



For Immediate Release

**Project *WeCan* Foundation Announces 2020-2021 Scholarship Recipients
More Than 560 Grassroot Students Awarded Involving HK\$40 Million To Date**

January 9, 2021, Hong Kong — Project *WeCan* Foundation today honoured “*WeCan* Scholarship” awardees at a presentation ceremony officiated by Stephen Ng, Committee Chairman of the Foundation. This year, 49 students from Project *WeCan* schools are awarded scholarship to attend university, bringing total awardees to over 560 and total award commitment to over HK\$40 million since the scholarship was started in 2015. This year’s ceremony was held simultaneously offline and online, allowing principals, teachers, parents, students and corporate partners to share the joy of the awardees.

Since its inception in 2011, Project *WeCan* has been supporting the most resource-thirsty secondary schools in Hong Kong, providing their students who are disadvantaged in learning with additional resources and opportunities not available to them otherwise. 76 secondary schools currently participate in Project *WeCan*.

WeCan Scholarship Scheme was started in 2015 to enable Project *WeCan* graduates, who are successfully admitted to any of the eight local UGC-funded tertiary institutions or the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts and nominated by respective Project *WeCan* schools, to pursue four-year bachelor degree programmes.

Speaking at the ceremony, Stephen Ng, Committee Chairman of Project *WeCan* Foundation, said, “Learning is about attitude. In addition to acquiring knowledge today, it is more important to learn to continuously acquire knowledge in the future, i.e. ‘learn how to learn’ and to develop critical thinking skills. Hong Kong, in tandem with the rest of the world, has undergone unprecedented changes last year, I wish to see our students to be open-minded enough to embrace the new normal and seize the opportunities in this ever-changing era.”

A 2019-20 Scholarship winner Zachery Li, a student of CCC Fong Yun Wah Secondary School, shared his story at the ceremony about the darkest days of his life after he had been diagnosed with Leukemia, a fatal blood disease five years earlier. Zachery's resilience helped him recover after the two-year medical treatment and eventually earned him admission to the Engineering Faculty of Hong Kong University in 2019. "When I was diagnosed with Leukemia, I was really shocked yet I knew I had to stay strong as my father was also suffering from cancer and receiving medical treatment. I had to look after myself well to minimise further burden on my family," Zachery said. Zachery is thankful for *WeCan* Scholarship Scheme which enables him to see light at the end of the tunnel and allows him to focus on his study without worrying about tuition fee.

A 2016-17 scholarship awardee Sunny Law, who was successfully admitted to the Biomedical Engineering programme at the Chinese University of Hong Kong, graduated last year and is now a research assistant at the Chinese University. He was once rebellious and had to move into youth home and earned a living himself after his family member passed away when he was still studying in secondary school. Sunny recalls, "The moment that I knew about the scholarship award for me, I was most grateful and almost burst into tears. It was a timely support to help relieve my financial burden. I am lucky to have met people of Project *WeCan*, particularly I am thankful for Mr Ng who always reminds us of the 3Os - Open your eyes, Open your mind and Open your heart, which has become a reminder and booster for me when facing adversity." Sunny wishes to pursue study on biomedical engineering if opportunity knocks and help people in need with his professional knowledge in future.

All the *WeCan* Scholarship awardees will become members of *WeCan* Alumni. The Alumni aims at providing Project *WeCan* graduates with a platform to expand their social network and foster cross-school exchange. The Alumni is led by an executive committee and alternate committee composed of Project *WeCan* graduates with more than 600 members actively participating in Project *WeCan* events and community service.

Photo Captions



Picture 1: Stephen Ng, Committee Chairman of Project *WeCan* Foundation, shared his experience with students



Picture 2: Stephen Ng, Committee Chairman of Project *WeCan* Foundation, guests and *WeCan* Scholarship recipients

About Project *WeCan* Foundation

Project *WeCan* Foundation, a Business-in-Community initiative started in 2011, aims to provide secondary school students who are disadvantaged in learning with additional resources and care to empower them for pursuing higher education and future careers. As of 2020/21 school year, Project *WeCan* Foundation is supported by 68 partner organisations for helping 76 participating schools, benefitting about 75,000 students.

Please visit the following platforms for more details:

Website: www.projectwecan.com

Facebook page: www.facebook.com/projectwecanhk

Instagram page: <https://www.instagram.com/projectwecan>

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Appendix 1: No. of scholars

Universities	2020/21	No. of scholars
City University of Hong Kong	5	87
Hong Kong Baptist University	1	61
Lingnan University	2	31
The Chinese University of Hong Kong	15	122
The Education University of Hong Kong	1	26
The Hong Kong Polytechnic University	9	79
The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology	6	85
The University of Hong Kong	10	76
TOTAL	49	567

Appendix 2: Scholars' major areas of study

Cohort	Major areas of study						
	Arts	Business	Education	Health Care	IT & Engineering	Science	Social Science
2020/21	7	13	1	4	5	16	3
Total No. of scholars (567)	75	114	25	27	155	126	45