

(Front Cover)

A Barrier Free World
Starts with Equality for All

Introducing United Nations Convention
On the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

Although we have disabilities,
we can still equally enjoy life without barriers.

Labour and Welfare Bureau
www.lwb.gov.hk

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United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities was adopted at the 61st session of the United Nations General Assembly on 13 December 2006. Upon the ratification of the Convention by 20 signatory states, the Convention entered into force for the People's Republic of China including the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region on 31 August 2008. The purpose of the present Convention is to promote, protect and ensure the full and equal enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms by all persons with disabilities, and to promote respect for their inherent dignity.

Persons with disabilities include those who have long-term physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairments which in interaction with various barriers may hinder their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others.

If you would like to know more about the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, please visit the Labour and Welfare Bureau website at www.lwb.gov.hk.

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A Barrier Free World

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities has entered into force for the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region. As Hong Kong citizens, we all have equal responsibilities to implement the Convention. Through a series of public education and promotion activities, we strongly encourage all Hong Kong citizens to promote and effectuate the essence of the Convention together with the Government, in order to create a barrier free society where persons with disabilities can pursue their goals, dreams, and live freely without discrimination.

I can have the freedom to pursue my dreams!

So Wah Wai was born with cerebral palsy, but his enthusiasm for athletics led to his participation in the Hong Kong Paralympic Team of 1994. Since then, he has competed in several Paralympic Games around the world, including the IAAF World Championships in Athletics for Disabled Persons. He has won numerous medals and broken world records earning him the homegrown title of “Wonder Boy”.

Everyone is equal. Hence persons with disabilities shall have the freedom to pursue their dreams. We should appreciate and affirm their abilities and contributions.

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I have the confidence to perform well at work!

At the age of two, Wong Man Yu suffered from meningitis that seriously damaged his brain functions. However, his disabilities did not stop him from working as a shop attendant at a fast food shop. With his keen and positive attitude, he always takes the initiative to help his customers. In turn, he frequently receives praises from grateful customers and his boss. To top this, his employer has conveyed the “Best Employee” award to him and he won the “Outstanding Disabled Employees Award” from the Labour Department.

The Convention recognizes the right of persons with disabilities to work on an equal basis with others. We should help to facilitate more employment opportunities and career advancement for persons with disabilities in the labour market.

I can develop my own interests!

Everyone is equal, persons with disabilities shall have the freedom to develop their own interests in all aspects of life. The Convention ensures persons with disabilities can freely participate in recreational, leisure and sporting activities and enjoy full access to cultural materials.

Persons with disabilities can develop and utilize their creative, artistic and intellectual potential without barriers. For example, the persons with visual impairment can use Braille music scores to learn music.

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We can openly communicate with each other!

The Convention ensures persons with disabilities can exercise the right to freedom of expression and opinion, including the freedom to seek, receive and impart information and ideas. For example, sign language, lip-reading and handwriting can be used to communicate with persons with hearing impairment. By using appropriate skills, everyone can openly communicate to one another without barriers.

I can travel around the world!

To affirm the spirit of the Convention, we shall take appropriate measures to ensure the greatest level of independence for persons with disabilities to have personal mobility at public facilities. To enhance the convenience for persons with disabilities, barrier free facilities are now installed at many scenic destinations where historical venues, museums and other attractions are frequented.

I can go anywhere I want!

We shall take appropriate measures to ensure persons with disabilities can live independently with full access to their physical environment such as the use of community facilities on an equal basis, so as to facilitate their full inclusion and participation in the community. For example, ramps, low-floor buses and lifts enable more convenience for wheelchair users; tactile guide paths and Braille signage are installed for persons with visual impairment; induction loop systems are installed for persons with hearing impairment.