



Prof. the Hon. Joseph Lee Kok-long, SBS, JP

Chairman

Association of Hong Kong Nursing Staff

Prof. Joseph Lee is currently the Chairman of the Association of Hong Kong Nursing Staff. He's also a member of the Legislative Council of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, and Professor & Head of the Division of Nursing & Health Studies, the Open University of Hong Kong. Besides, Prof. Lee also serves as member of a couple of Chief Executive appointed community services, which included the Commission on Strategic Development, the Estate Agents Authority, the Operations Review Committee of the Independent Commission Against Corruption, and the Equal Opportunities Commission. In addition, he is also the honorary research fellow of the Asia-Pacific Institute of Ageing Studies of the Lingnan University of Hong Kong. In 2009, Prof. Lee was awarded the Silver Bauhinia Star by the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region.

Prof. Lee's major fields of specialism are health care policy, workplace violence in nursing, primary health care and nursing politics. He is committed to these fields as a researcher, educator and political advocate. Prof. Lee has been invited as Keynote Speaker on these topics in a number of international conferences.

Transforming Ageing in Place: An Innovation in Community Elderly Care

Hong Kong is facing a rapidly ageing population and increasing prevalence of non-communicable diseases among the aged. In view of the current situation, the recent Policy Addresses repeatedly advocate the concept of “Ageing in Place” and “Community Rehabilitation”. Hence, many initiatives, such as a Pilot Scheme on Community Care Service Voucher for the Elderly, increased day care places, and extending service hours of day care centres, have been developed to strengthen the elderly community care services. It is believed that successful implementation and adequate provision of such type of community care and support not only would promote and sustain the health status of elder people but would also greatly reduce the demand on hospital services and institutionalized elderly residential care. To support the government’s initiatives and to enable the elders to be properly taken care of in the community, there has been an upsurge need for trained healthcare personnel who are capable of delivering integrated supportive care on health maintenance, disease prevention and rehabilitation.

In this connection, an innovative community elderly care project is thus proposed. The project consists of two levels of community elderly healthcare training. The first level aims to train healthcare personnel on a part-time basis who, upon graduation would take up the role of a Community Health Workers and be able to provide on-site community-based supportive care, such as physical care, health assessment, and health counseling & education, to elders with chronic or non-communicable health problems living in their own homes. The other level of training attempts to recruit retirees or homecarers in the community to go through a series of volunteer training on the essential skills that are required to effectively handle minor health related problems at home, and, in addition, to be capable of performing neighbor-watch on their aged neighbors in the community. This paper attempts to explicate the essence and impact of this innovative community elderly care model.