



樂進堂  
MAKE IT WORK HK  
by THE FRENCH CHAMBER FOUNDATION

The French Chamber Foundation

# ANNUAL REPORT

2020-2021

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# LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

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As the French Chamber Foundation enters a sixth year, its goal of giving back to the Hong Kong local community by helping the Working Poor escape poverty and recover a decent life, has never looked so pertinent.

The social events and the Covid pandemic have been followed by an economic crisis, particularly acute and persistent in the sectors of F&B and retail, leading to high unemployment and over 1,500,000 persons living under the poverty line of HKD4,500 per month. In addition, a new population of young “Working Poor” has been created by this long-lasting economic downturn, not accustomed to the hardships that such a situation entails and requiring more holistic support.

Following the extreme covid-prevention measures put in place, our 3 centres have not been able to operate normally and support those in needs, for instance with hot meals. Nonetheless, with our partners, we have tried to implement a wide array of services, including new online workshops, to maintain a sense of community, keep close contacts and pursue our main task of providing employment support to the beneficiaries so they may work to recover.

To make matters worse, sources of funding for the Foundation have been strained during this year, given the cancellation of the French Chamber Gala for the second year and the financial difficulties encountered

by individuals and corporations. Thanks to strict costs control measures, creative fundraising efforts and the support of the French Chamber and its members, we have however been able to maintain most of our operations, while keeping sound finances to perpetuate our offering.

With the recent radical tightening of covid-related measures, it is hard to see how the situation can improve much for the working poor in Hong Kong, but with the help of our generous donors and volunteers we will continue to strive to assist them as much as we can, because in these dire times they deserve our support more than ever, and because this is the decent thing to do.

In the name of our Honorary President, Cecilia Cheung, our Vice-President, Mary Chiu, and our unsparing Board Directors, Marie-Hélène Prévot, Céline Heuls-Vidal, Laurence Ouaknine, Hans-Gunther Herrmann, Thomas Feld, Gilles-Alexandre Salansy, Emmanuel Farcis and Luc Moulin, we wish to express our gratitude to the sponsors and volunteers who have helped us steer this ship through these choppy waters, thank you for your support!



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T. Neveux', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Thierry NEVEUX  
President

# HONORARY PRESIDENT'S WELCOME

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I am very grateful that, MAKE IT WORK, by the French Chamber Foundation is still actively reaching out to the community under the current pandemic. I am particularly grateful to our staff members for running the operations of the initiative so smoothly. In addition to the strong support we have received from the public, our French Chamber Foundation board directors have also been putting in tremendous effort and energy to continually serve the needs of the community in new ways.

Let me hereby to express my heartfelt thanks to you all:

President: Thierry NEVEUX

Vice President: Mary CHIU

Hans Gunther HERMANN

Marie-Hélène PREVOT

Gilles-Alexander SALANSY

Emmanuel FARCIS

Thomas FELD

Céline HEULS-VIDAL

Luc MOULIN

Laurence OUAKNINE

Anita LEUNG

I am so proud of our teamwork!

A few months ago, I was fortunate enough to participate in activities with students from the French Department at Hong Kong Baptist University. The students fixed up old, discarded computers for MAKE IT WORK, so that our members could have better access to the Internet. It was wonderful to see how they were able to find joy in helping others through their own creativity and skills on this environmental project by re-purposing and re-using old parts. I also feel immense gratitude to have witnessed such kindness from a group of young people!

At the same time, I hope to provide better access and job opportunities for students in need. We hope to continue our efforts to build a more inclusive community.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cecilia Cheung". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Cecilia CHEUNG  
Honorary President

# MAKE IT WORK HK

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The French Chamber Foundation is a registered charitable organization launched in 2015 by the French Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong.

Its programme Make It Work HK (“MIW”) is dedicated to empowering the working poor in Hong Kong by offering our beneficiaries (‘members’) employment assistance services, job training and mental wellness workshops, as well as essential food support.

In Hong Kong, half a million people live in poverty and are barely able to meet their basic needs despite having a job; they are the “working poor” who receive relatively less support from society. We address their needs, aim to give back to the community, and to lend a helping hand.

The programme collaborates with experts, social workers and professional officers. We make use of their enthusiasm and generosity to design and conduct activities, training, and counselling services which we provide at three main centres in Hong Kong (Wan Chai, Tsuen Wan and Mong Kok).

A wide variety of support services and measures are provided to facilitate our members’ integration into the community. At the same time, our members are able to develop their personal skills and build-up confidence in order to increase employability for a new and better job.

