

New Enriched ICT Training Programme promotes digital inclusion among elderly

The Office of the Government Chief Information Officer (OGCIO) announced today (February 15) the launch of the new Enriched Information and Communications Technology (ICT) Training Programme for the Elderly, on top of a new round of the ICT Outreach Programme for the Elderly, to promote digital inclusion among the elderly at different levels and serve more elderly persons.

The new Enriched ICT Training Programme is a two-year programme for elderly persons on basic ICT knowledge. Eleven Elder Academies (EAs) have been commissioned to run relevant training courses. Elderly people can take advanced training courses at these EAs to learn about the adoption of digital technology in their daily lives, such as how to use e-Government services, mobile applications and social media. Students in the district can also take part in the voluntary work of the EAs, such as by serving as teaching assistants, to exchange experience in digital living with the elderly, which will in turn foster harmony between elderly people and the young.

Apart from enhancing their own ICT knowledge, participants who have completed the training courses will be able to serve as trainers to help more elderly people acquire technology knowledge. The measure will further assist the elderly in coping with the development of the digital society, thus achieving greater digital inclusion.

The EAs are currently formulating detailed arrangements for the training courses. Enrolment is expected to commence in the second quarter of this year. The 11 EAs are located across the territory:

Region	Elder Academy joining the Enriched ICT Training Programme
Hong Kong Island	HKSKH Eastern District Elder Academy Hong Kong Island Elder Academies Cluster
Kowloon	Institute of Active Ageing, the Hong Kong Polytechnic University Kowloon West Elder Academies Cluster LST YKH & Buddhist HWCP Innovation Elder Academy

New Territories	Elder Academy of the Open University of Hong Kong Kiangsu-Chekiang (Shatin) Elder Academy New Territories West Elder Academies Cluster Pak Kau Caritas Elder Academy Pui Shing Elder Academy TM Hope Elder Academy
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"A web-based learning portal organised by the OGCI0 will also be launched in the second half of this year. Online learning resources targeting the elderly and those in need will be collated and developed through non-profit-making organisations and EAs. These resources will subsequently be made available on this dedicated online platform to facilitate learning with an interesting approach and inspire them to embrace smart living," a spokesman for the OGCI0 added.

Separately, the OGCI0 regularised the ICT Outreach Programme from 2018-19 onwards and extended it to a two-year programme, allowing greater flexibility for non-profit-making organisations in planning activities. The new round of the Outreach Programme commenced at the end of 2018, with the Caritas Hong Kong-Services for the Elderly, the Hong Kong Chinese Women's Club, the Hong Kong Lutheran Social Service, the Neighbourhood Advice-Action Council, the Po Leung Kuk and the Yan Chai Hospital Social Services Department as participating organisations. Since its launch in 2014, the response to the Outreach Programme has been overwhelming, benefitting over 5 700 institutionalised and "hidden" elderly people, as well as those receiving day care centre and home care services and elderly people with dementia.

The spokesman for the OGCI0 said, "The Government has been striving to implement various digital inclusion initiatives. Over \$20 million in funding support will be allocated in the coming two years for the two Programmes. We look forward to creating an ambience of ICT adoption among the elderly. By encouraging elderly persons to pass on knowledge they acquired to their peers, we hope that the Programmes not only help them embrace the benefits of ICT adoption, but also strengthen their connection with the community and their self-confidence, thus bringing them a joyful and flourishing life in their golden years."

Details of the two Programmes can be viewed via www.ogcio.gov.hk/en/our_work/community/ict_programmes_for_elderly.