

9 Contributions to the Community

Firmly rooted in Hong Kong, the Group is committed to serving Hong Kong, caring for the community and building harmonious society, as well as providing assistance to those in need. We support a diverse range of community activities that promote the steady development of the community and bring positive energy to society⁶⁵. We highly value community investment and are dedicated to giving back to society. By collaborating with various charitable organisations and industry associations, as well as encouraging our staff to participate in volunteer activities, we share the success of our corporate development with the community and make efforts to build harmonious society.

The BOCHK Charitable Foundation (the “Foundation”) was established in 1994. For over 20 years, BOCHK and the Foundation have been supporting a wide range of local charity activities covering poverty alleviation, environmental protection and carbon reduction, culture and education, as well as sports and the arts⁶⁶. Since its inception, BOCHK and the Foundation have donated over HK\$500 million to the community⁶⁷.

9.1 Sharing a Century of Achievements⁶⁸

2017 marks the 20th anniversary of Hong Kong's return to the motherland and BOC's centenary of service to Hong Kong. BOCHK continued to uphold its mission of caring for society and stepped up its investment in charitable causes. During the year, BOCHK and the Foundation donated a sum of HK\$200 million to a total of 28 charity projects, including:

The City University of Hong Kong's Veterinary Medicine Development Programme

We donated HK\$100 million to the City University of Hong Kong to support the development of veterinary medicine. The donation will help nurture leading veterinary medicine professionals and promote the development of local public health, animal-borne disease research and food safety, etc. We also supported an endowed chair professorship to drive forward the research and development of environmental veterinary medicine, as well as setting up scholarships for students participating in overseas exchanges and internship programmes, thereby broadening their international horizons and enriching their learning experience.

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⁶⁵ G4-DMA (Contribution to Local Communities), HKEx B8 General Disclosure

⁶⁶ HKEx B8.1

⁶⁷ G4-SO1, HKEx B8.2

⁶⁸ G4-SO1, HKEx B8.2

BOCHK Community Football Development Fund

To support the participation in football by the youth at grassroots level, we donated HK\$50 million to the Hong Kong Football Association to set up a community football fund. The fund aims to help young people develop perseverance and diligence, to increase social cohesion among them and to promote the development of local football.



BOC Xianyang Four-county Education Fund

BOC began 15 years ago to undertake poverty alleviation work in the four northern counties in Xianyang City of Shaanxi Province. These have been defined as national-level poverty-stricken counties. We, together with other renowned organisations and philanthropists, donated a total of HK\$20 million to set up the BOC Xianyang Four-county Education Fund, so as to support the educational development in that area.



Reconstruction Project of Kuen Cheng High School in Malaysia

The Kuen Cheng High School in Malaysia is an independent school that insists on the use of Chinese as a medium of instruction. BOCHK donated MYR5 million to support the reconstruction of the school campus so as to provide local Malaysian Chinese students with a modernised learning environment, support the continuation and enhancement of Chinese culture and education, nurture Malaysian Chinese elites, as well as demonstrate our social responsibility there.



In addition, in celebration of BOC's centenary of service to Hong Kong, BOCHK issued the Centenary Commemorative Banknote. All of the net proceeds generated from the sale of the Commemorative Banknote will be used for local community projects and charitable causes in special honour of the centenary of BOCHK.


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9.2 Caring for the Community

BOCHK takes social responsibility as its mission. In the course of driving its own development, it has also devoted itself to poverty alleviation, caring for the underprivileged, supporting charitable causes and helping to build a harmonious society.

We supported Food Angel to set up Food Station to recycle edible food into hot meals and food packages for low-income neighbourhood and seniors at the grassroots level. Food Station also provides job opportunities to the underprivileged. During the year, over 400,000 hot meals and 510,000 food packages were delivered to about 1.58 million beneficiaries.




> 400,000 hot meals and **510,000** food packages delivered to about **1,580,000** million beneficiaries



We continued to partner with the New Home Association ("NHA") in the BOCHK-NHA Computer Donation Programme, which donated 500 recycled computers to members of ethnic minorities, new arrivals, underprivileged families and seniors to help them integrate into the digital age. Approximately 2,000 people benefitted from the programme. As a long-standing supporter of a number of charity organisations, we encourage our staff to take part in various fundraising programmes on top of simply making donations. In 2017, we sponsored the Community Chest Walkathon and Swim for Millions, engaging more than 2,600 of our staff and their family members to participate in these events. In addition, we sponsored the Hospital Authority's New Year Run to raise funds for projects that support patients.

