

Commercial and NGO heads Social Enterprise Roundtable

Raymond C.M.YIM: Hon. CEO – HKU Social Enterprise Incubation Centre CEO – CM Consultants

Mr. Raymond C.M.YIM arranging the first commercial & NGO heads Social Enterprise Roundtable on December 11th 2007 at Wesley Hotel. The idea is Raymond strongly believes that the sustainability of social enterprise must get the involvement of commercial sector. Thus through both his NGO connections (Hon. Director to Methodist Centre) and commercial networks (CEO to CM Consultants) make this Roundtable happens.

NGO participants are Lai C.T. (Director – Aberdeen Kai-Fong Welfare Association Social Service Centre), Noel Y.C. Yeung (Executive Secretary – Kwun Tong Methodist Social Service), Norman K.W. Lo (General Secretary-Methodist Centre), Wanda Luk (General Secretary-Asbury Methodist Social Service) and Fong Cheung Fat (CEO-The Spastics Association of Hong Kong). Commercial representatives are Nelson Yip (CEO-EP Venture Company Limited), Eugene Fong (Assistant District Secretary-Rotary Club of Kowloon West), Eric Tong (MD-Flame PR & Production Limited) and Thomas Tang (MD-GIFT).

A sincere and open discussion has been taken place. NGOs feel that they may not have sufficient business knowledge and experience to start social enterprise. The commercial sector thinks that they can assist NGOs to strengthen their business skills such as financial control, sales and marketing as well as risk analysis. Both sectors mutually agreed that this type of Roundtable can facilitate mutual understanding paving way for possible future co-operation.

During the Roundtable Raymond also announced that the graphic design social enterprise, Green Design incubating by HKU Social Enterprise Incubation Centre using government funds to kick-off has a chance starting to earn profits after one year operations. Secondly, a car-cleaning social enterprise team up with a reputable car-cleaning commercial entity and a NGO will set up next month. Thirdly, a consulting social enterprise acts as the consulting arm to the HKU Social Enterprise Incubation Centre operating in the form of “corporate clinic” has already established bridging the NGO commercial needs and business enterprise social responsibilities. The next steps are continuing organizing such Roundtable and arranging exchanging tours for commercial entities and NGOs.