunities and exposures over the past few years. It means a lot to our students in a tangible and intangible ways from the motivation to learn to confidence boosting. The scholarship is not only a recognition for the students’ hard work, but it is also a big relief for students financially.”

An unprecedented cross-school Project *WeCan* Alumni is officially established

Meanwhile Project *WeCan* Alumni was established in May 2016. It aims at providing Project *WeCan* graduates with a platform to expand their social network, cross-school sharing as well as opportunity to give back by volunteering.

Unlike most alumni organisations in Hong Kong where members are usually from a single school or organisation, members of Project *WeCan* Alumni come from 51 Project *WeCan* schools throughout Hong Kong, with different religions and management bodies and therefore an unprecedented, diverse and extensive network for greater cohesion. The Alumni is led by an executive committee of 12 graduates of Project *WeCan* partner schools with about 150 members actively participating in Project *WeCan* events and other community service activities.

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Sunny Law Ka-ho and Annie Lam On-ni are scholarship awardees this year who have already joined Project *WeCan* Alumni. They shared their personal experiences, aspiration and will to serve with the audience during the scholarship presentation ceremony.

Sunny Law Ka Ho – U-turning to the right track

Sunny Law ka-ho, a graduate from FK1SS and now a student of the engineering programme at the CUHK said, “I lived with my father since studying in primary school and I was once rebellious. I witnessed my father’s sweating and long-hour hard work to earn a living. I am determined to not follow his path. I was lucky to have caring teachers who always encouraged me which contributed to the improvements I have made during my secondary schooling.”

“The moment that I knew about the scholarship award, it is gratifying and exciting. It is indeed a major financial relief for me as I would not have been able to afford the tuition fees otherwise. I wish to pursue my career in the field of medical engineering, as a way to pay tribute to my father and to contribute to the society,” Law continued.

Annie Lam On-ni - Never give up on her dream

Annie Lam On-ni, a graduate from Lai Chack Middle School and now a student of sports science and physical education programme at the CUHK, was a member of Hong Kong Rowing Team in 2011-2014. She left the team because she could not manage her study at the same time. Lam still feels regretful despite she is a member of CUHK’s Rowing Team now. She said, “My father denied my dream of pursuing rowing in view of the time spent and the potential effect on my studies. I love rowing and I persisted so hard to manage both study and rowing at the same time, but unfortunately I had to drop the latter in the end after all. It could have been a different story if there was a mentor to advise me how to cope with the situation and persist my pursuit. ”

“I wish to become a sport psychologist, to learn how to cope with stress as an athlete and to help other young sports talent. I will spare part of the scholarship for pursuing related master programme in the future,” she added.

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About Project WeCan

Project *WeCan*, a Business-in-Community initiative launched in 2011, aims to provide secondary schools students who are disadvantaged with additional resources and care to empower them for pursuing higher education and future careers. The Project currently has 51 schools participated, benefitting about 43,000 students. Please visit www.projectwecan.com or Facebook page www.facebook.com/projectwecanhk for more details



Stephen Ng, Chairman of Project *WeCan* Committee (middle in front row); Joseph Sung, Vice-Chancellor and President of The Chinese University of Hong Kong (8th from left in front row); Doreen Lee (8th from right in front row) and Ricky Wong (7th from left in front row), members of Project *WeCan* Committee, with the 73 Project *WeCan* Scholarship awardees this year

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Scholarship awardees Annie Lam and Sunny Law with Stephen Ng, Chairman of Project WeCan Committee (middle)

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