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Citi Sponsors Business Students as Interns with Local NGOs in Social Services Community Program

Cross-sector collaboration enhances future business leaders' understanding of Corporate Social Responsibility

Hong Kong – 70 business students from 9 local universities are being offered a unique opportunity to work as interns with local NGOs (non-governmental organizations) this summer through the 2016 Citi-Hong Kong Council of Social Services (HKCSS) Community Intern Program. Started in 2009, the program is the first of its kind to involve cross-sector collaboration between academia, business and NGOs. It enables business students to contribute their knowledge and creativity as they assist in NGO projects.

The program aims to nurture Hong Kong's future business leaders to be more caring and responsible individuals through a broadened understanding of the community's needs and challenges, with the ultimate goal of cultivating the concept of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR).

The 70 selected business school students will be placed in 40 NGOs this summer, serving various groups including low-income, elderly and persons with disabilities as well as helping in environmental conservation. Since its inception, around 400 students have been benefited from the program.

Weber Lo, Citi Country Officer and CEO for Hong Kong and Macau said: "We are delighted to be hosting this meaningful program for the sixth year and grateful to see the continued overwhelming response through the years in this fruitful cross-sector collaboration. Connecting NGOs and business students not only fosters mutual learning but also helps create a talent pool of future business leaders with interest and experience in sustainable community development."

Chua Hoi Wai, Chief Executive of HKCSS said, "We are glad to have partnered with the Citigroup in this meaningful project, which the Citigroup has supported generously throughout the past 5 years. The project has cultivated a caring attitude among participating local university students who got the opportunities to serve the community and understand the underprivileged. At the same time, NGOs benefit by not only having additional pairs of hands, but more importantly, fresh and innovative business ideas from the students. I am happy to see this joint effort among the business, social service and tertiary education sectors, and I believe that it is the key to nurture business leaders with social-mind and stimulate more social innovation."

The internships will take place between July and August 2016. The interns will work in pairs to use their business knowledge to assist their assigned NGOs in various projects including fundraising, brand-building, operations and social service. To better equip the interns, they will also be given 20 hours of in-depth training on skills needed for working with NGOs and to improve their knowledge of pressing community issues such as the poverty gap, the aging population and environmental conservation. The training comprises seminars on CSR and cross-sector partnerships, visits to non-profit and social enterprises as well as opportunities to interact with various underprivileged groups.

About Citi

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About HKCSS

The HKCSS is an umbrella organisation of 440 agency members that provide over 90% of the social welfare services in Hong Kong. HKCSS launched the Caring Company Scheme in 2002 to build a cohesive society by promoting strategic partnership among business and social service partners and inspiring corporate social responsibility through caring for the community, employees and the environment. HKCSS puts much effort in building capacity for social enterprises through the Social Enterprise Business Centre (SEBC) to advance social entrepreneurship and mobilize social innovation.

Additional information may be found at www.hkcss.org.hk | Facebook: www.facebook.com/hkcssfans