

Capacity Building for Elderly Rights Advocacy Groups, Elderly Service Workers and Community Organizers

Dr Elsie Yan & Dr Kar Mut Lee
Department of Social Work and Social Administration

In collaboration with
Association for the Rights of the Elderly

Objectives

- Aims: To build up the organizing and advocacy capacity among elderly rights advocacy group and professionals involved in elderly services
- Means: Networking, training and development of training manuals and materials

The Association for the Rights of the Elderly (ARE)

- An elderly rights advocacy group with more than 30 years of history
- Released comments on policy and service issues related to rights and welfare for the elderly through mass media and government consultation
 - e.g. on elderly suicide, old age allowance, outsourcing healthcare vouchers, vouchers scheme in elderly services



Target Sectors / Groups Benefit from this Project

- Elderly Rights Advocacy Groups
- Professionals involved in Elderly Services
- HKU Students
- Senior Citizens
- General Public



Deliverables I

- **Network Meetings, Public Lectures and Symposiums**
 - To facilitate networking of elderly rights advocacy groups and to form an organized and informed opinions regarding social policies and services
- **Training Workshops**
 - To equip professionals with organizing and advocacy skills

Deliverables II

- **Organizing and Advocacy Manual**
 - To share the best practices with elderly rights advocacy groups, elderly service units, and neighbourhood organizations
- **Multimedia Training Materials**
 - To allow easy access, all training manuals and materials will be made available on-line

Deliverables III

- **Policy Forums for the Elderly**
 - To provide the opportunities for senior citizens to express their own views
 - Also allow the trained professionals to use their newly equipped skills to mobilize the senior citizens
- **Press Conference / Radio Program**
 - To provide public education and increase the general public's awareness of elderly rights

Expected Impacts

- The networking meetings will help to bring the advocacy groups together to form *an organized and informed opinion* on social policies and services
- The training will help equip professionals in elderly services with *organizing and advocacy skills*, such that they can assist senior citizens to express their own opinions on social policies and services effectively
- The multimedia training manual and materials will be made available to advocacy groups, professionals and the general public online, *a heightened sense of awareness* of elderly rights is warranted

Progress

- In preparation for the training manual,
 - Activities, strategies, tactics and skills employed by international Elderly Advocacy Organizations (e.g. US - AARP, Australia - COTA, Japan - JARP, Korea - KARP, Taiwan, etc) were reviewed.
 - Manuals published by leading international advocacy groups reviewed and key elements relevant to our project identified.

Progress

- In preparation for network meetings and training workshops, potential targets were identified:
 - a) DECCs, NECs and other main stream services;
 - b) Elderly Rights Organizations;
 - c) Other social movement organizations / political parties and organizations / councilors office / residents organizations interested in elderly or related issues.

The Way Forward

- Personnel Issues – Recruitment
- Explore targets of future advocacy partners
- Explore targets of international collaboration / overseas speakers

End of Presentation

