

Drug Education Resources Center

As the DERC renovation is coming to its completion, I like to take this opportunity to write a few words and express my gratitude to those who are involved in this Project.

It all began with a dream and a promise during a regular exercise session with our President, Mr. Kim Ng. A dream that SHPHK will have its own place and a promise that I will take up this project. Now that the premises is ready to perform its functions, it also represents a new era for SHPHK and DERC to further their work, to accomplish those missions set by our fellow pharmacists who have great interest in the pharmacy profession as well as the people of Hong Kong. I also like to take this opportunity to wish our Program Directors, William and Wanda every success in running meaningful health related programs.

I must admit I am an opportunist. The idling cash in SHPHK's account has bothered me for years. Starting up with just a simple idea of utilizing the idling cash in SHPHK's account, capitalizing it on the poor real estate market in Hong Kong, the idea of purchasing a piece of property for SHPHK was proposed.

Time and money are two very scarce commodities especially during this time of financial difficulties. I must give credit to those who have contributed these precious commodities generously for this DERC Project.

The first person I must thank is Kim because he fully supports this idea without hesitation. Kim is a leader with vision and with good people skills. He makes things happen and is a great modulator. Any conflict will melt in his hands like ice put into an oven. With his great people skills, we managed to pass many hurdles and obstacles before reaching our destination. I really like the poem Kim wrote in his 2002 Report, in that he wrote: “創業無如逐夢難，經濟低迷硬闖關，根基得種憑眾志，心田福地後人耕”. His poem speaks thousand words.

When I approach William Chui of Queen Mary for his support, he gave a brilliant suggestion that turns a small project of buying a piece of property into a meaningful program: his suggestion of forming the present Drug Education Resources Center (DERC). William is very much into health education and he has great compassion for our pharmacy profession as well as public health. When this DERC project was initially approved by SHPHK GC, I invited William to be the Director and put a heavy burden on his shoulder. William is a courageous man of great resources. To be successful in this DERC project, you need a man like William who is both willing and capable. Thank you William for the promise to take up this heavy load and doing it so well. Thank you for your generosity in giving your precious time and expertise.

I must thank Wanda Kwan of St. Paul's hospital. Being friends with Wanda for many years, I know she is very keen on public health education. Wanda is a very capable and yet humble person. Totally doesn't mind being the assistant, “亞二”, Wanda promised to share this heavy load and take up the Assistant Director position, volunteering her time and expertise for an ideal. We saw what she has accomplished in the last few months, from running the GSK Clinic Nurse Training Program to the DERC-Watson's Hotline Project. I cannot imagine how much she is going to put out in the many years to come.

I must thank Patrick Liu of Hong Kong Sanatorium. Totally behind the scene, I must credit his great efforts; invisible yet forceful, in turning this DERC project into a reality. Being my great lunch partner, he is a silent mover and a great advisor in this project. From site searching to fund raising to renovation, he was there all the time, contributing and supporting silently but forcefully. Listening to all my complaints without any complaint. Thank you Patrick for your kind and generous support. Patrick is a family man and that makes time an even more precious commodity to him. Every time when I called Patrick at night to go visiting the site under renovation, I was so afraid that Joanne (Patrick's wife) would pick up the phone. This is because Patrick's quality family time will be cut short each time I call. “A friend in need is a friend indeed”, lunch on me next time Patrick. You got to choose your favorite restaurant.

I must thank Helen Pai of Hong Kong Adventist. Helen has great compassion for the pharmacy profession and SHPHK. Being colleague with Helen for almost 10 years, I understand her very well. She is a perfectionist and an idealist. Relentlessly helping in locating the perfect DERC site, she was there practically in every single site visit. Helen should be given the credit of finding this current site for the Center. She has walked many miles with the real estate agents and thought through all the details before finally settling on this wonderful location. Thank you Helen for also coaching the renovation project. With your relentless effort in pursuing perfect renovation with limited financial resources, I can see Mr. Chu, our contractor, is being guided by your skillful negotiations. Without Helen, the Center will not be as beautiful as you see today. With her meticulous thinking, renovation is designed to last long and trouble free.

I must thank SHPGC, especially Ms. S. C. Chiang and Mr. Michael Ling. With their rich and skillful management background and professional experiences, things are being guided in the right direction and shaped to the correct format. From proof reading and critiquing important DERC document to organizing DERC Inauguration Ceremony to advising on so many educational events, they have provided check and balance that are so vital to the formation and smooth running of this new SHPHK subsidiary-DERC. Whenever there is a wild and crazy idea, we can be rest assured that it won't get out of hand. Thank you GC for the trust in approving the project and the budget, a budget which means using up the total cumulative savings of SHPHK over these many years. This is a big trust and it is really appreciated. Thank you for the trust in our taste in decoration, giving us a free hand and green light to go ahead with the renovation of the Center that belongs to ALL.

As our lives are being shaped by rapid technological changes around us, credit should be given to Mr. Freddie Poon of Kwong Wah Hospital for keeping us in pace with the world. Freddie's expertise in IT equipment has led us in implementing state of art access control System, superior audio-video equipment and surveillance system for the functioning, enjoyment and protection of members and guests.

My gratitude also goes to our DERC Advisors who have provided much advice and guidance. In particular, I like to thank Mr. Douglas Tang, our Legal Advisor, for his professional advice during property purchase and all the legal advice he provided in many of our programs.

The Fund Raising Committee has been fabulous in describing and explaining to our sponsors the mission of DERC. Special credit should be given to William Chui and Patrick Liu for their continuous efforts in facilitating donations. As of today, a total sum of HKD\$1,532,000 has been raised to fund this DERC Project.

Last but certainly not the least, I must thank our partners in healthcare delivery-those pharmaceutical companies that share the same vision and giving us the support we need. During such difficult financial and business environment, coming up with the needed financial support becomes extremely precious. Without them, DERC and the Center probably will not be here today, or simply, will not happen at all. Thank you for your trust during this journey, trust for promises we make during our solicitation for financial support in giving great health education programs, that many of which have yet to be met.

Patrick Leung
DERC Project Coordinator