

On behalf of the Department of Social Work at the Hong Kong Baptist University, I would like to extend our warmest welcome to every participant in the Symposium on Childcare and Development. Our department is honoured to co-organize this symposium together with the Hong Kong Society for the Protection of Children. The Department of Social Work at the Hong Kong Baptist University is one of the earliest academic institutions in Hong Kong to provide social work education. Our first social work training programme started in 1956 with the establishment of the Hong Kong Baptist College. Throughout the last 60 years, we have been fully engaged in collaborative efforts with social services organizations in Hong Kong in many frontiers including research studies, professional training, social work placements and the development of social work models of practice. Our belief in the worth, dignity and potential of people regardless of their age, social class, gender, race/ethnicity, religion, ability or sexuality has guided the development of our department, social work training programmes and our ties with the social work field and society in the past 6 decades.

We believe that children are the future of our society. The welfare of children should always be on the agenda of the social work and counseling professions. Here, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the Hong Kong Society for the Protection of Children for successfully developing and delivering invaluable services to young children in Hong Kong for the past 90 years. Ninety years is a long time. It would not be possible for an organization to continuously serve the most vulnerable group in society - our very young children - without unfailing dedication to their mission to grow our future generation. I know that this symposium will be a success and anticipate future collaborative efforts with the Hong Kong Society for the Protection of Children. I look forward to fruitful exchanges of views and experiences during the symposium and afterwards. Let's all work together for the wellbeing of children and their families.



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