Stepping into the 6th year of the Foundation, we are committed to helping our members find greater career opportunities, escape poverty, and to sustainably improve their livelihood.

# OUR WORK

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*During the fiscal year from 01 July 2020 to 30 June 2021, the operations of MIW reached the following scale and results:*

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**374**

Number of service users who obtain our employment support and counselling services.

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**10,700**

Meals Served

---

**164**

Members receiving Career Guidance

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**51**

Successful cases of new or improved careers

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**110**

Self enhancement programmes conducted, (both online and offline)

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# OUR SERVICES

## Access to a Supportive, Social Community



Our beneficiaries will never walk alone. Make It Work HK demonstrates their care and executes their vision across 3 working centers in downtown HK. Through face-to-face employment assistant services, counselling and social activities, the beneficiaries build self-esteem, expand their social networks, and, in the long-term, are able to achieve better employment and a better livelihood.

## Employment Support Service



Through dedicated social workers and staff, MIW offers job matching services that find opportunities that fit with our beneficiaries. In addition, MIW provides job skills training such as CV writing skills and interview skills that help enhance the competitiveness of beneficiaries. MIW also recognises that mental health is an essential aspect to finding successful employment, which has led MIW to offer job counselling services, providing a holistic approach for our beneficiaries.

## Mental Wellness Workshop



MIW believes that a positive mind can lead to positive outcomes. The Mental Wellness Workshop focuses on maintaining the mental health of beneficiaries. This workshop continued to be offered online during the pandemic. It includes online home exercises, therapy hobby groups, psychologist knowledge-sharing sessions and more. These enable our members to develop resilience and to live more positively, even when encountering difficulties.

## Access to Affordable Meals



MIW provides healthy meals at lunch time to alleviate financial pressure and ensure the basic nutrition needs of our beneficiaries are met. This programme also helps to create a sense of community and belonging amongst the beneficiaries.

# BENEFICIARIES' TESTIMONIALS



## Carol - Explore your strength and help others

Due to the pandemic, Carol has been unemployed since July last year. She still has to take care of her son and her savings have almost run out. Fortunately, MIW offered her a job opportunity in a toy company: Moulin Roty Hong Kong. Her financial situation has since improved.

“Thank you MIW for the help and care. It makes me feel that my son and I are loved. If you encounter difficulties, don't be afraid to ask for help. When my difficulties are resolved, I will do all I can to help those in need around me.” says Carol.

## Ah Pong - A Delivery Person's personal growth

Delivery man Ah Pong is a polite man, but lacks confidence with speaking. At first, he was unwilling to step out of his comfort zone to try and explore new opportunities. However, after joining MIW, he became much more eager to participate in the social activities with other members, and became more proactive. It is heartening to see significant improvement amongst members after they have joined MIW.



## Kwai Lin – the strength of a mother

Kwai Lin is a 37-year-old single mother. Her income dropped when the pandemic hit. To save money, she moved from a subdivided flat to a capsule room. The MIW staff learned about her difficult situation and provided food assistance, emotional support, and job consultation to alleviate her burden and relieve some of her stress. Recently, she has taken the initiative to enrol in an employment retraining course. She hopes to one day find a full-time job as a care worker in the nursing care industry to help others in need.



# YEARLY ACTIVITIES & EVENTS

● July 2020

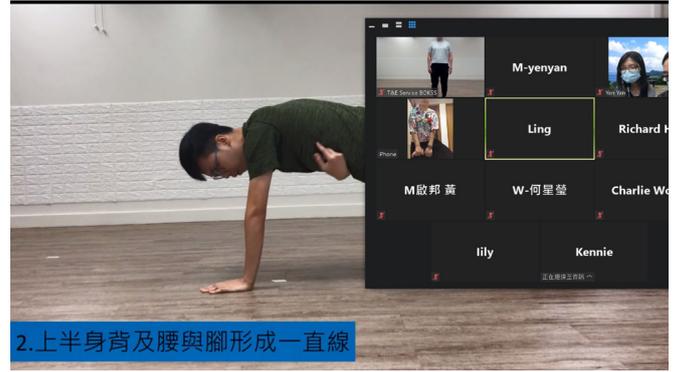
## BEACH CLEANING FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES



The Foundation organised a fundraising beach cleaning day at Lai Chi Wo. The event raised participants' awareness of pollution issues in HK, reinforced their connection with the Foundation, and also raised HK\$100K for Make It Work HK's efforts to support the working poor.

