

January 31, 2010

Immediate Press Release

'Al'ready.....Post 80s
Where do I stand in Canada being a “Post 80s” member?

The term 'post-80s' is put under the spotlight by mass media in Hong Kong when members of the post-80's generation have become politically active, using unique ways to express opinion on urban development and environmental concern. While the generation born in the 1980s is considered “materialistic”, “self-centered” and “politically numb”, the phenomenon of post 80s group in Hong Kong stimulates youth in Canada to reflection and discussion.

In response, Across U-hub had hosted a forum titled “‘Al’ready..... Post 80s” on Sunday, January 31st, 2010. The panel of speakers include Professor Eric Fong of University of Toronto Department of Sociology, Mr. Larry Law, President of Law Development/Cranberry Resort, Ms. Flora Chong, Vice-President of Toronto Association for Learning & Preserving the History of WWII in Asia and Miss Karen Yim, member of the 'post-80s' generation.

The forum opened up an in-depth exploration of generational difference, whilst painting a larger picture of challenges facing the post 80's youth in Toronto. One of the panelists Ms. Flora Chong suggested, “The generation in which growing up means struggles for recognition, self identity and actualization against a world with confused values; they are also facing the challenge of rectifying the destruction made by its former generations.” Karen described herself have been working hard and performing the best. Friends find her so far so good as an engineer and also a daughter that most parents would proud of. However she just doesn't feel satisfied with her life. She wants to strive for something more and becomes precious memories at the end. Mr. Larry Law responded that many people even over age of 50 still couldn't find what is meaningful in life. He said workplace itself is already a place to hunt for life treasures. Professor Eric Fong added many youth of today try very hard already. However the existing social operation system is much complicated than before. It is even harder for today's youth to breakthrough the way to success when compared with their parent's generation.

The forum initiates youths to think, locate and identify “who they are” and “where their stand”. “Before asking 'what we can do?' in the face of global challenges, we must answer 'who we are?’” said Ms. Nicole Wong, Across U-hub Executive Director. She said younger member of the community has to drill into their identity as a Chinese-Canadian; and instead of barely taking advantages of this identity, be courageous to enter into its roots and its suffering.

The youth-focused forum has attracted over 60 young participants to attend. End up more than 60 people signed up. Many people couldn't get into the forum. Panelists joined in small group discussion with the attendees. “Youth voices are either misinterpreted or dismissed. This platform creates a place where voices across generations can be heard. Small group discussion performs a good platform to communicate between generations. Based on the success of this forum, Across U-hub will host the forum of the same kind in near future.” says Across U-hub Program Director, also the forum moderator Mr. Joseph Wong. Another moderator Miss Kenix Lau hopes the discussion can inspire “post 80's” here in Toronto to relate themselves with local issues and to take action.

Organization Synopsis

Across U-hub is a charitable, community-based organization, dedicated to serve Chinese Canadian youth. In our programs, through cultural media, mentoring guidance, peer support system, group activities and training, it offers integrated training to youth with emphasis on their creative capacity, discernment ability, and communication skills. It also facilitates their integration into the multiethnic society. It offers holistic educational programs focusing on youth's social emotional and spiritual growth.