

**Post-Event Summary: Thematic Session 1**  
**Smart Home: Improving Quality Living of Elderly**

Smart Home: Improving Quality Living of Elderly, the first thematic session of the Social Innovation Regional Forum (SIRF2020) took place on 9 Oct 2020 at 2:30 pm. The forum, organized by Jockey Club Design Institute for Social Innovation (JCDISI) under the PolyU Jockey Club “Operation Solnno” project (“SOINNO”), invited guests from different sectors from Hong Kong, Taiwan, Chengdu to share their local experiences on improving elderly well-being and related smart technologies. The forum is live-streamed on SIRF website and other mainland streaming platforms. Audiences can watch the forum online and interact with the speakers. The live-stream attracted close to 350 participants from Hong Kong, Mainland, Macau, Singapore, the US, the UK and other regions.

**Mr Ling Kar-Kan**, Director of JCDISI introduced the forum’s background, event timeline and collaborating parties in his welcoming speech and gave thanks to the event partners and participants. Mr Ling further elaborated on the theme ‘Tackling Double Ageing by Double Smart’ by pointing out the pertinent socio-economic issue of population-ageing and building-ageing and advocating collaborations on pushing forward innovative solutions.



*Director of JCDISI, Mr Ling Kar-Kan*

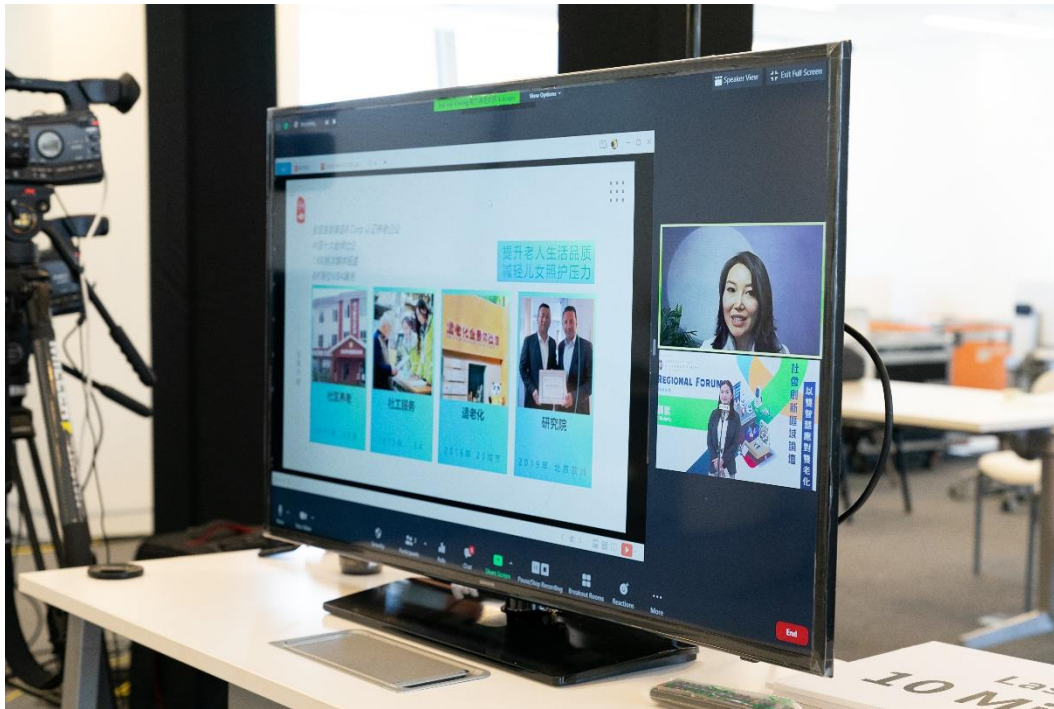
**Mr Daniel Chun**, Chairman of Research and Blueprint Committee, **Smart City Consortium** shared the latest smart home technologies on the premise of smart cities. Mr Chun illustrated the exploration of preventive silver-aged technology with the use of radar sensors at home. While ensuring user's privacy, the technology can capture data about the elderly's walking posture, standing posture and other behavioural data. Data of sleep pattern, activity level and mobility is subsequently analyzed and evaluated to monitor the health of the user, and help caregivers in preventing falls and secondary injuries. Moreover, Mr Chun also introduced the current technological explorations on improving elderly well-being such as Radar Sensors and LSCM Infrared Thermal Sensing Safety Alert System for Elderly.



