10 Questions and Answers with Ms Alice Ho, former Small Group Home resident and winner of the “ISS' Got Talent Scholarship 2021”

Q1. Please introduce yourself.
可否介紹一下自己？

My name is Alice Ho and I’m 18 years old. I’m now studying the Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Creative Arts and Culture and Bachelor of Education (Honours) (Visual Arts) Co-terminal Double Degree Programme at the Education University of Hong Kong.

我叫何麗詩，今年18歲，現在於香港教育大學修讀創意藝術與文化榮譽文學士及視覺藝術教育榮譽學士課程。

Q2. When did you first join Small Group Home?
你由何時開始入住兒童之家？

I started to live in Small Group Home when I was ten years old and I graduated from Small Group Home just in September this year.

我在十歲起入住兒童之家家舍，一直到今年9月才離開。

Q3. How would you describe life at Small Group Home?
你會怎樣形容在家舍的生活？

First of all I think our Home made me feel safe. I enjoyed my stay there and had the chance to spend time with different social workers, house parents and children. As they have different personalities and ways of handling things, I acquired a lot of inter-personal skills. I think children at the Home are generally nice and listened to social workers and house mothers most of the time. I have become close to some of them.

首先我覺得家舍是一個令我感到安全的地方。在家舍的生活充實，也讓我見識不同的人和事。家舍有不同的姑娘、姨姨叔叔和家童，每個人的性格和處事方式都不同，我學習到怎樣與人相處。多年來，我覺得家童整體都友善，也很服從姑娘和姨姨們。我和姑娘和家童們關係密切，無所不談。

Q4. Were there any occasions that made an impression during your stay at Small Group Home?
在家舍有沒有甚麼令你最深印象的事？

When I come to think of it, those Christmas parties and camps we used to have before the COVID-19 outbreak are very fond memories.

現在回想起來，疫情前的聖誕派對、宿營等都是很快樂很回味的時光。

Q5. Since when did you start to like drawing? Why?
你由何時開始喜歡上畫畫？為甚麼？

I started to draw when I was very young. It was my favourite pastime as I had nothing else to do. I just needed a pencil and a piece of paper, and people used to praise me for my good work. It slowly became a habit.

我由幼童時期開始喜歡上畫畫，幼時沒有甚麼事好做，就拿起紙筆畫起來，別人見我畫得好會稱讚，畫畫就自然成為了習慣。
Q6. How was your art journey? Did you learn on your own or did you get trained by a teacher? Did your school give you some assistance?

你的畫畫路程是怎樣的？是自學還是有在外面學畫畫？學校方面有否提供幫助？

I learned drawing for a short time when I was still in kindergarten. I was selected by my teacher in primary school to have more art training to enhance my skills. I chose Visual Arts as an elective subject in F3 and have been taking extracurricular art classes with my current art teacher since F4.

我在幼稚園時學畫一段短的時間，後來在小學時，老師選拔特別畫得好的同學加強訓練，我在中三的時候選擇了視藝科，在中四開始在外找現在的老師進修，一直至今。

Q7. You enrolled in the “ISS’ Got Talent Scholarship 2021” and made an exceptional short video of your work. How did you pick this work for the competition?

你參加了「創意社展才藝奬學金2021」，還製作了一段精美的短片，你怎樣選擇作品參加這個比賽？

I was clueless about this new scholarship, but I was invited by my social worker to take part. As I have many drawings and art pieces created over the years, I thought it would be best to show them in a video, adding my own calligraphy to introduce my work. I used the opportunity to practise my video production and editing skills as well. I was surprised that I got the scholarship, and other children at the Home and my social worker were all very happy for me.

據我所知，這個奬學金是新的，當時姑娘叫我參加，我都毫無頭緒。由於我多年來畫作和藝術作品較多，結果我選擇用短片的形式

呈現，再加上親筆書法作品作簡單介紹，我也可以藉著這個機會練習自己的短片製作
和剪接技巧，沒想到真的獲獎了，姑娘和家裡都為我高興。

Q8. You were awarded $10,000 in the form of a reimbursement to enrol in classes/training related to your hobby. How did you utilize the scholarship?

你贏得一萬元奬學金，可以實報實銷的形式報讀與你興趣有關的課程。你怎樣運用這筆奬金？

I used it for a visual arts course I have been taking, and the fee was $1,000 per month. I also enrolled in a marker pen class, which cost me $500 every month. Before I got the scholarship, my course fees were paid for by my Dad. For those engaged in art, the biggest expenses are for the tools we use. For example, one 30ml bottle of refill ink for marker pens costs over $40, which is almost equivalent to a meal. I had to save up my meal expenses to buy my art tools, and I also work as a summer intern to make more money.

