The Hong Kong Council of Social Service
Social Enterprise Business Centre

Impact Assessment Support Scheme (IASS)
Information Sheet

Impact Assessment Support Scheme (IASS) is a pilot scheme organised by the Social Enterprise Business Centre (SEBC) under Impact Incubator aiming to nurture a pool of impact assessment professionals and help the social innovation startups collect a set of impact data for their further analysis of project social impact.

The importance and demand of Social Impact Assessment (SIA) are increasing as there is a growing trend for private funders, impact investors, government funds, and intermediaries to require funded projects to articulate its impact. However, social innovation startups always face insufficient time and manpower to prepare the assessment. At the same time, outsourcing SIA to third parties may not be feasible or affordable. This scheme is the first-of-its-kind collaboration between academia, undergraduates, and NGO sectors, which bridges the gap of social startups' insufficient impact data.

With the above considerations, the scheme is to strive for a balance between academic research standard and limited human, time and capital resource for impact assessment. With the help of impact assessment assistants, social startups are able to make their created social impacts communicative to the public. University students are recruited and trained as impact assessment assistants to assist assigned social startups in examining and analysing their social impacts and making them presentable to society. In the long run, there may be a new type of profession evolving from it.

The scheme contains 4 cohorts in total, and each lasts for 3 - 6 months. For the 1st cohort in October 2020, 12 students with different subject background (social science and business administration) were recruited and matched with 6 social startups under the Social Innovation and Entrepreneurship Development Fund (SIE Fund). Their profiles are as follows:

University	No. of Interns
City University of Hong Kong	7
Hong Kong University of Science and Technology	1
Lingnan University	2
The Hong Kong Polytechnic University	1
The Open University of Hong Kong	1
Total	**12**

Name of 6 participated social startups in 1st cohort:

Bling	Eldpathy VR-erly Simulation Program	Festyle HOME-trepreneur Programme	GoHarvest Travel	Idea Maker Program	Tele-support in Eating

The scheme covers a series of training for assistants, including boot camp, consultation and coaching, presentation and reporting. They will acquire knowledge of the principles, methods and practice of social impact assessment and use design thinking to identify impact indicators. A new set of skills, knowledge and application for youth in the field of impact assessment will be equipped in response to recent social entrepreneurship trend. Along the assessment process, experts in the field will provide guidance to the assistants.

The assistants will help social startups in the 4 major areas as below:
1. Assess social and socio-economic impacts of the assigned social startup
2. Plan and conduct field research using quantitative and qualitative methods
3. Communicate and liaise with stakeholders (e.g. clients, employees, and vendors) of the assigned social startup
4. Technical report writing and presentation

The 2nd cohort will commence in May 2021. It is targeted to recruit and train 12 assistants while 6 social startups will be engaged and benefited.

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Organised by: **Funded by:**