



HISTORY OF Y'SDOM • Hong Kong District

Club from 30's

Y's Men's Club of Hong Kong was founded in 1932 as the oldest club in Hong Kong. English was chosen to be the Club's official language.

The Club hosted the 1st Asia Area Conference in association with the Kowloon Y's Men's Club in November 1957. In the early days, the Club sponsored schools for 'street kids', often in partnership with the YMCA and the 'Boys and Girls Clubs'. Other notable projects sponsored by the Club over the years included Chinese YMCA's youth camp facilities on the island of Wong Yi Chau, the 'Physically Handicapped and the Able Bodied Project'. Chinese culture lectures by 'Hok Ho Library', the building of two new primary schools in Hubei Province in mainland China and a charity concert to raise HK\$1 million for the 'Home of Loving Faithfulness'. When the Y's Menettes Committee' of the Club was replaced by the formation of the Y's Men's Club of Bauhinia in 1973, the membership of the Hong Kong Club itself has been all men until 2001, when lady members were first admitted. Many distinguished members from the Club have taken up posts at the international level such as International Vice President (the late Y's man C S Lam), Area President (Y's Man C L Kung) and Regional Directors (Y's Men S Y Lam, B L Wong, Tony Chan, Kenneth Sit, Car y Fung and David Wong).

Clubs chartered in 50s and 60s

Three other Y's Men's Clubs were chartered in Hong Kong District during this period: Kowloon, Victoria and Tsuen Wan. The Kowloon Club was chartered in 1952, and for many years operated a children's welfare club in a resettlement estate; provided scholarships for needy students and special Christmas programme of the Rutonjee Geriatric Day Hospital. During SARS in 2003, the Club organized voluntary help to clean the flats of the elderly living alone. In 2003-04, the Club helped set up the YMCA 'FARM' project, a trendy flea market concept to develop the creative and entrepreneurial talents of youth.

The Y's Men's Club of Victoria, Hong Kong was established in July 6, 1962, in 1967, Victoria Club supported the establishment of 'Y's Men's Centre for the Deaf'. Since 1975, the Club also supported young deaf people to join the 'International Summer Camp for the Deaf'. Club Past President CHOU Wing-ping took up the post of Asia President in 1998. In 2001 and 2002, Club members participant in environmental protection and plantation programme in China and Hong Kong.

The Tsuen Wan Y's Men's Club was chartered June 16, 1967. It established brother clubbing with Y's Men's Club of Osaka-Ni shi in 1979. Y's Men's Club of Kaohsiung in 1989, and Y's Men's Club of Malaysia in 1990, It also sponsored the chartering of the Y's Men's Club of New Territories. It organized the first 'Canoeing Competition' in Hong Kong on January 1, 1968, and the first 'Dancing Competition' in the New Territories in 1967.

The Y's Men's Club of Peninsula was started on December 3, 1968. It served as a silent partner for the Chinese YMCA on various projects and community activities for the past 35 years. The more notable was for the last six years, the Club participated in the Chinese YMCA 'Bike Marathon' to raise funds for the deprived students at Qingyuen county in northern Guangdong Province, China.

Clubs chartered from 70's

After the Chartering of Y's Men's Club of Peninsula, there was a long period with no new clubs. On October 20, 1979, Bauhinia Club, the first all ladies Y's Men's Club in Asia was formed. It established brother clubbing with the Y's Men's Club of Osaka Centennial, Japan and Y's Men's Club of Nuuanu, Hawaii in 1987, and Y's Men's Club of Lily, Taiwan in 1995. Notable projects over the years included fund raising in aid of earthquake victims of Osaka in 1995, sponsorship of capital equipment and facilities for service agencies, YMCA Wong Yi Chau Youth Camp, and Macao YMCA, support of mainland China deprived students and YMCA 'School social work' project. The Club initiated an overhaul of the Constitution of Bauhinia Club in 2003 to bring it in line with present time.

The first club related directly to the YMCA of Hong Kong, Salisbury Road, was the Y's Men Club of Tsim Sha Tsui, chartered on March 19, 1981. The Club consolidated and increased the participation in the District, Regional, Area and International arena. The high point was the International Convention in 2000 held in Hong Kong, when the Club's Past President took active role as Chairmen of Promotion Committee and Youth Convocation, and MC at the Opening Ceremony.

As the population increased tremendously in the new towns the Y's Men's Club of New Territories was established on June 21, 1985. It has established brother clubbing with Y's Men's Club of Ping Tung - South MT, Taiwan, and Y's Men's club of HanYang, Korea. In 1995, it built a primary school in Guangdong Province, China in relation to 'Hope Project'. In recent years, it runs a youth exchange programme of 4-5 days to enable youth in Hong Kong and China to share experience and fellowship.

The next club to join the District was the Y's Men's Club of Island South on July 2, 1988. It established brother clubbing with the Alpha Chapter Club of Singapore in 1992. The Club nurtured the 11th Y's Men's club in Hong Kong, namely the Y's Men's Club of Island East in 2001.

The Y's Men's Club of North West on March 17, 1997. Over the past 7 years, it has built 6 primary schools in mainland China to bring better education opportunities to the deprived children.

The Y's Men's Club of Island East was chartered on January 18, 2001 bringing the number of clubs in the district to eleven on the very beginning of the new millennium. Club members, most living or working in the Eastern District, care and sponsor a variety of programme for children, youth and elderly people of the District. In February, 2004, the Club held a successful charity fund-raising dinner attended by 600 people.

IC 2000 in Hong Kong

The Hong Kong District hosted the 64th International Convention 2000 at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre from August 3rd-6th 2000, concurrent with the Youth Convocation 2000 held at the Wu Kai Sha Youth Village, Shatin. PRD Kenneth Sit of the Hong Kong Y's Men's Club took up the chairmanship of the IC 2000 Host Committee, whilst Past Club President Rose Yun of the Tsim Sha Tsui Y's Men's Club that of the Youth Convocation. It was a successful and memorable event in the history of the Hong Kong District.

Hong Kong District Signature Project

The history of the Hong Kong District cannot be complete without mentioning the annual 'Chinese Speech Contest' sponsored by the Hong Kong District since 1975. This is one of the contests organized by Hong Kong Government in collaboration with community organizations. The speech contest and the preceding workshop help youth to develop public speaking skills. Our active involvement in organizing the event over the past 29 years raised the visibility of the Y's Men movement in the community.

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