I’m very lucky to have met my art teacher, who sponsored many of the tools I needed, including the computer I use for my artwork. In return, I work at his studio two to three times a week, helping with some promotional and cleaning work. With the scholarship covering my course fees in the past year, I have more money to buy the art supplies I need, so I’m very thankful for it.

我用奬學金來繼續報讀一直有上的視藝
課程，費用是每月$1,000，另外也報讀了一
個馬克筆班，收費每月$500。在得到奬學金
之前，我在外學習美術的學費都是父親支付
的，但對畫畫的人而言，最需要用到錢的地方
其實是用具，例如我學的馬克筆，每次補充
約50毫克的墨水，就要40多元，差不多是一
頓飯的價錢了。我常常是把飯錢一點一點的
節省下來買用具，也在假日時打工賺錢。

我非常幸運遇到我的畫畫老師，他贊助了很
多我需要的用具，連畫畫用的電腦都是他
給的，我則每逢兩三至三次在他的畫室幫忙做
一些簡單的宣傳和清潔工作，用勞力答謝他
的恩惠。得到奬學金的這一年，課程的費用
可以用奬學金支付，買畫具的支金也即時
鬆動了許多，所以很感激有這筆錢。
Q9. How did these courses affect you? Do they help you plan your career path?

I wish to become an art teacher in a school after I finish my degree. I plan to save up some money from the job and will further my studies to become an art therapist. I realize that I may not be able to help others through language, but I can do so via visual arts. When we focus on a drawing, we can put everything else aside, and I think that feels amazing. There are way too many things we can’t change in reality, but if you have a pen and a piece of paper, you can use your own effort to create your own world or change it in the way you want to.

I hope to complete my degree later in a school to become a visual art teacher, earn enough money, and further my studies to become an art therapist. From my own experience, I realize that I can’t speak to other people, but I can use art to help them. We can put everything else aside, and I think that feels amazing. There are too many things we can’t change in reality, but if you have a pen and a piece of paper, you can use your own effort to create your own world or change it in the way you want to.

Q10. You have already left Small Group Home to start a new page in life. What do you have to say to other talented service users like you?

I think it is normal to lack confidence in oneself but try not to exaggerate this thinking. If you think you’re not good enough, try to be better – make an effort to improve. If you realize that you are not interested in something anymore – there is no harm in letting go and exploring something else. Don’t underestimate yourself, just give it a try while you are still young!

I want to tell you that I can’t change the way you feel about yourself, but I can help you. If you feel you don’t have enough self-confidence, you can use art to help you. We can’t change too many things in reality, but if you have a pen and a piece of paper, you can use your own effort to create your own world or change it in the way you want to.

Alice was among ten winners of the "ISS' Got Talent Scholarship 2021", which made its debut to reward talented ISS-HK service users aged between 3 and 17. Winners are awarded $10,000 to spend on courses about their hobbies, to be claimed in reimbursement. Service users demonstrated their many talents including visual arts, playing musical instruments, dancing and video editing in e-format. Alice's artwork can be viewed in the following link:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ft4V_p1et0s

阿詩是十個「國際社展才藝獎學金2021」得獎者之一，首屆「國際社展才藝獎學金」邀請年齡介乎3至17歲的香港國際社服務使用者參加，角逐港幣$10,000作報讀興趣班或訓練之用。參賽者以電子方式報名及展示視藝、樂器演奏、跳舞、影片剪接等不同才藝，十位得獎者以實報實銷的方式獲得獎學金。阿詩的作品在此連結：

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ft4V_p1et0s
Grand Finale for "Life-Rider Career and Life Planning Project 2019-22"

Funded by the Home and Youth Affairs Bureau & Youth Development Commission, the "Life-Rider Career and Life Planning Project 2019-22" has been implemented in two phases since 2019. The project is based on a framework called "S.U.P.E.R.*" and the theory of positive psychology. It offers a series of continuous and progressive career and life planning activities to enable the participating students to learn from experience, develop personal potentials, cultivate positive values and explore their preferred life path.

