

## **Proposal for a Poster Presentation**

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### **Abstract:**

The presentation is going to introduce what Yangdong Cai Yuanpei School Service Program is, why it plays a significant role in the hall community, how the model can successfully strengthen the connection of hall residents and alumnus, how it can support the sustainable community service in rural China, and what are the highlighted outcomes and the challenges ahead.

Commissioned in 2002, the Student Residence Halls is more than merely having a physical location to rest but a place where undergraduate students will unleash their potentials, build meaningful relationships and networking, gain a better understanding of themselves and others, and service the vulnerable groups. Under the roof of two high-rises, there are four Halls named after four elite Chinese figures. We, YP CAI Hall, were named after in remembrance of Mr. CAI Yuan-Pei, who was the former President of Peking University and made the outstanding achievements in the areas of higher education in the contemporary Chinese history.

In order to inherit and spread the educational philosophy of Mr. CAI Yuan-Pei and contribute to the educational development in mainland China, the former Resident Master of YP CAI Hall and a group of hall alumnus formed the Cai Yuanpei Education Fund in 2007. They donated and supported the renovation project of a rural primary school in Yangdong District, Guangdong Province, and renamed as Yangdong Cai Yuanpei School (Cai School). It is the first project of the Fund and nowadays, it has developed to be a social service platform to embrace a combination of student empowerment, alumni involvement, community engagement, and also department support.

Since 2007, we have organized the Cai School Service Program every academic year. It is a sustainable service program aiming to provide long-term support to the school and the community in rural China and to promote the personal growth of our hall residents. The program involves teaching, outreaching, home visiting, and campus maintenance works in the Cai School and the rural community nearby. Residents from a variety of academic majors, years, and residential floors would be grouped together and gained the opportunity to serve rural China. Moreover, the program is packaged with experiential-learning elements that students are assigned to live in different rural families, share a room with rural children who are their students in the daytime service, and experience the simple rural life with reflecting on the busy city life and hall life in Hong Kong. A group of students who participated in the service trip in the previous years

would form the committee and start to recruit new members during the semester. They host several pre-trip workshops to train the social service skills and to build a team spirit of the program. They would also host the post-trip sharing session to share the learning outcomes and feelings, and most importantly, to promote positive attitudes to the hall communities and to recruit future leaders of the trip.

The Alumnus involvement is the highlight of the Cai School Service Program and the strong connection between residents and alumnus is one of the most successful outcomes of the program. Alumnus' supports (for example, fundraising and preliminary work for the renovation project) and guidance (for example, leading pre-trip team building workshop) have been supported the development of the whole program since the beginning. Through the group work and experience sharing, the Cai School Service Program provides a close working opportunity of graduated alumnus, non-hall students, and current residents. It becomes a platform for Alumnus to make a sustainable contribution to the hall and university, a chance for current students to learn from a group of responsible alumnus, and a two-way learning opportunity of different parties. This platform and its bonding have made some positive impacts on the hall community at the same time.

Department support is another important element of the sustainable development of the Cai School Program. We formed an education evaluation tour in 2011 to review the teaching quality, teaching facilities, and the development goal of the Yangdong Cai Yuanpei School. With the support of teachers from the Department of Education in HKBU, we have built a 5-year plan to build the development of this primary school in Guangdong Province and drafted the direction of our annual service program. The Hall Office, Alumnus, and current residents are kept working closely to supervise the daily operation of Cai School and to prepare the logistic of the Cai School Service Program, such as forming of operation committee, providing guidance to apply service-learning subsidies, or evaluating the outcomes of the whole project. We are successfully making a balance in strengthening the involvement of different parties.

Through the efforts of the above stakeholders, the Cai School Service Program has formed a model and a unique example in student affairs. The program setting has allowed participants from various backgrounds to share their experience and ideas on how to make the program better and how to inherit the education elements. They are empowered to make changes to the rural community and to build a deep relationship with service targets, and therefore, stakeholders are more willing to spend their long-term contribution to this project.

In today's trend, Student Dormitory is an ideal platform for building the living-learning environment for students which provides a variety of valuable elements in the higher education, such as community engagement, cultural awareness, knowledge transfer and the sense of global citizenship. As a university with a Christian background, we are committed to cultivating a larger range of students to be a responsible citizen and a servant leader. Through direct service in the rural area in mainland China with the element of service learning and experiential learning, students can develop their understandings of the situation and challenges of rural China, and most importantly, they can contribute to the development of Chinese vulnerable groups via the long-term education, love and caring.

Looking forward, we are trying to increase the use of technology in this service program, for example, arranging weekly online teaching courses for students of every grade and providing intelligent learning tools for them. We will also discuss with the long-term community partner and local government how to cope with the reduction in student numbers in the rural area. Lastly, the Cai Education Fund is planning to establish another long-term service base in Southeast Asia and continue to inherit the educational spirit of Mr. CAI Yuan-Pei to serve the needy groups.

**Keywords:** Empowerment, Alumni, Sustainability, Residential College, Service-Learning (up to

5)

**References:** N/A

## **Biographical sketch of each presenter**

Please send the biographical sketch of the presenters together with the proposal using the following format:

### **Presenter 1:**

- i. AU Cheuk Wing, Dennis
- ii. Hall Fellow of YP CAI Hall, Undergraduate Halls,  
Office of Student Affairs, Hong Kong Baptist University, Hong Kong
- iii. Being alumni of Hong Kong Baptist University and YP CAI Hall, contributing through leading a service program in mainland China is a valuable opportunity. We would like to share how alumnus and students are being connected through working on a service-learning program, and it will be interesting to learn from other successful practices in the Asia Pacific in this conference.

- iv. Contact information:  
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### **Presenter 2:**

- i. HUNG Chun Ying, Leo
- ii. Resident Community Officer, Hall Life Education Team, Undergraduate Halls,  
Office of Student Affairs, Hong Kong Baptist University, Hong Kong
- iii. Working in student affairs is always my all-time favorite. As a staff in the student dormitory, we committed to match the needs of providing harmonious and mutual living environment, to guide and inspire teenagers with the different cultural background, and to build the sense of belongings of our university student. It is interesting and exciting to enrich the possibility of hall education and working with different parties in the residential college.

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*APRCSL 2019*

*The 7<sup>th</sup> Asia-Pacific Regional Conference on Service-Learning*

Hall Life Education @ HKBU: <https://sa.hkbu.edu.hk/sas/hle>

Yangdong Cai Yuanpei School Service Program: <https://www.facebook.com/caischool/>

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*For: Paper/Panel\_Presentation*