

SCS encourages students with disabilities to unleash their potential (with photos)

The Secretary for the Civil Service, Mr Joshua Law, today (July 24) listened to post-secondary students with disabilities discuss their learning experience of participating in a government summer internship scheme at a tea gathering at the Central Government Offices. He encouraged them to work hard to better equip themselves with knowledge to serve the community after graduation.

Mr Law said that the Civil Service Bureau (CSB) launched the internship scheme for students with disabilities in 2016 with a view to allowing the students to gain hands-on work experience through placements in the Government, thereby strengthening their competitiveness, and enabling civil service colleagues to appreciate the talents and potential of persons with disabilities.

He said, "The CSB this year has further expanded the internship programme by doubling the number of placements to about 100. Apart from inviting nominations from the eight local universities, we have also extended the scheme to other local post-secondary institutions, offering more young persons with disabilities the opportunities to have placements in the Government.

"This scheme is different from other government internship schemes as training elements are incorporated. Apart from providing appropriate training and briefings for the interns so as to enhance their understanding of the operation and work of their respective departments, we have also assigned an experienced colleague to act as the mentor of each intern, assisting them in adapting to the work environment and coping with work challenges.

"To allow the interns to unleash their potential, we have arranged for them to take up more diversified jobs, including scrutinising technical documents, editing departmental publications, event management, graphic design and production, developing teaching aids and providing support for engineering design checking."

The CSB has assigned close to 70 post-secondary students with disabilities to 41 government bureaux and departments for an internship of about eight weeks during the summer, and will offer placements for about 30 students of the Shine Skills Centre of the Vocational Training Council in October.

Miss Kitty Wu, an undergraduate majoring in design, was attached to the Efficiency Office, where she assisted in the department's social media graphic design work. She said that she valued her interaction with colleagues, through which they were mutually inspired, and added that her

colleagues had been patient with her even though she sometimes needed more time to catch up at work. She also thanked her supervisors for their trust in her and said she enjoyed designing and gained a sense of satisfaction at work.

Miss Wu's mentor, Ms Helen Wong, said she was impressed by Miss Wu's proactive work attitude and readiness to take up new challenges. She said Miss Wu's work capability had in no way been affected by her physical disability.

Miss Abby Huang and Miss Cat Cheung, interns at the Civil Service Training and Development Institute, provided support in the production of e-learning resources. Their mentor, Ms Claudia Ma, praised them for actively voicing out their thoughts, which had brought in new ideas for the division.

Miss Cheung considered the internship experience a good opportunity to strengthen her ability to communicate and collaborate with others, and to enhance her understanding of public affairs. Both students aspire to make good use of their knowledge and experience to serve the community.

