

Introduction

This is the eleventh Directors' Report of the Chinese in Britain Forum (the Forum). It covers the period from April 2007 to March 2008.

The Forum is a not-for-profit making organisation managed by a Board of Directors consisting of Steven Lau (Chair), Thomas Chan (Vice Chair) Kim Suan Tan (Secretary) and Edmond Yeo (Treasurer). The Directors receive no remuneration for their time, and their liability is limited to £1 each.

Funding

The Forum received a grant of £200,276 over a two year period commencing October 2006 for the purpose of undertaking research under the title "The Changing Face of the Chinese Community in London: New Migrants, New Needs" in partnership with Middlesex University. A grant of £10,000 was received from the Governance Hub for the production of a bilingual good governance guide and two regional seminars. A grant of £1600 was received from the London Criminal Justice Board for the delivery of a half day conference. The conference was delivered in partnership with the London Chinese Community Network.

Staffing

During the period covered by this report Ms Nicky Lee was the Forum's Chief Executive Officer. Dr Tom Lam was the Forum's Research Officer until being made redundant in February 2008.

Activities

Despite significant constraints in funding, the Forum continued to operate, and remained faithful to its core vision and values.

National Conference 2007

The Forum held its National Conference on 2nd April 2007 in central London. The Conference was entitled Success for our Children, Missed Opportunities for our Communities. The Conference was well attended with over one hundred people present, and representation from Chinese organisation from as far away as Scotland.

Research Project

The partnership with Middlesex University ended prematurely, ultimately by agreement by both sides. This required formal redundancy notification being issued to Dr Tom Lam in November 2007 as the future of the Research Project was uncertain. Dr Lam left the Forum in February 2008.

The Directors note with thanks the support of the Big Lottery Fund as we began the process of exploring if we would be able to continue the Research Project. By March 2008 the future of the Research Project remained uncertain, although all parties concerned were committed to the Research continuing, and optimistic that the the Project could be restarted.

Criminal Justice Board Conference

The Forum organised a half day seminar in London on the Criminal Justice System for the Chinese Community. The Conference was organised in partnership with the London Chinese Community Network. The Conference was well attended with over fifty people present.

Open and Honest: A good Governance Guide

The Forum produced a bilingual guide to good governance for Chinese Community and Voluntary Organisations entitled Open and Honest. The guide draws on Chinese cultural reference points to present the principles of good governance in a culturally appropriate way. The publication of the guide was accompanied by two seminars delivered in London and Manchester.

Move of office premises

With regret the Forum moved premises in March 2008 due to the lease being held by our landlords coming to end. The Directors would like to formally thank the Innovatory and their staff for their support during our time there.

A special thanks to Nikki Lee for her excellent planning, and to all the volunteers who assisted in the move.