The Closing Ceremony 2022, which was the final activity of the second phase of the project, was successfully held on 13th August 2022. Sixty participating students took part in different types of interactive sharing activities with the guests, teachers, parents and internship employers about their experiences, feelings and learning gained in the programme. Students showed their improved understanding of their interests and strengths throughout the two-year project and demonstrated their confidence about their future life and career direction.

The coming "Life Rider Career and Life Planning Project 2022-25" has received continuous funding support from the Home and Youth Affairs Bureau and the Youth Development Commission and was launched in September 2022. Our programme staff look forward to helping the new batch of F.3 to F.5 students to explore their ideal life and career direction.

* S.U.P.E.R. = Strength Based 經濟個人性格和專長, Uniqueness of Life Choices 合適的選擇, Problem solving Enhancement 提升解決能力, Experiential Learning 經驗學習與實踐, Resilience 善化抗逆力

由民政及青年事務局及青年發展委員會資助的「Life-Rider青年生涯規劃活動計劃」(2019-2022)
自2019年開始分兩期推行，計劃以S.U.P.E.R.*的活動框架及正向心理學為主要的計劃理念，透過一系列的持續性及漸進式生涯規劃活動，從經驗中學習，以分享及回饋方式引導學生發展個人興趣、培育正面價值觀及尋找自己心儀的路徑。

第二期計劃的「成果分享會2022」亦於2022年8月13日順利舉行，參與計劃的60位同學在當日以不同的遊戲體驗與出席典禮的嘉賓、老師、家長、實習
The results of the "ISS' Got Talent Scholarship 2022" have been announced! This year, we received an overwhelming response of over 80 entries from service users, more than double that of last year. The variety of talents of our service users were also much broader than last year - apart from all sorts of musical performances and visual arts, we also have music and lyrics composition, sports and martial arts. Competition was especially keen in the Teenagers Group, and judges had a hard time deciding the winners.

Seven winners were chosen respectively for the Junior Group and Teenagers Group, who will receive $10,000 scholarships to be claimed in the form of reimbursement for courses/classes/training for his or her hobby or for enrolling in relevant examinations/accreditations. Merit prizes were also given to outstanding applicants. The results were announced in mid-October. We hope the winners will make good use of the scholarships to develop their hobbies and enrich their lives!
Autumn Warmth from ASEP

The Shamshuipo (South) Integrated Family Service Centre held an activity called “Autumn warmth from ASEP” together with the Association of Sino Enterprises Promotion (ASEP) and the CUHK Greater Alumni Association on 4th September. Members from the organizations joined grassroots families and elders in solving lantern riddles and gave participants 100 gift packs with mooncakes, lanterns, nutritional food, stationery, face masks, eye shields, RAT kits and other supplies for fighting the pandemic. Everybody had a wonderful time.

In order to ease anti-pandemic fatigue caused by COVID-19, increase positive energy and strengthen family relationships, the Cross-boundary and Inter-country Social Service organized a women’s mutual group to play badminton together. Strictly observing all safety measures, service users practised playing badminton, bringing their children along with them.

Badminton Time for Ladies

為舒緩服務使用者在持續疫情下的抗疫疲勞，並增加自身正能量和家庭關係，跨境及國際社會
服務籌辦了「婦女互助 - 羽您同行小組」。在
嚴守防疫措施下，透過學習打羽毛球，定期
練習，親子聚會。
Timely Aid for the pandemic-stricken Community
為受疫情影響的一群及時送上所需物資

The COVID-19 pandemic has led not only to dramatic economic loss but presents an unprecedented challenge to human mental and physical health. This especially affects families from low-income groups. Our Cross-boundary and Inter-country Social Service is grateful to receive donations from different sectors of society to solve the problems of people in need. We received 49,680 Rapid Antigen Test Kits from Fosun Foundation Limited, 1000 boxes of extra strong analgesics (24 tablets for adults) from Fortune Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd., as well as canned food, eye protectors and shoe gloves. We also received festival food, such as mooncakes, from charity organisations. We immediately shared all the donated materials with our service users, collaborating agencies and schools in order to fight the virus together.

