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*NEWS RELEASE*

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For immediate release

### **Youngsters Say YES to Hysan and Partners' English-Speaking Life Skills Programme**

Last summer's Ethnic Youth Enhancement Scheme ("EYES"), the life skills programme for ethnic minority students, was very much enjoyed by those who took part. In a bid to improve upon what was offered, Hysan Development Company Limited ("Hysan") and Hong Kong Christian Service ("HKCS") decided to recruit another partner to the programme. The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology's School of Business and Management (HKUST Business School) became the third partner of this meaningful project after some in-depth discussions. What the School brought along were extensive information about tertiary education which the participants would crave for, and perhaps more importantly, a group of enthusiastic undergraduate students from Hong Kong, Mainland China and other parts of the world, who played the vital parts of mentors to our secondary school participants.

Another new element for the programme saw the inclusion of a number of local ethnic Chinese secondary school students as participants. The aim, of course, was to promote further cultural exchange without diluting the original wish to provide a unique English-speaking life skills programme mainly for the minorities. With youngsters from different background on board, the strengthened programme's name was changed to YES ("Youth Enhancement Scheme") to better reflect the composition of the participants who took part in the summer of 2008.

YES maintained two major elements that proved successful last year: talks given by top professionals on different aspects of life skills, e.g. interviewing techniques, basic financial understanding, careers in specific industries; plus outside activities, which included a day camp and an orienteering race. This year's additional features included chats with successful university students/graduates on how to deal with university life, as well as a visit to HKUST where the mentors introduced the hardware and software of the School they were most proud of.

"YES gave Hysan and our partners another opportunity to give back to the community not just through financial sponsorships, but by giving advice and knowledge on school, work, family, finances and many other topics," said Mark Tung, Hysan's Head of Corporate Communications. "We were fortunate enough to have speakers from different industries as well as university graduates to share everything from their careers to how to get along with one's family."

"We would very much like to thank HKCS's Integrated Service Centre for Local South Asians," said Mr. Tung. "Without its help the programme would certain not be possible." "A very big thank you also to HKUST Business School's organizers and student mentors. Their generosity when it came to friendship and time for the participants was exceptional." "The student mentors were shining examples for others to follow," remarked Mr. Tung.

The seven-week programme attracted around 25 participants. It began in July and ended in late August just before the resumption of school classes.

Hysan Development is a leading property investment, management and development company in Hong Kong with a major portfolio in high-quality office, retail and residential properties. It is the largest commercial landlord in the prime office/retail Causeway Bay district.

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This press release and other corporate information can also be found at: [www.hysan.com.hk](http://www.hysan.com.hk) or [www.irasia.com/listco/hk/hysan/index.htm](http://www.irasia.com/listco/hk/hysan/index.htm)

**For enquiries, please contact:**

Mark Tung  
Head of Corporate Communications  
Hysan Development Company Limited  
Tel: (852) 2830 5154 Fax: (852) 2577 5219  
E-mail: [mark.tung@hysan.com.hk](mailto:mark.tung@hysan.com.hk)

## Photos

To request for high-resolution photos, please send an email to [Shirley.siu@hysan.com.hk](mailto:Shirley.siu@hysan.com.hk)



YES programme provided a platform to share knowledge and exchange views between speakers and youngsters. Humberto Fernandes, Head of Business Transformation – HUB Business Deployment Asia Pacific of HSBC was one of the speakers.



Mentor (middle) helped youngsters brainstorm ideas.



Youngsters involved actively in group discussion.



A big hurrray for YES!



One of the assignments for youngsters was to make the raft using plastic barrels.