

## **Needs of Ethnic Minority Seniors and the Service Gaps**

The ageing population of Hong Kong's linguistically and culturally diverse groups increased rapidly in the last decade, yet policymaking, service planning and research rarely addressed the situations of this invisible group. Aging is a challenging process no matter what culture you identify with, ethnic minority elders also impeded by impaired physical mobility and medical condition like their Chinese counterparts. Financial hardship could be another cause of stress for this group of elders as their poverty rate was as high as the overall ageing population in Hong Kong. Yet, their needs may be ignored due to their language barriers and cultural differences along with absence of culturally responsive information and services. High risk of social isolation is predictable as many ethnic minority elders encounter troubles of accessing necessary resources and building social network with the Chinese community as a result obstructing their social participation and quality of ageing. Though ethnic minority elderly population constituted only a small percentage of our total population, it shall not be overlooked as the number will keep growing in foreseeable future and the society needs to better prepare to meet their service needs.