Aug 2020

## CHEER-UP STATION – MENTAL WELLNESS ONLINE WORKSHOPS



A series of online workshops, including relaxing exercises and cooking sessions, were held for our members to share ways to maintain physical health during the lockdown period of the pandemic. This programme aimed to encourage them to maintain their physical health during the pandemic lockdown periods. Moreover, it helped to sustain the relationships between members when restricted to meeting online.

Sept 2020

## DONATION OF LAPTOPS FROM ALSTOM



Under the “new normal”, computers and online technology have become popular and extremely necessary throughout society to stay connected and informed. However, a computer or the access to the internet may not be affordable, especially for those facing financial pressure.

We are very grateful for the kindness of Alstom Hong Kong Limited, who donated over 50 laptops to MIW members. Their generosity shows the spirit of spreading love and happiness during this difficult time.

Oct 2020

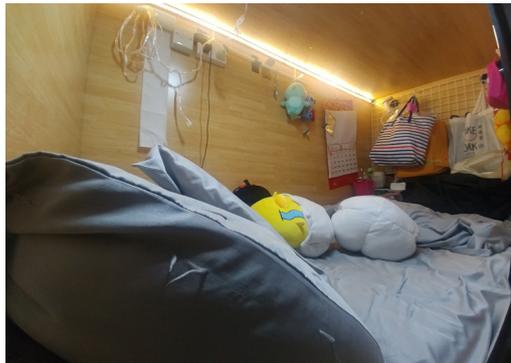
## MID-AUTUMN FESTIVAL CELEBRATION



In Chinese tradition, the Mid-Autumn Festival represents the reunion of family. MIW shows their care and love towards all members by distributing mooncakes, food coupons, and some daily supplies with warm wishes during these difficult times.

Nov 2020

## CAPSULE ROOM VISIT



Hidden behind the bustling city is Hong Kong's serious housing problem. The French Chamber Foundation (FCF) team visited one member – a 37 year old single mother, to better understand the experience of living in a capsule room.

The small flat is divided into 9 capsule rooms, and 4-5 subdivided rooms. The kitchen has also been converted into a room, and more than a dozen households share one bathroom. Worse still, the rent per square foot is comparable to the luxury houses in the same area. The capsule room tenant works hard day-to-day for only the most “basic” living environment.

In Hong Kong, this is only the tip of the iceberg, and the problem of capsule and subdivided rooms needs increased social attention and awareness.

Nov 2020

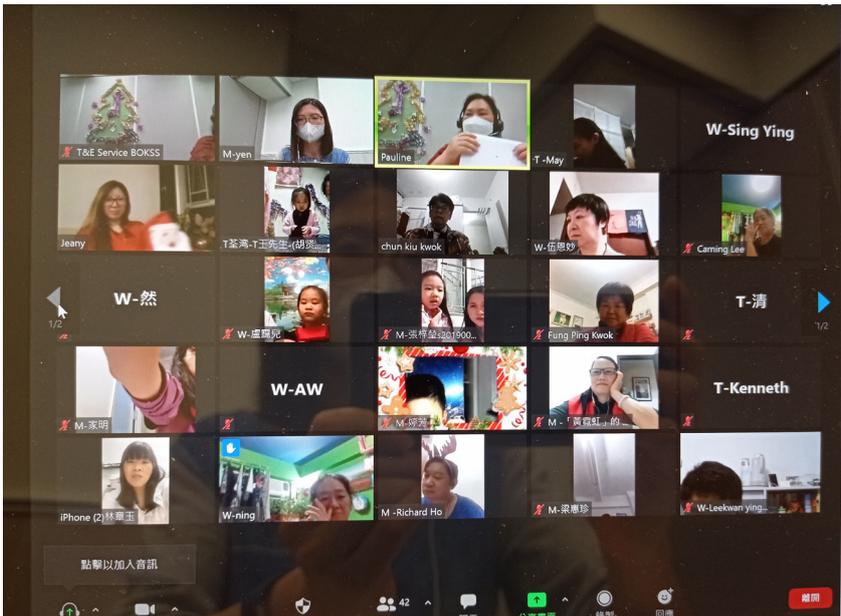
**BIRTHDAY PARTY WITH FOOD SPONSORED BY BNP PARIBAS HK**



From time to time, MIW organises birthday or festival celebrations to give members a chance to gather, with a few group games and gifts. These small gatherings help members build a sense of belonging and give them some joy and comfort during hard times. Through these celebrations, FCF hopes members can find companions and support on their journey.

Dec 2020

**ONLINE CHRISTMAS PARTY**



The pandemic was never an obstacle to celebrating Christmas and to sharing love and joy! MIW organised an online Christmas party for three of its centres. Games were designed to be played on online platforms with a group of people. The party reduced stress level and sense of disconnection of members during the lockdown policy.

