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Press Release

Hong Kong News-Expo 2nd Anniversary Celebration and Online Talk: From Roadside Booths to Online Shopping

Hong Kong News-Expo held its 2nd anniversary celebration and online talk on “From Roadside Booths to Online Shopping” today (27th Dec). Dr. John Chan Chok-chak, Chairman of HKNE, said, “HKNE opened in December 2018. In the first year, we attracted over 50,000 visitors. We were unfortunately strike by COVID-19 and had to shut our doors the majority of time this year. We hope that the pandemic will be under control as soon as possible and everything can resume to normal next year; the scheduled student and groups can visit on-site. This is, after all, a news expo belonging to the people of Hong Kong.”

Ms. May Chan Suk-mei, Vice-Chairman of HKNE, said, “HKNE is housed at the former Bridges Street Market which served residents nearby for nearly 60 years and full of people connection. It used to supply food to residents and we revitalised it to the News-Expo, showcasing how different media organisations operate behind different news stories. We are still ‘feeding’ people but their intellect. News-Expo continued to hold our value of objectivity, impartiality and respect to history while we showcase the big and small news stories of Hong Kong. We also strive to strengthen media literacy education with a view to drawing the public's attention to the importance of delivering news objectively, professionally and comprehensively.”

To mark the 2nd anniversary of HKNE, we held 2 online talks this month which attracted many participants. Today, we held an online talk on “From Roadside Booths to Online Shopping” and invited Mr. CHENG Po-hung, Consultant of Hong Kong News-Expo, and Ms. Gilly Wong, Chief Executive of Consumer Council, who brought us through time from the roadside booths culture in the early stage of last century, to the indoor markets, supermarkets and the current popularity of online shopping. They shared further on the transformation of our daily life and shopping habits over the decades, and how to become a smart consumer by distinguishing between truthful and untruthful shopping information online.

Mr. CHENG Po-hung shared his memory of the hustle and bustle of the old market at Sheung Wan. “The current site of Central (Macau Ferry) Bus Terminus was a gathering place of many singers. Apart from the singing, there were also different fortune tellers and entertainers showcasing their talents there. Together with all the local food stalls, these were our collective memories.” He said.

During the pandemic of COVID-19, many people stayed home and switched to shopping online for their food ingredients. Ms. Gilly Wong said, “the Consumer Council has recently found that the service performance of online platforms in Hong

Kong varied, including failing to deliver certain products, bad quality of food and the temperature of frozen food was too high.” She reminded consumers to take photos of defective products so as to raise claims. She also said that shoppers were stockpiling rice during COVID-19 which pushed the price up. Although prices have subsequently come down, prices have increased as compared to before the pandemic. Dr. John Chan Cho-chak expressed that media have the responsibility to communicate accurate information to avoid unnecessary panic.

On the same day, HKNE invited Madam Poon, former owner of a market booth, to revisit this old place. Madam Poon expressed that many memories have flooded back and she never expected the Market to be transformed into News-Expo. We had the opportunity to give an early 90th birthday celebration to Madam Poon. She thought it is a fantastic thing that the market has been transformed into News-Expo and hope that News-Expo will continue our great effort in encapsulating Hong Kong people’s collective memories.

Photo 1: Dr. John Chan Cho-chak, Chairman of HKNE, and Ms. May Chan Suk-mei, Vice-Chairman of HKNE witnessed the application of HKNE and its opening together with guest speakers Mr. CHENG Po-hung and Ms. Gilly Wong celebrated our 2nd anniversary.

Photo 2: The online talk discussed the culture of markets in the last century. (From Left, Ms. May Chan Suk-mei, Dr. John Chan Cho-chak, Ms. Gilly Wong and Mr. CHENG Po-hung)

Photo 3: Madam Poon, former owner of a market booth revisited Bridges Street Market today with memories flooding back.

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