We have been supporting the Hong Kong Corporate Citizenship Programme, organised by the Hong Kong Productivity Council, for eight consecutive years. This programme aims to encourage enterprises to fulfil

and promote social responsibility, and to incorporate the philosophy of corporate citizenship into their business strategies and management practices. This year, the programme received broad support from 277 companies, a significant increase of 17% from the 235 companies supporting the programme during the previous year. Over the past eight years, more than 1,230 enterprises have taken part in the programme's activities, successfully promoting CSR among the business community and the public.



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Love transcends boundaries. The Group's Southeast Asian institutions demonstrated their unreserved commitment to CSR. In July 2017, the northeast and northern parts of Thailand were seriously affected by tropical cyclone Sangka, causing severe flooding that claimed many lives. BOC Thailand not only helped set up a joint crisis unit for this incident, but also donated a total of THB300,000 and other supplies on behalf of BOC to the worst-hit area, Sakon Nakhon, to help ease the situation of the victims. BOC Thailand later received a letter of appreciation from the Sakon Nakhon Government to commend its contribution during the crisis. In November of the same year, the Malaysian state of Penang experienced its worst flooding of recent years. Staff of the BOC Malaysia's Penang branch participated in relief work and post-disaster reconstruction, including donations of cash and daily necessities to the people affected. In addition, BOC Malaysia and the Lions Club of Bukit Bakri jointly organised a blood donation event to help solve the blood shortage problem in local hospitals, which attracted a very positive response.

Serving the Community

We encourage our employees to make good use of their time and expertise to serve the community and help build more caring society. Over 100 of our staff members, including senior management and department heads, serve as members of various government committees, public utilities, charitable organisations and NGOs, in which they participate in decision-making and consultations and thus contribute to Hong Kong's development and the welfare of the general public. We endeavour to enrich our employees' working lives by establishing a strong volunteer culture. More than 2,000 of our staff are members of the BOCHK Dynamic Volunteer Team. Every year, we arrange training for them to enhance their volunteering skills. In 2017, our volunteer team spent nearly 50,000 hours serving the community. The number of participation in community activities increased to 14,085, a 19% rise compared with 2016. The dedication of our volunteers received wide recognition. During the year, we were granted the Award of 10,000 Hours for Volunteer Service, the Merit Award of Highest Service Hours and, for the eighth consecutive year, the Gold Award for Volunteer Service from the Social Welfare Department.

Volunteer
team

Nearly **50,000** hours
of volunteer service



In 2017, our volunteer team, joined by their family members and friends, participated in about 100 events to serve children and young people, seniors, families in need, people with special needs and the disabled. Some of these events also helped promote environmental protection. We also organised various workshops to help families in need and young people learn more about savings and financial management. Through activities and games, students were able to apply what they have learned about money management to their daily lives.



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As the Chairman Bank of the HKAB, we gave full support to the partnership of HKAB and CookEasy, a social enterprise of Tung Wah Group of Hospitals, to launch the Food for Love Project. The project echoes with the HKSAR Government's theme of "Together • Progress • Opportunity", which encourages social inclusion and raises public awareness of community needs. The HKAB also held a number of volunteer activities involving volunteers from different banks, who helped deliver nutritious and healthy food packs to the elderly who live alone and families in need twice a week. More than 10,000 people benefited from the project.

9.3 Nurturing Talent

We believe that education is key to the sustainable development of society. BOCHK has put strong emphasis on the development of local youth and strives to contribute to the nurturing of future pillars of society, who possess the virtues of ethics, intellect, physique and aesthetics, for the good of both Hong Kong and the country.

The Group offers scholarships and bursaries to encourage tertiary students to pursue their studies and to support students who have financial needs. Since 1990, the Group has provided scholarships and bursaries to 10 tertiary institutions in Hong Kong. A total of more than HK\$20 million has been donated to over 2,200 students. In support of the Upward Mobility Scholarship of Future Star organised by the Commission on Poverty of the HKSAR Government, we have also sponsored 100 scholarships for secondary students at the grassroots level who have demonstrated strength and a positive attitude amid adversity.



Scholarships and bursaries of
> HK\$20,000,000
were donated



Furthermore, we strive to deepen young people's understanding of Chinese culture and history as well as our national development, to help them build a sense of history and enhance nationalism. We sponsored the Endeavour Education Centre to establish the Excellence Scholarship in Chinese History with an aim to encourage students to focus on Chinese History study, thereby helping to deepen their understanding of Chinese history and establish correct understanding of history and the nation.