Jan 2021

# MIW VIDEOS – A STORY FROM THE COMMUNITY



In order for people to better understand the plight of the working poor and Make it Work’s mission to help them, we have recorded the stories of some of our beneficiaries. We hope that by sharing their personal stories, we can shed light on a group of people that is so often invisible in society.

Scan to watch the story of Kwai Lin - a story from the community

Shooting these videos was also a brand-new experience for members and eye opening for the video team, who had never heard about the hardships of these people and the work Make It Work has been doing.

Feb 2021

# CNY WORK TO RECOVER PROGRAMME

**MAKE IT WORK HK** WORK TO RECOVER PROGRAM

**DID YOU KNOW THAT IN HONG-KONG 1.5 MILLION PEOPLE LIVE BELOW THE POVERTY LINE? YOU ARE SOMEONE WHO CAN CHANGE THIS.**



**MAKE IT WORK HK**  
Dedicate to empower the Working Poor in Hong Kong, by providing the tools of offering them career assistance, job training and mental wellness workshops, with the mission to help them find better work and sustainably to improve their well-being and livelihood.

**IN HONG KONG, THERE ARE 550K WORKING POOR BARELY ABLE TO MEET BASIC NEEDS, DESPITE HAVING A JOB.**  
Source: Hong Kong Poverty Situation Report 2019

**OUR WORK TO RECOVER PROGRAMME AIMS TO PROVIDE**

- ✓ Employee re-training courses
- ✓ A social environment to enhance our participants' competitiveness and employability
- ✓ Develop their confidence and maintaining their dignity

**COULD YOU LIVE OFF \$150 A DAY?**  
The average monthly salary for Hong Kong vs the working poor.



**SUPPORT AND DONATE THE WORK TO RECOVER PROGRAMME 2021**

- Access to a supportive social community
- Professionally certified Training Services
- Employment assistance

**CONTACT US:**  
Email: foundation@fcf.hk  
Hotline: 2523 6818  
https://makeitwork.hk

**DONATIONS:**  
Bank Transfer or PayMe QR Code  
Bank: HSBC | Account number: 801-471426-838  
Account name: The French Chamber Foundation



The “Work to Recover” programme was launched and aims to provide enhanced professional training to help the working poor in Hong Kong by raising funds via social exposure. The programme works to maximise their employability and ultimately improve their livelihoods.

**COMMUNITY AND CHARITY ENGAGEMENT PROGRAMME – INITIATED BY HONG KONG BAPTIST UNIVERSITY**



Special thanks to the HKBU Centre for Innovative Service-Learning - for initiating the Community and Charity Engagement Programme. The students of HKBU European Studies / French Stream installed software on donated laptops that will be offered to MIW members who may not be able to afford one. These computers are very useful tools for members to communicate with social workers and other members under social distancing restrictions.

Apr 2021

## MEMBER INCENTIVE PROGRAMME



Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, social distancing is required to lower the chance of cross contamination. In light of this, our centres launched a membership incentive programme. MIW sent out interactive quizzes about mental health, questions about coping with daily problems, and job-related tests via social media platforms to encourage members to participate in more of our activities and retain membership. Members are motivated to engage by a small gift they receive once they save up enough points. It is also one of the ways to reinforce their learning after joining our courses.

May 2021

## CONTINUOUS LEARNING – EMPLOYMENT RETRAINING BOARD COURSE



Due to the pandemic, the job market has been shrinking since last year. The unemployment rate hit the highest level in 16 years. Facing the current situation, it is important to equip ourselves and to enhance one's competitiveness within the job market.

MIW always encourages our members to keep learning for better self-esteem and professional enhancement. The Employment Retraining Board course (ERB) is one of the ways to help members to explore their potential and consider alternative careers after completion.

● Jun 2021

## FRENCH INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL ART CHARITY FUNDRAISER



A special thanks to the hosts – French International School, Madame Bezançon and her dedicated team of art students for their great assistance and support. Art charity fundraisers such as this support the MIW programme during these difficult days. We are proud to have young student artists involved in the fight against poverty in Hong Kong.

# CORPORATE GOVERNANCE & BOARD COMPOSITION

The MIW Board is the French Chamber Foundation's main governance body.

Its members are made up of professionals and members of the business sector who are strongly committed to its mission of poverty alleviation.

All Board Members are members of the Council of the French Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Hong Kong, and are elected for a two-year term at its Annual General Meeting.

