

District-based Programmes for Racial Harmony

Hong Kong is a culturally diverse city with people of different ethnic backgrounds. While Chinese comprises the largest ethnic group in our population, we can find people from all over the world – Filipinos, Indonesians, Indians, Nepalese, Pakistanis, Japanese, Koreans, Africans, Europeans ... As an initiative to promote the interaction and exchange between ethnic minorities who have settled in Hong Kong and local Chinese residents, the Home Affairs Department launched the District-based Programmes for Racial Harmony in 2019.

Under the Programmes, non-Governmental organisations were invited to to organise activities that provide opportunities for racially-diverse participants to meet and understand more about each other. These activities included festive celebrations, sports training, cultural tours, Asian cuisine cooking workshop, volunteer services, etc. A total of 54 activities attracting more than 11 000 participants were held between August 2019 and January 2020.

visitor that racial harmony makes a beautiful world.

There were also activities which promote enduring friendship and mutual trust among participants.

Participants in a mountaineering class went through four months' training and left footprints (and handprints!) on the most challenging mountain trails. In a Kabaddi Training Programme, Chinese students learned how to play the game which is popular among their South Asian fellows. Starting with no knowledge in the sport, they practiced hard with their fellows for five months and formed a team to play in an invitational competition in January 2020. These activities not only cultivated their persistence, endurance and perseverance but also strengthened the bonding between team members.



In a cultural volunteer training, participants visited the Ammar Mosque and Osman Ramju Sadick Islamic Centre in Wan Chai in which they learned about the facts of Muslims and their beliefs and practices. The Graffiti Day encouraged participants to create graffiti in their Sham Shui Po Centre. The colour harmony in the paintings serves as a reminder to every



There were many more exciting activities which cannot be covered in a few paragraphs but invariably participants were able to gain appreciation in different cultures as

well as traditional Chinese folk customs. They also made many new friends from diverse cultural backgrounds!

For more information on the District-based Programmes for Racial Harmony, please visit the Race Relations Unit website at <http://www.had.gov.hk/rru>. We look forward to seeing you in the activities in the coming year!