

The Bottom Line

An investment in Scouting is an Investment in the Future

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All my Scouts ... are in prison!

Herman Hui is not the kind of guy who you would think would joke about Scouting.

Herman is Deputy Chief Commissioner of the Scout Association of Hong Kong, a lawyer and Managing Director and CEO of a multinational company with business interests throughout the world. And Herman is among the team which has been responsible for building a strong and vibrant membership within The Scout Association of Hong Kong, and in ensuring that it has a really sound financial base – including paying off the building of the SAHK, a 535 - bedroom hotel in downtown Kowloon!



Herman Hui accompanies HM The King of Sweden, Honorary President of the World Scout Foundation, at the BP Fellowship event in Hong Kong

Herman's word carries a lot of weight ... so when he announced that "All my Scouts have ended up in prison!" at the 45th Baden Powell Fellowship Reception in Hong Kong, at the table where His Majesty, Carl Gustaf was dining, you might imagine that more than a few heads turned!

Herman, with a smile, added "You'll see tomorrow night" ... and, still puzzled His Majesty and others imagined Scouts arriving the next night in striped prison uniforms ...

But when the next evening arrived, the surprise was much more pleasant! For there, in a football stadium in Kowloon, stood two musical Scout Bands, both smartly turned out in uniform, and both playing brass and pipes ...

Just before the music started, Herman whispered to His Majesty: "One of these bands is made up of my Scouts – they are young offenders in a reform programme offered by Hong Kong Scouts – see if you can tell which is the prison band!"

But try as he did, this was an impossible challenge. For the young offenders (Scouts in Herman's troop) were as enthusiastic, as skilled and as smart as the Scouts from outside the prison walls.

Herman and his team of volunteer leaders, coming from all walks of life in Hong Kong, work with these young offenders in a real Scout Troop based in the prisons where they are doing time. The programme the Hong Kong Scouts offer is a real Scout Programme of outdoors, skills training, patrol system, and leadership development, just like any other troop – and they also run a musical band as part of the troop programme.

For 16 years now, the team has been running this troop in the Cape Collinson Correctional Institution in Hong Kong

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Island and Lai King Training Centre in New Territories for young offenders who are still serving their prison terms.



Says Mr Ying Kwok-ching, Senior Superintendent of the Correctional Services Department, "This Scout Programme has been most successful. All the inmates are offered this programme, but they must join voluntarily. Once they are in, we can see the difference - in their behaviour, in their attention to self-improvement and most importantly, in their self-confidence. The Scout Programme has turned out about 2,000 members in the last 16 years – and none have re-offended, now that is a good record!

"Look at how proud they are tonight", he added, "Scouting has gone to prison, and has really made the difference!"

The World Scout Foundation helps the growth and development of Scouting worldwide by providing the financial support for the World Organization of the Scout Movement.

Some priorities include: Improving child health. Helping marginalized youth. Actively protecting nature and the environment. Assisting in the development of Scouting in newly emerging countries. Helping Scouts address community needs in developing and industrialized countries.

World Scout Foundation

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