## **President**

Mr. Thierry NEVEUX

## **Honorary President**

Mrs. Cecilia CHEUNG

## **Vice President**

Ms. Mary CHIU

## **Directors**

Mr. Emmanuel FARCIS

Mr. Thomas FELD

Mr. Hans-Gunther  
HERRMANN

Mr. Luc MOULIN

Ms. Céline HEULS-VIDAL

Mrs. Marie-Helene  
PREVOT

Mrs. Laurence  
OUAKNINE

Mr. Gilles-Alexandre  
SALANSY

## **Staff**

### **General Secretary**

Anita LEUNG

### **Administrative Officer**

Jeany CHAU

# FINANCIALS

The French Chamber Foundation believes that transparency is essential in establishing public confidence in the way its finances are managed. Its financial statements are audited by Baker Tilly Hong Kong Limited and comply with the Hong Kong Financial Reporting Standards.

The following is an extract from the French Chamber Foundation's annual audited accounts for the year ended 30th June 2021, as audited by Baker Tilly Hong Kong Limited. The French Chamber Foundation is open to disclose its audited financial statements to interested parties upon request.

## The French Chamber Foundation Limited Statement of comprehensive income for the year ended 30 June 2021

*(expressed in Hong Kong dollars)*

	2021	2020
	HKD	HKD
<b>Revenue</b>	480,144	1,081,917
Direct cost	<u>(547,820)</u>	<u>(1,764,146)</u>
<b>Gross deficit</b>	(67,676)	(682,229)
Other income	140,713	2,230
Administrative and other operating expenses	<u>(1,033,725)</u>	<u>(1,097,265)</u>
<b>Deficit before taxation</b>	(960,688)	(1,777,264)
Income tax	-	-
<b>Deficit and total comprehensive loss for the year</b>	<u>(960,688)</u>	<u>(1,777,264)</u>

**The French Chamber Foundation Limited**  
**Statement of financial position**  
**as at 30 June 2021**

*(expressed in Hong Kong dollars)*

	2021	2020
	HKD	HKD
<b>Current assets</b>		
Other receivables, deposits and prepayments	439,542	104,920
Cash and cash equivalents	<u>2,482,782</u>	<u>3,839,583</u>
	<u>2,922,324</u>	<u>3,944,503</u>
<b>Current liabilities</b>		
Other payables and accrued expenses	45,240	304,781
Amount due to a related company	<u>198,050</u>	—
	<u>243,290</u>	<u>304,781</u>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>	<u>2,679,034</u>	<u>3,639,722</u>
<b>FUNDS EMPLOYED</b>		
<b>Accumulated surplus</b>	<u>2,679,034</u>	<u>3,639,722</u>

The financial information relating to the year ended 30th June 2021 and the period ended 30th June 2020 does not constitute the French Chamber Foundation's specified financial statements for these periods as defined in section 436 of the Hong Kong Companies Ordinance ("HKCO") but is derived therefrom.

The French Chamber Foundation has delivered the specified financial statements for the period ended 30th June 2020 to the Registrar of Companies and will deliver the specified financial statements for the year ended 30th June 2021 in due course.

Auditor's reports have been prepared on the specified financial statements both for the period ended 30th June 2020 and the year ended 30th June 2021. The auditor's reports for both period: were not qualified or otherwise modified; did not refer to any matter to which the auditor drew attention by way of emphasis without qualifying the reports; and did not contain a statement under section 406(2) or 407(2) or (3) of the HKCO.

# THANK YOU

## In appreciation for your support

The French Chamber Foundation would like to offer our gratitude towards our partners, donors, supporting organisations, and volunteers. It is an honour for us to receive such generous support from the community to make our vision possible. This support enables us to wholeheartedly continue to contribute and give back to the community by supporting the working poor and people in need in Hong Kong.

## “Oui” care for a better Hong Kong

## How you can help?

**Offer Job Opportunities** - For any job vacancies in your company, think if it could be an opportunity to employ a MIW beneficiary

**Donate Money** - Donations via Bank

Transfer Bank : HSBC

A/C No.: 801-471426-838

Account name: The French Chamber Foundation;

or PayMe QR Code:



# PARTNERS



# DONORS, SPONSORS, AND SUPPORTIVE ORGANISATIONS

(in alphabetical order)



# LEGAL ADVISOR



Annual Report 2020/2021

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To know more about our work, please visit: <https://makeitwork.hk/>

If you would like to help or support our actions, please email at [foundation@fcf.hk](mailto:foundation@fcf.hk), or call 2523 6818.

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