



Hong Leong Foundation Goes To Hong Kong On A Virtual Holiday

Snippets from the virtual tour in Hong Kong: (Clockwise from top left) Dai pai dong at Central; Incense towers at Man Mo Temple; Hong Kong-style silk stocking milk tea; Enquiring about tips for good health at a herbal pharmacy.

Some 130 elderly (aged 60 to 100) from six senior homes embarked on a day trip to Hong Kong on 8 February 2022. Together with Hong Leong Foundation, they experienced the sights and sounds of the Lunar New Year festivities in the bustling city. The entire event was broadcast live via Zoom where the elderly could enjoy the overseas day trip from the comfort and security of the senior homes.

The seniors are from Adventist Home for the Elders, Singapore Baptist Convention Golden Age Home, St Andrew's Cathedral Home, St John's Home for Elderly Persons, St. Vincent Home, and Zion Home for the Aged.

The virtual holiday is part of Hong Leong Foundation's annual charity event, which includes cash contributions of \$508,650 to 3,391 beneficiaries under the Ministry of Social and Family Development's ComCare Long-Term Assistance scheme. Together with its annual charity event, Hong Leong Foundation's donations totalled S\$1.35 million for the year 2021. The Foundation is the charity arm of Hong Leong Group Singapore.

"We hope to bring back the joy and nostalgia of a 'holiday' while our seniors soak in the Lunar New Year festivities. What made this virtual trip extra special was the interactive element of the tour. Our elderly had so much fun chatting in real time with the local tour guide and residents in Hong Kong. It was an immersive and heart-warming experience for all of us," said Hong Leong Foundation Governor Mr Kingston Kwek. Mr Kwek was among the 50 staff volunteers at the event.

The volunteers comprised of senior management and employees across the Hong Leong Group of companies, including City Developments Limited, Hong Leong Holdings Limited, Millennium Hotels and Resorts, Hong Leong Finance, Hong Leong Asia, and Hong Realty.

Soaking in the sights of Hong Kong's famed Central District, the seniors visited iconic attractions such as the 160-year old Graham Street Market, which is Hong Kong's last operating street market; various dai pai dong (大牌档) or open-air food stalls; places of worship like the historic Man Mo Temple to witness festive rituals; and the century-old herbal tea shop Good Spring Company Limited where our seniors enquired about traditional herbal remedies and digestive aids after festive feasting.



A snapshot of happy beneficiaries and volunteers after the tour



Hong Leong Foundation volunteers (in white) delivering lunch bento boxes to St John's Home for Elderly Persons

Lunch was an authentic Cantonese affair specially prepared in bento boxes by Grand Copthorne Waterfront Hotel. The lunch sets were delivered to the homes by staff volunteers, who also put up a virtual performance with a medley of festive tunes.

Established in 1980, Hong Leong Foundation is a long-term supporter towards causes such as education, the community, arts and heritage.