

Jockey Club NGO Governance Health Programme

Organiser: The Hong Kong Council of Social Service (HKCSS)

Co-Organiser: GAME for Good Limited (GAME)

Knowledge Partner: Centre for Civil Society and Governance, The University of Hong Kong (the Centre of HKU)

Funded by: The Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust

Background: To help NGOs better understand and uphold good governance, HKCSS, GAME and the Centre of HKU joined hands to develop a measurement tool for self-assessment of board governance in 2018. The aggregate results were compiled to inform the sector.

Objectives: Riding on the positive feedback from the 2018 attempt, the Programme aims to further promote the awareness and understanding of board governance health and good governance practices among NGOs.

Target: NGOs (tax exempted charities under Section 88 of the Inland Revenue Ordinance, and has actual operation locally in Hong Kong)

Quota: 50 organisations (priority for HKCSS agency members) can join the Programme free of charge. Enrolment will be processed on first-come, first-served basis.

Programme Contents: The Programme consists of two parts. In addition to a sector-wide assessment, the Programme will also arrange debriefings and seminars, governance capacity building workshops, individual consultations for the participating agencies. Besides, tools and tips on governance practices will be developed for reference of NGO boards.

Part I: Board Governance Health Assessment

Board Governance Health Assessment: At least 3 board members (Chair / 1 Office Bearer / 1 Member who has served on the board for more than 1 year), and head of the participating NGOs (for those with no paid staff, the board member with executive roles should be included) are required to go through an online self-assessment process. We welcome all members of the board to take part in filling out the questionnaire. A Confidential Individual Governance Health Assessment Report will be given to each participating NGO highlighting the governance strengths and challenges as reflected in the self-assessment. All information gathered will be handled in a confidential manner. Individual responses will not be disclosed in the governance health assessment report. NGOs that had joined the 2018 exercise are encouraged to have an assessment again using the refined measurement tool newly modified by the Organisers that better suits the local context.

Group Debriefing Sessions: Specially designed for up to 3 representatives from each participating NGO to attend, with the opportunity to have individual discussions with GAME Consultants, to help the NGOs understand the health check results and recommended actions.

Good Governance Health Practice Workshops: Each NGO can choose to attend one good governance health practice workshop of their own choice. Facilitated by consultants, 8-9 participating NGOs in each workshop will discuss good governance practices, the barriers and enablers in adopting them to enhance governance impact.

NGO Governance Health Landscape Trends and Analysis: The overall findings of the aggregate assessment results and insights into enhancing good governance health and performances will be shared in a seminar. The landscape report will be published and uploaded to the HKCSS website.

Data Collection & Handling: The Organisers have commissioned Social Policy Research Limited (SPR) to carry out the Assessment with the online platform provided by the Centre of HKU. Names and contact information of the participating NGOs will be restricted to the designated researchers of SPR for clarification of information only. Data collected will be treated in strict confidence. Unless with their permission, no third-parties (including the Organisers) will have access to any information provided by the NGOs. All questionnaires collected will be destroyed within six months upon the completion of the project.

Part II: Board Governance Health Enhancement Series (further details to be announced)

To enhance the knowledge, skills and readiness of NGO boards to tackle governance health aspects as revealed in the 2018 Programme, support for individual NGOs and workshops will be offered to the participating agencies.

Individual Consultations: To empower NGO boards to explore solutions for better governance, the Programme will provide individual coaching sessions for 8 selected NGOs.

Governance Health Enhancement Workshops: To help NGO boards to resolve common concerns and challenges, the Programme will organise workshops on issues identified in the governance health assessment exercise.

Enrolment Deadline: 30 September 2021

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