



Mrs. Carrie Yau, GBS, JP

Executive Director
Vocational Training Council

Mrs. Carrie Yau is a former Administrative Officer with over 30 years' experience in the Hong Kong Civil Service serving various Government bureaux and departments.

Mrs. Yau joined the Government in 1977 and was Deputy Secretary for Security from 1995 to 1997, Director of Administration from 1997 to 2000, Secretary for Information Technology and Broadcasting from 2000 to 2002, Permanent Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food from 2002 to 2007. She further served in the capacity of Permanent Secretary for Home Affairs from 2007 to 2010. The major assignments handled by Mrs. Yau included crisis management issues relating to Vietnamese Boat People, SARS, avian flu; and coordination of international events like 2000 ITU Telecom Asia and 2008 Olympic Equestrian Events.

Mrs. Yau holds a Bachelor of Social Sciences and a Master of Arts degree from the University of Hong Kong. She is a Justice of the Peace and was awarded Gold Bauhinia Star (GBS) in 2010.

With a vision to enhance the development of vocational education and training for the younger generation and in-service workers, Mrs. Yau was appointed as the Executive Director of the VTC with effect from 1 January 2013.

Vocational Education and Training for Serving the Elderly

The acceleration of ageing brings great challenges to many developing and developed economies across the globe. In Hong Kong, it is anticipated that 1 in every 4 persons will be aged 65 or above in less than twenty years' time by 2033. Under this significant demographic change, the silver hair market will grow with increased demand for healthcare and medical services. This session will present the role of Vocational Training Council (VTC) in supporting the ageing population in Hong Kong in three aspects – as a trainer, an innovator and an advocate for dignified and better living for our senior citizens.

With the mission to provide quality vocational education and training, VTC is committed to working jointly with the industries to enrich existing programmes and introduce new ones with different levels of professionalism to equip our students with necessary knowledge and skills to serve the elderly. Cross-disciplinary projects are in the pipeline to provide students with hands-on experience to meet the future challenges. A new Traineeship Scheme tailored for the elderly care service sector will also be launched. The curricula of VTC programmes, embedded with soft skills training for students, aim to drive an elderly-centred servicing culture in line with best international practice.

VTC also contributes as an innovator by conducting applied research for product design and service reengineering. For example, a household medical self-monitoring device which allows senior citizens to monitor their health status daily and receive health tips will make life easier for themselves and their carers. VTC believes that there is a lot of scope for introducing new technological products to support safe and better mobility of senior citizens under the 'active ageing' policy; and the installation of home care devices to make 'ageing in place' a possibility for more families.

VTC as an advocate for building an age-friendly community will explore means to facilitate senior citizens to lead an active, graceful and secure life. With our industry knowledge and manpower training expertise, VTC will render practical suggestions on new initiatives including change in service modes for the benefit of both consumers and providers in an ageing society. It is also our intention to promote inter-generation harmony by various means to make Hong Kong a home and workplace loved by people of different ages from all walks of life.