



Lessons From Around The World: Tackling Double-ageing With Double Smart

Growing old gracefully is the dream of many, but with an ageing population around the world, the rise of social issues such as urban decline, shortage of geriatric medical professionals and negative stereotypes have compounded into the multifaceted problem of ‘double-ageing’. Though the situation may seem dire, the public and private sectors in Hong Kong, Singapore, Japan, and the UK have responded to these challenges head-on with smart solutions. Smart solutions do not only refer to assistive technologies, but can also refer to a myriad of innovative methodologies and design strategies. Let’s move our gaze away from Hong Kong for a moment and explore how countries in the Asia-Pacific region and the Western world tackle the challenges of Double Ageing.

Social Innovation As An Unignorable Force to Solving Double Ageing in Hong Kong

Director of JCDISI **Mr Ling Kar-Kan**, who also previously served as the Director of Planning of the HKSAR government, forewarned the problem of ‘double ageing’ in Hong Kong 2030+: Towards a Planning Vision and Strategy Transcending 2030" ("Hong Kong 2030+"). According to the comprehensive strategic study, the proportion of elderly over 65 years old will grow from 15.3% in 2015 to 35.9% in 2064. Private housing aged 70 or above will increase significantly from 1,100 in 2016 to 326,000 in 2046, a 300-fold increase. “This is a drastic increase. We can imagine in thirty years, a great number of elderly with limited self-care capabilities will live in run-down buildings which are quickly deteriorating. Their kitchens and bathrooms will be so small that even wheelchairs will have difficulty getting in, not to mention water leaking, spalling concrete and other pesky deteriorations in the buildings. These are inevitable in the foreseeable future.” Mr Ling comments.

Seeing the pertinence of “double ageing” in Hong Kong society, JCDISI has made tackling the

issue its strategic mission. Since the launch of the PolyU Jockey Club “Operation SoInno” project in 2018, JCDISI has responded to different aspects of this multifaceted problem one experiment at a time. These experimental explorations include transitional social housing, elderly employment, intergenerational community play space, reimagination of elderly homes and intergenerational community in a vertical city. “I call on people from different sectors to push forward innovative solutions. This is a historic opportunity to help Hong Kong build a better future for its citizens, through novel technologies, systemic innovation and social revitalization.” Mr Ling adds.



Director of JCDISI Mr Ling Kar-Kan



JCDISI has responded to the multifaceted problem of double-ageing one experiment at a time. Previously, a co-creation team has improved the design of waste-recycling trolleys, reducing the physical strain of elderly waste pickers.

Building an Age-friendly City - A Philanthropist Perspective

The Hong Kong Jockey Club is one of the biggest philanthropic organisations in the city. As the city's biggest taxpayer as well as a major employer, the Hong Kong Jockey Club is also one of the top-ten charitable organisations in the world. With a mission to solve substantial social issues, ageing population has been at the top of the charity's priorities. Jockey Club's Charities Trust has been in the forefront of combating social issues, collaborating with the public, private and social sectors to develop innovative solutions. "The Trust has played a significant role in facing the challenges and opportunities brought about by an ageing population. Spearheading different charitable projects and donations, the Jockey Club helps build Hong Kong into an age-friendly city. We encourage elderlies to be agents of social change and to lead more fulfilling lives," comments **Mr Leong Cheung**, Executive Director of Charities & Community at The Hong Kong Jockey Club.



Mr Leong Cheung, Executive Director of Charities & Community at The Hong Kong Jockey Club



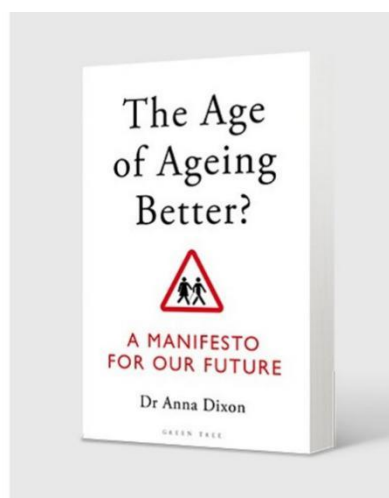
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Redefining Ageing in The UK Welfare State

In Western welfare states, many hold the pessimistic belief that population ageing poses a huge burden to the society. The UK charitable organisation Centre for Ageing Better (CAB), as its name suggests, aims at driving social change and improving the quality of life of the elderly. Its diverse work spans from housing and public health, to social inclusion and employment. CAB's Chief Executive **Dr Anna Dixon**, who previously served as Director of Strategy and Chief Analyst at the Department of Health, encourages people to face population ageing with a positive attitude. Concluding her many years working at the Department of Health and numerous conversations with experts and policy makers, her book *The Age of Ageing Better? A Manifesto for Our Future* explores the meaning of population ageing through a new lens. The book investigates the reasons why society is unable to efficiently distribute resources across cohorts, and proposes ways for improvement to advance new thinking on better ageing.



Chief Executive of the Centre for Ageing Better Dr Anna Dixon.



The Age of Ageing Better? A Manifesto for Our Future explores the meaning of population ageing through a new lens.

Social Design in Japan Challenges the Stereotype of Care Workers

Having the world's oldest population, Japan faces a severe shortage of geriatric medical professionals and care workers. Studio-L, a renowned social design organization in Japan, inspires local residents to think, discuss and realise their future through design, bringing awareness to the social issue of population ageing. Community Designer at Studio-L **Ms Noriko Deno** noted that society's negative image of care workers was one of the contributing factors to the shortage of geriatric medical workers. To dismantle these stereotypes, Studio-L

organised workshops for care workers, non-care workers, students, elderlies and family caregivers to design new services and products. The project successfully raises public awareness on social welfare service and improves common attitudes towards care workers.



Ms Noriko Deno, Community Designer of Studio-L



To improve the public image of care workers, Studio-L organized a series of workshops, including work experience in elderly homes, participatory brainstorming sessions, ideation, prototyping and implementation.

Singapore Foresees a Boom in Silver-Aged Market

Hong Kong's regional neighbour Singapore has always acted swiftly in the face of economic competition, and an ageing population is no exception. Ageing Asia is the commercial platform in the Asia-Pacific region to focus on the ageing industry. The platform encourages the development of better products and services in the commercial market, making ageing a healthier, more independent and more dignified experience.

Founder and Managing Director of Ageing Asia **Ms Janice Chia** believes that as the economy grows and the population matures, the silver-aged market will flourish in the next decade. In fact, elderly-minded services have expanded beyond traditional geriatric care and into real estate, finance, biotechnology, home amenities, travel and other lifestyle products and services. How we take care of the next generation of elderlies, develop innovative service and build an interconnected society is a question that deserves our thoughts.



Founder and Managing Director of Ageing Asia Ms Janice Chia

Social Innovation Regional Forum: Tackle Double Ageing with Double Smart

Different countries have developed innovative solutions to tackle population ageing, what can Hong Kong learn from them? The Social Innovation Regional Forum (SIRF2020) organized by JCDISI of PolyU as part of the PolyU Jockey Club “Operation SoInno” project, will invite the aforementioned experts as the forum’s speakers. The panel discussion, moderated by **Dr The Hon LAM Ching-choi**, SBS, JP, Executive Council Member and Chairman of the Elderly Commission, will explore social innovations from around the globe.



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