

Post-Event Summary: Thematic Session 3 (Regional)

Innovating for System Change in Age-friendly Communities

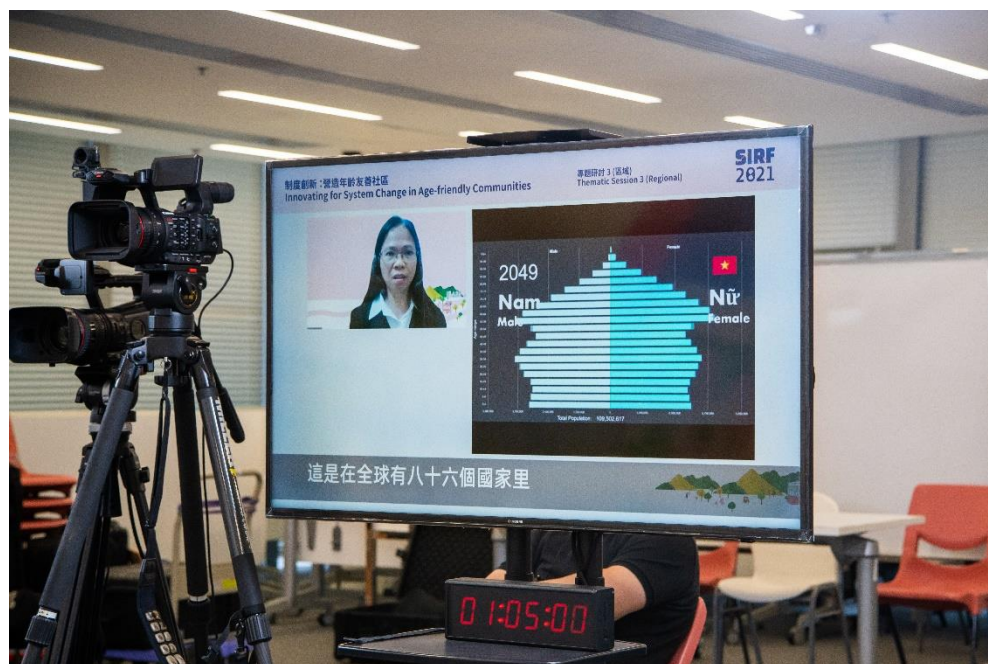
Thematic Session 3 (Regional) was held in the afternoon on 19 November in Hong Kong. Social innovators from Taiwan, Vietnam, Hong Kong, and Australia were invited to share case studies and discuss a path towards system change from the bottom up that would encourage participation from the public and the government to create age-friendly communities.

Ms Yi Ying Lin, Chairman of the Board at Plahan Symbiosis Care Labor Cooperative in Taiwan, shared her efforts in promoting and nurturing community-based carers for older bedridden individuals. Established by Yi Ying, every carer in the Plahan coop is also an owner. In just two years, the coop attracted more and more young people in joining, earning a profit of more than NT\$1.6 million. Improving carers' financial situation and at the same time providing bedridden individuals with professional, long term care, this win-win outcome of the coop model received numerous prizes and recognition from different sectors across society. Yi Ying believes that there is value in developing this model long-term in order to compensate for the reliance on foreign labour in local care.



Ms Yi Ying Lin, Chairman of the Board at Plahan Symbiosis Care Labor Cooperative

Country Director for HelpAge International in Vietnam, Ms Thuy Bich Tran introduced the Intergenerational Self-help Club (ISHC) model self-managed by elderlies themselves. ISHCs are organisations made up of around 70 older adults, with 3,500 clubs already established across Vietnam. Thuy introduced eight characteristics of the ISHCs that foster mutual care and support, including providing social and cultural activities, sustainable income security, health care, community-based care, self-help network development, life-long learning, rights and entitlement advocacy, and resource mobilisation. Currently the ISHC model is incorporated into Vietnam's national policy, and is recognised by numerous awards.



