

Hong Kong private sector to team up with UNDP for poverty reduction in China Official cooperation established between the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Peace and Development Foundation (PDF), a charity based in Hong Kong, to strengthen the partnership with Hong Kong's private sector and support its contribution to poverty alleviation programmes in China.

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"Hong Kong has a large, well established business community actively engaged in fighting development challenges ranging from global disaster relief to social development in mainland China," said Khalid Malik, UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative in China. "We believe that this new cooperation mechanism will provide a strategic approach in partnering with the private sector in Hong Kong where there is considerable potential for fund raising for UNDP's initiatives aiming to eradicate extreme poverty and promote sustainable development."

-Khalid Malik, UNDP Resident Representative/UN Resident Coordinator in China

To strengthen the partnership with Hong Kong's private sector and support its contribution to poverty alleviation programmes in China, a joint reception was held today in Hong Kong to mark the official cooperation between the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Peace and Development Foundation (PDF), a charity based in Hong Kong.

Prior to the ceremony with attendance of the representatives from the Hong Kong Special Administration Region, UNDP, business leaders and community dignitaries in Hong Kong, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed on 18 September in Beijing between the UNDP and the PDF. This two-year framework of cooperation will focus on three areas: leadership training and capacity building in Hong Kong and mainland China; poverty alleviation in the Pan Pearl River Delta and China; fighting pollution in Pan Pearl-River Delta and Hong Kong.

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“The Peace and Development Foundation was established at a time when Hong Kong experiences more impact of the close economic ties with the Mainland and the greater China area,” said Kathy Chiu, Chairperson of the Peace and Development Foundation. “With the new partnership with UNDP China in fostering Public-Private Partnerships, we’d like to work with them and understand the coordinated solutions to global and national development challenges.”

This new key partnership is part of UNDP China’s efforts to strengthen the role of the private sector and the business community in addressing China’s remaining development challenges. Public-Private Partnerships (PPP) are a key tool to mobilize all sectors of society to achieve the Xiao Kang vision and the Millennium Development Goals. Through programmes and initiatives such as the China-Africa Business Council, the Human Development Fund and this new partnership with the Peace and Development Foundation, UNDP China aims at fostering Public-Private Partnerships for poverty reduction.

At the reception were Mr. Tung Chee Hwa, Vice Chairman of CPPCC, Mr. Yang Wenchang, Commissioner of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of China in Hong Kong, Mr. Rafael Hui, Chief Secretary of Administration, Government of the Hong Kong SAR, Mr. Xie Xiaoyan, Deputy Commissioner of the MFA of PRC in the HKSAR. Members of the Legislative Council, representatives from the Consular Corps, business leaders and community dignitaries were also present.

The Peace and Develop Foundation (PDF) was founded by Ms. Kathy Chiu, Justice of the Peace, Cavaliere, Chairman of the Prime-Investment Holdings, and Mr. Daniel Fung, National Delegate of the CPPCC, Justice of the Peace, and Chairman of the Broadcasting Authority in Hong Kong. The Board of Directors is led by the Chairman, Ms. Kathy Chiu, Vice Chairmen Mr. Deniel Fung and Mr. Charles Brown, Chairman of Lake House Group. Ms. Pansy Ho, Managing Director of Shun Tak Group, is a Member of the Advisory Board. The mandate is to support the Millennium Development Goals pledged by 191 member States to achieve by 2015, i.e. reduce poverty, achieve universal primary education, promote gender equality and empower women, combat HIV/AIDS and other diseases, ensure environmental sustainability and forge global partnership for development. The PDF is focused on poverty reduction, advancement of education and health, cultural-environmental protection in Hong Kong, the greater China area and beyond.