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To widen the horizons of young people in Hong Kong, we have supported the Operation Zhang Qian – Student Summer Internship Programme organised by the Maritime Silk Road Society for two consecutive years. Under this programme, 100 university students had the chance to learn about the development of national strategies such as the Belt and Road Initiative, as well as the opportunities arising from them. Among these students, 22 were offered internship opportunities at BOC's branches in Beijing and Singapore to gain overseas working experience, helping to contribute to the nurturing of talent for Hong Kong and the country in the new era. During the year, BOCHK Brunei Branch also hosted an overseas mission for Hong Kong secondary students to visit major local Chinese-funded enterprises in Brunei to deepen Hong Kong young people's understanding of the development of Chinese-funded enterprises along the Belt and Road area.

Our BOCHK Brunei Branch made donations to Chung Hua Middle School Kuala Belait, so as to support the school in promoting traditional Chinese culture and contributing to local Chinese education. In celebration of the 10th anniversary of the Confucius Institute at Chulalongkorn University, BOC Thailand endeavoured to support the Chinese Education Forum: Internationalisation and Localisation. By concluding and studying the experience and achievements of Chinese education in Thailand, as well as discussing local trends regarding Chinese education, the forum provided insightful reference and help for the future development of Chinese education in Thailand.



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9.4 Promotion of Sports and Cultural Diversity

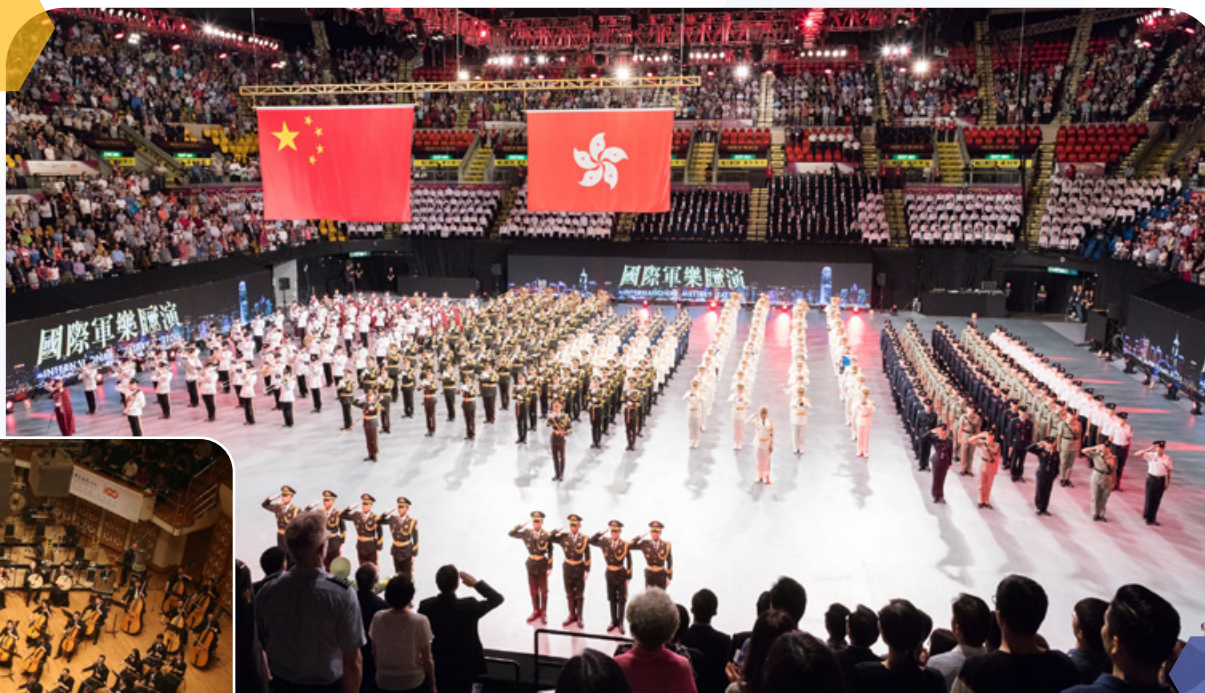
BOCHK supports a host of sporting, cultural and artistic activities. By sponsoring a wide range of sports, concerts, exhibitions and arts appreciation events organised by different organisation, we aim to enrich the public's cultural and recreational life and nurture diverse talent.