受2019新冠病疫影響，市民身心健康皆受影響，百業蕭條，對基層家庭影響更為嚴重，幸得社會各界伸出援手。2022年3月起，跨境及國際社會服務分別得到「復星基金會有限公司」捐贈的49,680份快速核酸檢測包；「幸福醫藥有限公司」送贈的1000盒特強幸福止痛素（成人24片裝）；及其他送贈之物資包括口罩、眼罩、鞋套、節慶食品包括中秋月餅等。我們即時把所有物資與本社服務使用者、區內團體及學校分享，共同應對疫情。

Services in Shenzhen well-recognised
機構於深圳的服務備受認可

Our services in Shenzhen were presented with the “Best Social Service Award” and “The Annual Thematic Award: Social Service during the Pandemic” in the “2021 Best Practice Awards in Social Welfare” organized by the Hong Kong Council of Social Service (HKCSS). This recognition encourages us to continue to tailor-make and implement services to assist Cross-boundary Students and their families.

我們在深圳推行的服務，成功奪得了由香港社會服務聯會舉辦的「卓越實踐在社福2021」獎項計劃中的兩大獎項，包括：「卓越社會服務獎」及「年度主題獎：疫情下的社會服務」。今年，我們會繼續在深圳各項目中緊守崗位，務求為跨境學童及其家庭成員提供有效到位的支援服務。
HOPE Centre for Ethnic Minorities organizes exceptional “Beyond Race - Hong Kong is Home”

To bring the ethnic minority community and local people together to promote racial harmony, diversity, equality and integration, and also to promote acceptance and support for diversified cultures and communities, the HOPE Support Service Centre organized the event “Beyond Race - Hong Kong is Home”, sponsored by the Home Affairs Department, HKSAR Government. The event also celebrates the 25th Anniversary of the establishment of the HKSAR.

Held on 16 October, over 120 participants were divided into teams of four, with one local Chinese joining three ethnic minority members. Together, they embarked on a journey to explore local and ethnic minority points of interest in different districts of Hong Kong. The teams set off at 9am on Chater Road and raced to designated pit stops, where they performed tasks laid out there. Teams completing all the tasks the fastest on the Hong Kong Island and Kowloon Island routes were awarded prizes. Special thanks go to all the volunteers who helped make the event a huge success!
Mobile Information Service
流動資訊服務

What do we do?
The service was sponsored by the Home Affairs Department to recruit a team of information ambassadors, proficient in major ethnic minority languages spoken in Hong Kong, to help arriving ethnic minorities at the airport and in urban areas where they congregate at weekends.

We inform ethnic minorities about the public services available, their rights, and the places to file a complaint in order to assist them in integrating into the local community, and gaining fair and just working conditions for migrant workers.

Who do we serve?
- Ethnic minorities from countries including, but not limited to, the Philippines, Indonesia, Nepal, Pakistan, India, Thailand and Sri Lanka.
- Foreign domestic helpers
- Migrant workers

How do we operate?
- We distribute information kits in six ethnic languages to ethnic minorities at the airport and in urban areas where they congregate at weekends
- We brief ethnic minorities on the contents of the information kits, including where to seek help and the location of hotlines at the airport
- We help target clientele communicate with immigration and custom officers, and airport police, when requested.
- We handle inquiries from target clientele.

Supported languages
Our information ambassadors can speak
- Nepali
- Tagalog
- Hindi
- Urdu
- Bahasa Indonesia
- English
- Chinese

Information kits
- Nepali
- Tagalog
- Hindi
- Urdu
- Bahasa Indonesia
- Thai

Words from Programme Director
服務總監的話

The Mobile Information Service (MIS) Team is the only social service provided within the restricted area of Hong Kong International Airport. The MIS has been welcoming and serving newly arrived ethnic minorities for the past 20 years. The team is committed to promoting social harmony and equality while assisting migrant workers and facilitating the integration of ethnic minorities for family reunions and permanent settlement in Hong Kong.

During the pandemic, the MIS maintains regular services at the airport despite the challenges and provides outreach services within Hong Kong.

流動資訊服務(MIS)團隊是唯一於香港國際機場禁區內提供之社會服務。廿年來，MIS熱切接待了無數新來港少數族裔人士，並為他們提供貼切服務。本團隊致力維持族群融合與平等，積極協助外籍勞工，促進家庭團聚和永久定居來港的少數族裔融入社會。

疫情期间，MIS依然维持常设服务，於本港各區提供外展服务。

Contact Information 聯絡資料
Tel 電話: 9220 0270 / 9226 3907 / 6651 1780
Fax 電傳: 2261 0450
E-mail電郵: mis@isshk.org

Service Hours 服務時間:
Mon 星期一: 09:00 - 18:00
Tue-Fri 星期二至五: 09:00 - 21:30
Set, Public Holidays 星期六及公眾假期:
09:00 - 18:00
Sun 星期日: 09:00 - 17:30