Post-Event Summary: Thematic Session 3 (Mainland)

Cross-sector Innovations in Age-friendly Communities

Thematic Session 3 (Mainland) was held in Shenzhen in the morning on 19 November, beginning with welcome remarks given by **Acting Director of JCDISI, Dr Calvin Luk**, **and CEO of PolyU Shenzhen Research Institute (SZRI), Ms Maggie Chen**. Dr Luk shared JCDISI's goal and progress in establishing a social innovation network in the Greater Bay Area, while Ms Chen introduced the work of the SZRI and age-friendliness related alumni enterprises supported by SZRI. **JCDISI representative in Shenzhen Ms Nie Yang** then shared the latest developments and result on a social innovation study conducted by PolyU.

CEO of PolyU Shenzhen Research Institute (SZRI), Ms Maggie Chen

JCDISI representative in Shenzhen Ms Nie Yang

Ms Shiyu Lu, Research Fellow at Tencent Research Institute, discussed her latest research through the lens of ageing and technology. She discovered that most of the world's most age-friendly communities are not digitally integrated, and believes that the rapid development of tech products and services in China could help realise age-friendly communities in the country. Ms Lu offered three key questions to the audience to think about the value of incorporating digital technologies in ageing: how do we enhance the value of intergenerational connections? How do we help sustain a sense of community? How do we normalize age-friendly experiences across the country?

Ms Shiyu Lu, Research Fellow at Tencent Research Institute

Dr Wei Xijun, CEO of the PolyU alumni enterprise Avatar Rehab, discussed rehabilitation challenges faced by elderlies who have fallen ill, and shared about an innovative VR solution. Dr Wei noted that nervous system diseases such as Parkinson's disease are trickiest to handle among older people while patients also face expensive rehabilitation services and monotonous training regimes. Dr Wei and his team employed VR technology to situate older people in virtual settings, allowing them to return to their community, increasing the fun of rehabilitation while lowering its cost

Dr Wei Xijun, CEO of the PolyU alumni enterprise Avatar Rehab

Speaking from a social service approach, **General Director of Shanghai Jinmei Elderly Care Center Mr Fei Chao**

shared their experience in establishing a community support centre for families of people with dementia, in the hope of realising an age- and dementia-friendly community. To this end, Jinmei concentrates their efforts on four aspects – the prevention of dementia, screening assessment, family support and support network. They provide services using innovative methods and commercialized and standardized approaches.

General Director of Shanghai Jinmei Elderly Care Center Mr Fei Chao

Coming from an urban community placemaking angle, **Ms Zhou Yue, Urban Governance Researcher** at **UrbanXYZ Technology Co., Ltd**., shared about age-friendly and inclusive community design. She shared a few methodologies used by different organisations, and introduced investigation methods such as playing 'space detective', daily journals, and telephone hotlines to understand the routines, behavioural preferences and everyday interactions of residents of different ages and genders. These ways of sensing and understanding behavior reveal residents' needs and expectations from the space.

Urban Governance Researcher at UrbanXYZ Technology Co., Ltd., Ms Zhou Yue

In the concluding panel discussion, moderator **Ms Caitlyn Huang, Secretary General of the Shenzhen Aging Development foundation**, shared her belief that digital technology will be widely applied to elderly services, but noted that there is much room for growth for digital age-friendly communities, and for more sustainable applications of digital technologies in ageing-related technology. The guests continued their discussion on the theme, before Dr Luk expressed his hope and anticipation to undertake cross-discipline, cross-region collaborative work with the session's guests.

Ms Caitlyn Huang, Secretary General of the Shenzhen Aging Development foundation (Left)