*Chairman of Research and Blueprint Committee, Smart City Consortium, Mr Daniel Chun*

**Ms Ying Liu**, CBO and Co-founder of **Chengdu Longlive Pension Industry Development Co, Ltd.**, shared innovative solutions and smart technology applications to optimize the home environment for age-friendliness. "Population ageing is not a problem, but a matter of adaptation, an age-friendly living should begin with elderly-oriented home renovation," said Ms Liu, who has provided age-friendly design solutions to 30,000 clients. Ms Liu shared Longlive's data-oriented design approach, which uses big data to account for a huge variety of living environments. With the help of big data, LongLive developed a set of age-friendly benchmarks to evaluate indoor spaces, including aspects such as illumination, accessibility and smart safety. The evaluation is then used to provide a customized design solution to the elderly's individual home. The

evaluation system has been well-received since its launch. Ms Liu concluded by introducing Longlive's latest black technology fall-preventing product 'Nurse An: a smart hip protector', which attracted positive responses from both live and online audiences.



*CBO and Co-founder of Chengdu Longlive Pension Industry Development Co, Ltd, Ms Ying Liu,*

**Mr Spencer Ke**, Founder of **Taipei's 9 floor Co-Living apartments** introduced the social experiment of intergenerational living and proposed a long-term vision for his project. The project is launched in the context of several societal challenges such as unaffordable housing for the youth, solitary living of the elderly and vacant housing. The project hopes to advocate the concept of active and healthy ageing and, at the same time, provide affordable housing for the youth through creating intergenerational living space from existing surplus housing resources. The experiment is mainly concerned with how the old and the young renegotiate their living habits, personal safety and collaborations with NGOs. The project solved the combined housing needs of two cohorts while revitalizing public spaces. Through implementing a 'co-try, co-use and co-create' approach, the project held public workshops, community activities to nurture the interpersonal bonding among residents and deepen their mutual understanding. Based on his exploration, Mr Ke proposed a long-term intergenerational co-living project, which involves marketing, promotion, resident selection, spatial design, and community development. He concluded that co-living culture should emphasize the mutual learning of both parties to overcome ageist stereotypical labelling.



*Founder of Taipei's 9 floor Co-Living apartments, Mr Spencer Ke*

Following Mr Ke's presentation, **Ms Karen Lee**, JCDISI's Project Manager (Spatial) of JCDISI shared JCDISI's "Double Smart" approach to transforming public space to extend The Hong Kong Housing Society (HKHS)'s 'Ageing-In-Place' Scheme. Co-organized with HKHS, the pilot project "Intergenerational Play Space Design Competition" successfully launched with aim to foster intergenerational interactions by redesigning existing recreational space. The spatial improvement was designed to bring the elderly outside their homes and encourage outdoor activities, promoting active ageing and fostering a stronger sense of community in the process. Ms Lee summarized six guidelines for designing intergenerational public space, they are i) space integration, ii) age-neutral design, iii) intergenerational play equipment, iv) make use of unique spatial characteristics, v) make use of available technology, and vi) user-centric management. Ms Lee emphasized the use of Internet of Things (IoT) in the design process to better manage the health of the elderly and create an optimistic prospect for active ageing.



*Project Manager (Spatial), JCDISI, Ms. Karen Lee*

A panel discussion towards the end was chaired by **Ms Sabrina Li**, Manager (Elderly Services) of **Hong Kong Housing Society**. The online audiences raised close to 30 comments and questions to the four panelists. The questions are multifaceted, concerning aspects such as the application of the latest technology in the local context, public space design strategies that account for the needs of different age groups, technology adoption of elderly consumers in the mainland, the practicality of new technology products introduced by the speakers, the selection mechanism of intergenerational living, problems surrounding designing products and spaces with only the need of the elderly in mind, and perspectives of technology for emotional support. The panelists further exchanged ideas on environmental design for elderly people: Ms Lee prioritized an age-neutral approach with a focus on age-inclusive recreational facilities. Mr Ke considered that there is a need to educate the public about early planning of life in retirement as well as the development of age-inclusive neighbourhood and support network; Ms Liu pointed out that physiologically, elderly health monitoring will become increasingly important, and mentally, future technology will be able to provide emotional support to the elderly. Mr Chun thought that a new understanding of elderly needs will guide the application of future technology, which will better support the physical and mental health of senior citizens.



*Panel Discussion led by Manager (Elderly Services) of Hong Kong Housing Society, Ms Sabrina Li*

With the first thematic session successfully conducted, the next session ‘Smart Building: Achieving Sustainable Buildings’ will be live-streamed on the forum’s official website on 23 Oct 2020 at 2:30 pm. We invite you to register to join on the SIRF website, and look forward to welcoming you.

Notes:

\*Black technology refers to the newest, ground-breaking and hard-to-imagine technology products

