

Speech at the Enrolment Ceremony of the 34th Youth Unit of the Hong Kong Red Cross at WYHK (13th Sep, 2014)

Dear Mr Lo Wing Sun, Teachers, students,

Good Afternoon! Welcome to this important annual event of the Red Cross. I would also like to extend my heartfelt congratulations to all the newly enrolled members of the Youth Unit. You have worked very hard last year to become qualified. Now your hard work has paid off, you have successfully completed all three courses and you will be enrolled today. Congratulations!

I would like to thank Mr Lo WS, a Director of the HKRC, for agreeing to be our Guest of Honour.

At first, as Principal of the school, I was planning to explain why being a member of a Youth Unit of the Red Cross can so effectively develop

- your self-discipline,
- your sense of responsible,
- your compassion towards fellow human beings,
- your teamwork and brotherhood with fellow members,
- your organizational skills and most important of all
- a sense of mission, and thus meaning, in your life

But all these are words. And if a picture is worth a thousand words, then a real life example is worth a million. And since we do have a real life example with us today in the person of Mr Lo WS, I can save most of my words. Mr Lo and I are schoolmates and college mates for 10 years at WYHK as well as at HKU. We were also colleagues at WYHK for six years. He was already a very dedicated Red Cross member when he was a student here (and we all called him Lo Sir even then, though I'm not sure if this has

to do with his role in the Red Cross). Now having been his schoolmate, college mate, colleague, and friend for over 40 years, I can say with absolute certainty that he embodies all the qualities I mentioned just now:

He is

- -disciplined in his daily life
- -selfless in discharging his responsibility
- -compassionate in his deep care for those in need
- -a team player as well as a team leader
- -a doer with a strong drive to get things done

AND above all,

- -He is someone who has dedicated much of his time before and after his retirement to one of his missions (if not the only mission) in his life to the volunteer work of the HKRC.

What more need I say but to urge you to learn from his example, your Si Hing, and be a committed member of the Red Cross?

Besides the important educational value of being a Red Cross member, I would also like to share my admiration for the humanitarian spirit of the Red Cross during this turbulent period in Hong Kong. In warzones, the Red Cross is dedicated to helping those in need, regardless of which side the soldiers are on. They don't judge who is right and who is wrong in the conflict. They rise above such divisions and help every human being solely because he or she is a human being. I think this humanitarian spirit, this belief that there is something common in all of us no matter what race and nation we belong to and what political stance we hold is badly needed now. And I hope that by joining the Red Cross, you can constantly reflect on this

humanitarian spirit and, whenever possible, be an agent for unity especially in times of great division.

Finally may I congratulate again all new members and extend my best wishes to the 34th Youth Unit of the HKRC at WYHK.

Thank you!

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