

The **Hong Kong Polytechnic University (HKPU)**, **Peking University (PU)** and **Griffith University (GU)** jointly signed a **Memorandum of Understanding** on April 2, 2008 in Beijing on a collaborative project entitled : *“Development of health-promoting schools, and asset-accumulation for migrant worker children in Beijing. An inter-generational poverty prevention agenda”*.

The project will be jointly coordinated by the Department of Applied Social Sciences (HKPU), the Centre for Environment and Population Health (GU), and the Department of Psychology (BU) with focus on the following aspects:

- (i) Adaptation of the health-promoting schools model and the Intensive Community Mentoring model into the pilot project;
- (ii) Conduct of capacity building activities in relation to the development of health-promoting schools and health promotion program planning and practices;
- (iii) Refinement and implementation of the research project;
- (iv) Exchange of publication materials or other information relevant to the research;
- (v) Establishment of partnerships with relevant Institutions such as the China Centre for Disease Control and the Beijing Centre for Disease Control to support the implementation of the joint project.
- (vi) Development of a research plan for the following project:

Preamble

- The Chinese Ministry of Finance announced in late December 2007 that the Chinese government will continue to increase spending on education in 2008 and spread free nine-year compulsory education to urban children. The Ministry of Education showed figures that there are 26 million urban children who are still subject to incidental fees, though they do not pay tuition.
- It was also estimated that the number of school-aged migrant workers' children entitled to compulsory education rises by 1.5 million every year. These migrant youths have a higher risk of entering the job market prematurely to seek menial work which their parents are engaged in, creating the cycle of intergenerational poverty (IP).

An asset-accumulation approach to prevention of intergenerational poverty

- Five countries in the world have experimented with models of Individual Development Account with varying levels of success. In 2008, the Labor and Welfare Bureau of Hong Kong SAR government will launch a HK\$ 300 million Child Development Fund to be piloted on a minimum of 700 youth (age 12-16) from disadvantaged families in seven districts to participate in an Intensive Community Mentoring (ICM) program and a targeted saving incentive which in two years' time will begin rolling out to 13,600 children.
- Built on the conceptual framework of an interactionist perspective on the socioeconomic context of human development, this collaborative project will adapt the ICM model once a Health Promoting School (HPS) model can be successfully implemented in at least three migrant worker children schools in Beijing.

The Health Promoting Schools (HPS) approach

- The HPS initiated by the World Health Organization, has been successfully implemented in developed and developing countries. It is about creating healthy places to learn, work and play.
- It is based on the philosophy that school is one setting which fosters physical, social and emotional development of children and young people. Through an integrative health promotion approach, the HPS addresses the needs of students and develops strategies to influence their choices on lifetime behaviours, build problem solving skills and coping mechanisms during their formative years in school.

Collaborative partners & specialist leaders

- Hong Kong Polytechnic University Department of Applied Social Sciences (Dr. Charles C. Chan, Clinical & Community Psychology, Principal Investigator)
- Griffith University School of Environment, International Centre for Development, Environment & Public Health (Prof. Cordia Chu, World Health Organization Advisor) & School of Psychology, (Prof. David Shum, Applied Cognitive Neuroscience)
- Peking University Department of Psychology (Prof. Han Shi Hui, Social Neuroscience)
- Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention National Institute for Health Education (Prof Tao Mao Xuan, Health Promoting School)
- The China Youth University for Political Science Youth Life Education Center (Prof. Shi Bia Nian, Social Work, Training and supervision for the ICM program)