



6 June 2017

## Press Release Official Opening of Centre for Fathering, Hong Kong

Hong Kong's first ever **Centre for Fathering** (the Centre) will officially open on June 16, 2017. The Centre seeks to empower and involve fathers to take an active role in their children's lives and promote the importance of fathering in child development. It also provides a platform for sharing and promoting fathering education to young dads.

Recent survey result released by the Hong Kong Shue Yan University in May 2017 showed that "helicopter parents" would hinder children in searching for the meaning of life in their development, affect their skills and ability in facing negative happenings and their building of self-confidence. "The Centre for Fathering is there to help enhance the discussion of the importance of fathering role, in particular, in the development of their children and the promotion of fathering movement in Hong Kong," said Mr Anton Wan, General Secretary of Family Value Foundation.

"Although there are services on fathering education in Hong Kong, we need to have a comprehensive network linking up all these and promote the discussion of fathering role to new dads. The Centre provides a platform which includes partnerships with schools, churches, professionals and will work on research, education and engagement," continued Mr Wan.

By providing various educational workshops and awareness activities for dads and their children and publishing research reports, the Centre believes that positive influences from fathers is crucial for the holistic development of the future generations in Hong Kong.

Mr Bryan Tan, Chief Executive Officer of Dad's for Life and Singapore's Centre for Fathering will officiate at the Centre's grand opening and share his experience of fathering movement in Singapore. He encourages dads all around Hong Kong to take an active part in this movement and exciting experience.

“With similarities in the social environment in Singapore and Hong Kong, I believe the fathering movement in the two places also faces similar challenges and difficulties. I am most happy to cooperate and exchange innovative ideas with fathering organisations in Hong Kong. More than experience sharing, there could be collaborations on various areas like jointly conducting large scale research on the subject. I am sure this will benefit fathers and families of the two places,” said Mr Tan.

Also speaking at the opening will be Dr Raymond Au, Associate Professor (Counselling Studies) of China Graduate School of Theology. As the pioneer in fathering movement in Hong Kong and a marriage and family therapy specialist, Dr Au said the setting up of this new Centre was an important milestone and could effectively promote the fathering movement.

“The public now realise the role of father is more than providing material needs for the family yet many are not aware of the influence of fathering role in child development and the building of sense of security and stability in family. The Centre would help promote the positive influence of fathering to marriage, family and society and enhance the awareness and understanding of fathering role in Hong Kong,” said Dr Au.

Mr Anton Wan welcomes dads to visit the newly opened Centre to take a pause and re-prioritise their roles as fathers. “We believe that now more than ever, is the time for dads to take more initiative - finding a balance between their jobs and their children. It is our hope and belief that The Centre for Fathering can provide that outlet for families all around Hong Kong regardless of background,” he said.

To tie in with the grand opening of the Centre, a group of students under the guidance of Dr Angela Mak, Associate Professor of School of Communication, Hong Kong Baptist University, jointly produced a book entitled “We are Good Fathers”. The book contains interviews with five dads in town on their unconventional fathering tips will be launched at the opening of the Centre.

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Centre for Fathering

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## **Fact Sheet**

### **About The Centre for Fathering, Hong Kong**

- The Centre for Fathering, launched under the Family Value Foundation in 2015, aims to promote and enhance the involvement of active fathering in child development. By taking an active role in their children's lives and promoting family values, it is hoped that the positive influence of fathers on their children could be enhanced.
- The Centre for Fathering, the first ever fathering centre in Hong Kong, is a think tank on fathering with the objectives to provide a platform for and link up various concerned parties to discuss, exchange and share experience on the importance of fathering in families.
- The Centre promotes the fathering movement in Hong Kong. It also leads research, education, engagement activities and seminars targeting at young dads.
- Activities include: Back to School with Dad; Exhibition & Coffee; Movie & Coffee; Family Values for Parents Project.

### **Officiating Guest: Mr Bryan Tan, Chief Executive Officer, Dad's for Life and Singapore's Centre for Fathering Ltd (CFF)**

- Mr Bryan Tan, former Senior Officer in the Singapore Armed Forces, entered into early retirement from his full-time management position in the military in August 2016. He assumed the role of CEO in Centre for Fathering and Dads for Life then.
- The CFF was founded in 2001 in Singapore on the belief that an active and involved father is essential for a child's successful development.
- For more than ten years, CFF has helped countless families, and fathers in particular, through father-child experiential programmes and fathering workshops conducted in schools, prisons, religious organisations and companies.
- CFF launched the nation-wide Dads for Life movement in Singapore in 2009 to further promote active fathering.
- CFF organises two nation-wide events every year - Eat with Your Family Day and Back to School with Dad - to remind and encourage fathers to set aside time to be with their families and to help create a culture that promotes involved fathering.

### **Officiating Guest: Dr Raymond Au, Associate Professor (Counselling Studies) of China Graduate School of Theology**

- Dr Au is the first pioneer in fathering movement in Hong Kong. He started the movement in 1990's.
- Dr Au is DMin of Fuller Theological Seminary and also a marriage and family therapy specialist. He was the Former Head of Breakthrough Counselling Centre.

- Dr Au’s research areas include: Growth and counselling for men; Fathering; Marriage counselling; Spiritual and counselling integration; Positive psychology; Personal growth.
- Dr Au has published over 15 books on marriage, counselling and fathering.

**The book “We are Good Fathers”**

- The Chinese title of the book is “吾係好爸爸”. “吾” is an old Chinese word meaning “I” or “we” and also has a similar pronunciation of “five”. A direct translation is “We are Good Fathers”. This book is about the stories of five good dads in town, in particular their unconventional role as father.
- Five dads coming from different sectors of the society shared their stories, views and experience and the influence of religion on their role as father in the family. It is hoped that dad readers would be inspired and benefitted by their interesting stories and experience to be good father.
- Students of the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> years of School of Communication, Hong Kong Baptist University interviewed the five dads and presented their stories on fathering from the angle of young people and children of fathers.
- The five fathers are: Mr Eddie Au, Dr David Wong, Mr Michael Ip, Mr Wing-kin Chan and Mr Norman Ng.

**Grand Opening of Centre for Fathering and Launching of the book “We are Good Fathers”**

**Date:** 16 June 2017 (Friday)

**Time:** 4:00 – 5:30 pm

**Venue:** 7/F, Christian Centre, 56 Bute Street, Prince Edward, Kowloon.

**Targets:** Fathering education personnel of social services agencies, schools and religious organisations, marriage and family counsellors, educationists and media representatives

**Officiating Guests:**

- Mr Bryan Tan, Chief Executive Officer, Dad’s for Life and Singapore’s Centre for Fathering Ltd
- Dr Raymond Au, Associate Professor (Counselling Studies) of China Graduate School of Theology

**Programme:** Visit to Centre for Fathering, sharing by guests, video on fathering, launching of “We are Good Fathers”

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