Since 2002, we have been sponsoring the Hong Kong Island & Kowloon Regional Inter-school Sports Competition to promote sports development among secondary students and cultivate their sportsmanship of developing perseverance and making continuous improvement. In the school year of 2016/17, some 80,000 student enrolments in over 8,000 matches in 20 sports events were recorded. Meanwhile, 615 students participated in the BOCHK Schools Sports Volunteer Scheme, contributing

over 13,000 hours of volunteer service. For the school year of 2017/18, a Junior Sports Reporters Scheme has been launched to provide students with training on interviews and copywriting, thus helping to promote inter-school sports events. Furthermore, BOC Life has sponsored the Hong Kong Premier League since 2014, in order to promote the development of local football. During the year, we confirmed our participation in the Music Subsidy Scheme by sponsoring the Musicus Society and the Hong Kong Chinese Orchestra to drive forward the development of local music. This scheme aims to provide more opportunities for people at the grassroots level to enjoy music and nurturing local musical talent.



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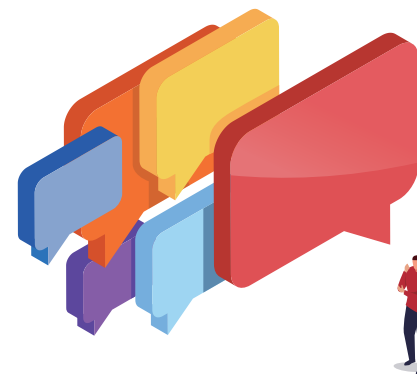


To celebrate the 20th anniversary of Hong Kong's return to the motherland, BOCHK made an honorary sponsorship to the China National Traditional Orchestra's Splendour of Folk Music and Impressions: Rediscovering Chinese Music performances in Hong Kong. The orchestra also jointly performed a classical masterpiece with leading national conductor Chen Xieyang and eminent young conductor Liu Sha. In addition, we sponsored the International Military Tattoo, which brought together a number of world-class military bands from the mainland, Europe, the United States and Asia as well as local organisations to perform a spectacular marching and military tattoo for the general public. We also invited families and children at grassroots level to enjoy the performance. An outdoor

carnival was held for two days in a row to allow members of the public to attend for free. Some of the visiting military bands and representatives of the Hong Kong Disciplined Services joined the carnival and performed to the public in a more intimate and interactive setting.

In order to continue and promote the excellence of Chinese traditional culture, we jointly sponsored a series of exhibitions of Chinese artworks in Hong Kong in partnership with a number of organisations. More than 100 ink paintings of artists from the mainland, Hong Kong and Taiwan were exhibited in Bank of China Tower. BOCHK Private Banking also sponsored Hong Kong Art Week, organised by the Hong Kong Art Gallery Association, for the fifth consecutive year, bringing more than 100 brilliant shows to the public.

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Food Station

Student Zhan, Summer intern



This was the first time I went to Sham Shui Po. Life in Sham Shui Po is so different from life on Hong Kong Island where I live. Although the elderly we served this time might not come from the most underprivileged group, their loneliness and helplessness struck me. Visiting and chit-chatting with them meant far more than just giving them comfort. I was so touched. I think it is the responsibility of everyone in society to support the elderly by not only giving them food and clothes but also attention and care.

Future Star – Upward Mobility Scholarship Student Wu, Scholarship recipient

I am very grateful for being awarded the Upward Mobility Scholarship from BOCHK and will make good use of the scholarship to equip myself. I will also use part of the scholarship to cover my travel expenses for the volunteer teaching programme that helps provide learning opportunities for children living in poverty.

International Military Tattoo

Student Chan, Children Development Fund

I never thought that I would ever have a chance to enjoy a large-scale performance like the International Military Tattoo. From stepping into the hall, sitting inside the auditorium of the Hong Kong Coliseum, to watching a show with an audience of nearly 10,000, everything was new to me. Of all the performances, my favourite one was the performance by the Hong Kong Police Orchestra because the songs they performed were very familiar and resonated with me.

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Excellence Scholarship in Chinese History

Student Chan, Scholarship recipient



I am very grateful for the Excellence Scholarship in Chinese History offered by BOCHK and the Endeavour Education Centre. I have been interested in Chinese history since I was young. Although I had a bottleneck when I was in secondary five, I was fortunate to be mentored well by my teachers so that I did not give up my studies. In order to live up to the guidance of my teachers, I decided to study Chinese history diligently. I wish to use this scholarship to enhance my understanding of history. I will buy more reference books and visit different places of historical value to experience personally the culture and history there.



Participating in Flood Relief in Penang, Malaysia

Chia Sook Yee, BOC Malaysia



In November 2017, Penang experienced its worst flooding in the history, with countless houses destroyed. During those days, we helped with fundraising, rushed to the affected area to help procure goods and materials for the rescue teams, maintained close contact with the government and external rescue teams, and assisted in arranging donations appropriately. In the end, our branch raised more than MYR300,000 for Penang. Even though the storm was ruthless, I felt the warmth and love of the people. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of those who donated towards the relief effort.

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