Ms Thuy Bich Tran, Country Director for HelpAge International in Vietnam

Project Manager II / Spatial at JCDISI, Ms Karen Lee, shared the Institute's exploration into intergenerational play space design and management. Since 2019, JCDISI has held a series of workshops and events that encourage the public in re-imagining parks and public spaces through an intergenerational approach, attracting participation by different stakeholders and combining PolyU's cross-discipline knowledge with design thinking. Discussing JCDISI's strategies, Karen drew from cases including the intergeneration therapeutic garden at Lai Kok Estate, the Prosperous Garden intergenerational play space design competition, and an intergenerational re-design of the Kowloon Park Fitness Trail.



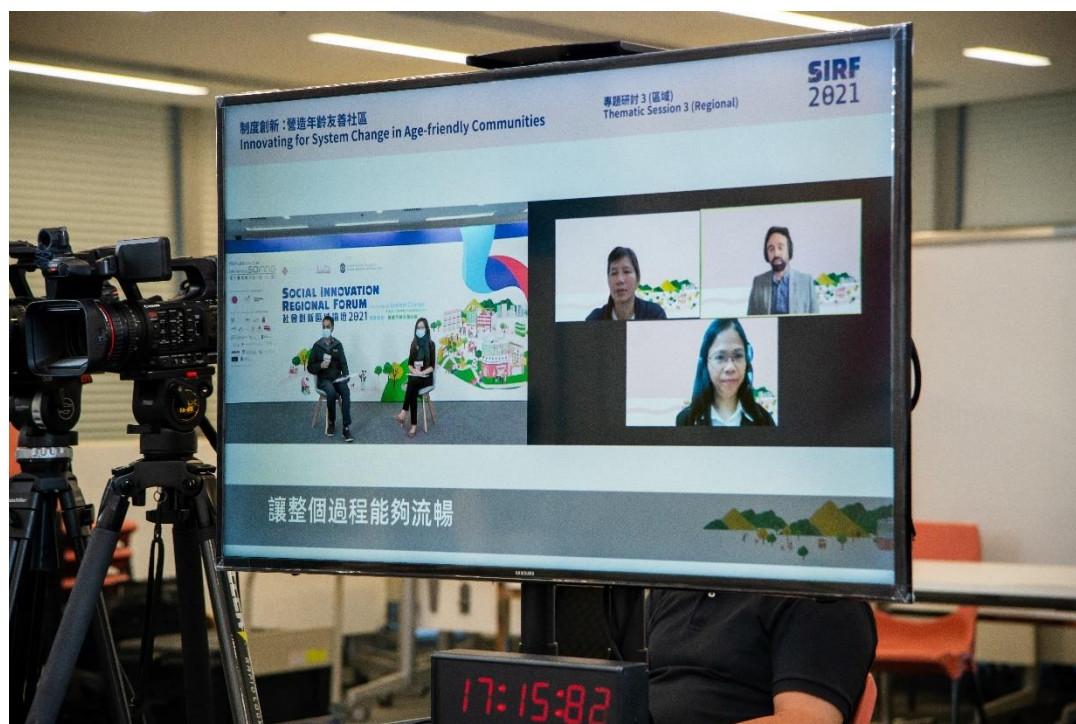
Ms Karen Lee, Project Manager II / Spatial at JCDISI

Mr Brugh O'Brien, Principal: Future of Home at The Australian Centre for Social Innovation (TACSI), discussed collaborative approaches that allow governments and designers to develop better healthcare infrastructures, bettering the lives of patients and their families. He drew from the design of the Neurobehavioural Unit at the Repat Health Precinct in Adelaide as a case study. Violent behaviour among older people is common in South Australia, and are often caused by dementia and other neurological disorders. In order to provide professional care and treatment to individuals with dementia and serious mental health issues, the Government of South Australia initiated the development of the Neurobehavioural unit. Brugh illustrated the co-design process, and noted the emphasis on family members' experiences while including direct participation from policymakers, architects, and consumer rights advocates.



Mr Brugh O'Brien, Principal: Future of Home at The Australian Centre for Social Innovation (TACSI)

Acting Director of JCDISI Dr Calvin Luk moderated the panel discussion towards the end. He noted how the fragmented nature of relevant existing policies fail to encourage older adults who are set in their ways to adopt newer practices. He suggested instead that encouraging young people to participate and experience helping older people is the best approach to realising age-friendly communities.



Panel Discussion