

Press Release

Immediate release

Belt and Road Cataract Blindness Eradication Programme Mission Accomplished 6200+ Patients Regained Eyesight in Kampong Cham Province, Cambodia

December 17, 2019 (Cambodia): The Belt and Cataract Blindness Eradication Programme was launched in May 2018 by the Belt and Road Hong Kong Centre (the “Centre”). In the past 19 months, medical teams from the Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region and the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of China have operated continuously on board the two Mobile Eye Treatment Centres stationed in the Kampong Cham Hospital and helped more than 6,200 patients regain their eyesight.

A celebration ceremony was held today at the Kampong Cham Hospital. Officiating guests including Mr C.Y. LEUNG, Chairman of the Belt and Road Hong Kong Centre; H.E. YIM Chhaily, Deputy Prime Minister of Cambodia ; H.E. MAM Bunheng, Minister of Health Cambodia and Mr. WANG Wentian, the Chinese Ambassador to Cambodia jointly announced the completion of the programme in Kampong Cham. The ceremony was witnessed by some of the patients.

Guests also included Chairman Grace CHAN of the Asian Blind Prevention Foundation, a partner of the campaign and Director LIAO Pinhu of the Health and Family Planning Commission of the Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region.

Cambodian Deputy Prime Minister H.E. YIM Chhaily said at the ceremony: "the successful completion of the cataract blindness campaign has underscored the win-win cooperation between the Cambodia and China under the "Belt and Road" strategic framework. This Project has undoubtedly enhanced the friendship between our countries, I am sure there will be many more new cooperation in the future."

Mr. CY LEUNG, Chairman of the Belt and Road Hong Kong Centre said in a speech: "the Cataract Blindness Eradication campaign lasted 19 months and was the longest eye surgery campaign conducted by Chinese medical teams outside of the Country. In terms of the case volume, with over 6,200 patients, it was also China’s record for medical assistance in eye service. The Campaign clearly demonstrates the strength of “people-to-people connectivity” between two countries.”

“I sincerely thank the Hong Kong Business Association of Cambodia and our partner the Asian Foundation for the Prevention of Blindness for assisting. Special thanks are due to the Guangxi



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香港中心

medical team for sending almost 60 medical professionals in the past months to conduct voluntary medical services in Kampong Cham. They also helped the local medical staff to build the capacity in executing cataract surgeries on their own. Two fully equipped Mobile Eye Treatment Centres donated by Mr. Hui Wing-Mau will continue to serve the needy in Cambodia." Mr Leung continued.

At the ceremony, Chinese Ambassador WANG Wentian said, "the success of the campaign not only brings new life to cataract patients in Kampong Cham, but also fully demonstrates the goodwill of the People's the two countries. The Campaign denotes the cooperation of China and Cambodia for the well-being of Cambodia people."

Director LIAO Pinhu said after the ceremony: "aiming at building up a team of local eye doctors to tackle the future needs in Kampong Cham, our medical team not only performed surgery for cataract patients, but also trained up the local medical staff on both theories and advance techniques in treating cataract. The sharing of experience greatly enhanced the insight and broaden the horizon of local doctors and other medical staff. "

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About Belt and Road Hong Kong Centre

The Centre is a non-government and a non-profit making organization registered in the Hong Kong SAR in accordance with local law. All our funding comes from donation.

Topping our work agenda in the first phase is strengthening People-to-People Bond, one of the five Connect Schemes under the Belt and Road. This includes enhancing the understanding of the Belt and Road international cooperation initiative among Hong Kong youth, promoting local experience, lending humanity aids to developing countries, promoting art and cultural exchange between China and foreign countries as well as publicizing overseas the essence of cooperation and shared benefits of Belt and Road.

The Board Chairman of the Centre is Mr Leung Chun-yin and directors are Mr CHEUNG Chi-Kong, Mr LAU Ming-Wai, Mr LAU Ping-Cheung, Mr Raymond TANG, Ms Sophia KAO, Mr Peter SIT and Mr YUE Yi.

About the Asian Foundation for the Prevention of Blindness (AFPB)

Since its establishment in 1981, AFPB has supported prevention of blindness projects for Asian countries including China, Cambodia, India, the Philippines, Myanmar, Laos and Vietnam.

Since 2000, AFPB has joined the Global Campaign called “Vision 2020: The Right to Sight” as a supporting agency to eliminate avoidable blindness by the year 2020. In the past 19 years, AFPB has launched this Global Campaign in collaboration with International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness (IAPB), Christoffel Blindenmission (CBM), Germany, Sight Savers International (SSI), UK, Helen Keller International (HKI), USA and Lions Clubs International.

Between 1995 and 2019, AFPB has donated 42 METCs to 23 provinces of China to provide free surgeries for poor cataract patients in remote areas. Up till now, over 650,000 cataract patients have restored their vision and led a happy and independent lives. Between 1995 and 2016, AFPB has sponsored 10,000 county hospital ophthalmologists in 10 provinces of China to undergo ophthalmological training. Between 2003 and 2013 , AFPB has sponsored free cataract surgery programme for India, the Philippines, Myanmar & Laos thus restoring the vision of over 10,000 poor cataract patients.

About New Home Association

New Home Association (NHA) was founded in June 2010 and now provides a comprehensive range of services in Hong Kong and the Mainland. We are a non-governmental and charitable organisation dedicated to providing one-stop professional social services for new arrivals from the Mainland, ethnic minorities, and the disadvantaged in Hong Kong. We aim at enabling them to develop their full potential and to serve the community. We are also committed to promoting community participation, social inclusion, and to building an equal and caring society.

About Hong Kong Business Association of Cambodia

The Hong Kong Business Association of Cambodia (“HKBAC”) is a non-profit organization established in 2016 to promote business opportunities in Cambodia by using access of the relationship and connection base among the members, and providing the necessary networking functions between business associations in Cambodia and around the world.

The mission of the Federation is to promote global cooperation, communication exchange and synergy amongst Hong Kong business associations worldwide, thereby, generating business opportunities. With the future conclusion of a Free Trade Agreement between Hong Kong and ASEAN, Hong Kong would have a greater role to play in regional supply chains, especially those involving the Chinese mainland.