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Press Release for Immediate Release

Attention to: General News / Feature / Finance Assignment Editors and Reporters

Social Enterprise Summit 2018 International Symposium Concludes

Record-high 3,200 participants from civic organisations, the business sector, the Government and academia

(24th November 2018, Hong Kong) The 11th Social Enterprise Summit International Symposium (“SES 2018”), concluded today with the announcement of a first SES Academic Forum Report and two Ashoka Fellows appointments in Hong Kong. This year, the three-day SES 2018 International Symposium attracted a record number of more than 3,200 participants, a 7% increase over that of last year.

Kiran Bir SETHI was the concluding keynote speaker of the SES 2018 International Symposium. She is the founder of Design for Change, the world's largest movement for changing children's lives, which now operates in 61 countries and is impacting over 2.2 million children and 65,000 teachers. At her address to the delegates, she calls for the education practice of “FIDS – feel/imagine/do/share” so that children will develop to become innovative leaders with character, passion and compassion who would be doing good and doing well.

The introduction of a first SES Academic Forum this year attracted over a hundred academia, students and public taking part in a vigorous debate on whether social entrepreneurship can solve all social problems with the motion for getting more support from the floor, the discussion at this Forum will lead to the write up of a first SES Academic Forum report to be released early in 2019.

Mrs Rebecca Yung, Chair of the Organising Committee of the Social Enterprise Summit, said, “We are delighted to hear the announcement of the first two Ashoka Fellows in Hong Kong in conjunction with the establishment of an Ashoka office here as the base for Asia.” Ashoka has for more than 35 years rigorously select and introduce life-long fellowship to member who is committed to championing new patterns of social good. David Yeung of Green Monday and Scott Stiles of Fair Employment Agency are the two Ashoka Fellows recently appointed.

Other highlights from the 20+ topical discussions include:

- The shaping of a vision for All businesses to become social business or business with social missions in the long run.
- A strong focus on Impact Investment and evaluation of the Social Impact Bond from the business, finance, social sectors and governmental bodies with examples from the Asia region
- Danone Aqua speaker Ms Corine Tap reveals Indonesia's First 100% Recycled Plastic Bottle, her talk attracted strong interest to reduce plastic pollution, some delegates also suggest her return to share this case example with the industries and government.

The three-day SES 2018 International Symposium, held at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre, invited over 60 international and local speakers to contribute to 20 seminars, two workshops and thematic sessions, three keynotes, and a Concluding Session with Full Audience. The theme "Innovating for a Happier Society" was also making it a first inclusion of children's participation from



the youngest age of five. Delegates from civic organisations, the business sector, the Government and academia exchanged ideas on four tracks, Harvest for Good Business, the Art of Design Innovation, Pursue Sustainable Goals and Promote Empowerment through employment, education and social inclusion.

Photos with captions



SES 2018 International Symposium had a full audience at the Concluding Interactive Session today, marking the end of the event.



At the concluding session of SES 2018 International Symposium, (from the left) **Francis Ngai**, Social Ventures HK, **Hillary YIP**, Founder and CEO of MinorMynas, **Kiran Bir SETHI**, founder of Design for Change India, **John TSANG**, founder of Esperanza, **David MH FONG**, BBS, JP, managing director of Hip Shing Hong (Holdings) Co Ltd and teenage social innovator **Andy TSUI**, Co-founder of Bully Escape engaged in a dialogue with on the future direction of social innovation, breaking the barriers to take action on each person's social mission.



The three-day SES 2018 International Symposium has recorded more than 3,200 participants and has hit its highest record.

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Ashoka Fellows in Hong Kong

Scott Stiles aims to end debt bondage and forced labour of migrant workers throughout Asia, by making exploitative recruitment unprofitable

David Yeung is seeking to mitigate the impact on the environment and climate change caused by vast consumption of beef, poultry and pork by offering consumers in Greater China and East Asia easy ways to reduce meat in their daily diet and shift to a more sustainable plant-based choice in diet.

About Social Enterprise Summit

Social Enterprise Summit is a series of non-profit events organised by Hong Kong Social Entrepreneurship Forum, co-organised by Home Affairs Bureau of the HKSAR Government together with 19 civic groups and NGOs. The International Symposium is an annual event since 2008, attracting an increasing number of visitors each year, from the Asia-Pacific region and Greater China. The Summit has become a major cross-sector platform among the civic sector, businesses, academia and government in the region to advance social entrepreneurship and social innovations for positive social changes.

2018 Theme: “Innovating for a Happier Society”. The thread to seamless cross-sector collaborations and initiatives is to create a happier society for all. The International Symposium examine the subject through the lenses of harvesting business initiatives for social good; aspiring for the art of design innovation; pursuing sustainable goals and promoting empowerment in inclusive communities. Community engagement activities are held in six different districts in Hong Kong during the year to expand the participation and reach. Academic partnerships will join in a first SES Academic Forum to reveal how scholars will work with social entrepreneurs to catalyse social innovation.



Official Website: <http://ses.org.hk>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/SocialEnterpriseSummit/>

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The invitation is dispatched by Mention PR Consultants Ltd. on behalf of Social Enterprise Summit 2018. For media enquiries, please contact **Mention PR Consultants Ltd:**

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