

“The Hong Kong Spirit”

Hong Kong is believed to be a very diverse city, that can be very western looking or eastern as you want it to be. Past hard working generation gave Hong Kong some very unique characteristics. But are those unique characteristics appreciated by us or will it be appreciated by next generation after us? What good and bad did the colonial past brought us? What is the current government giving us beside money? There are many questions running around in my messy thoughts when I think of Hong Kong as a whole. My main argument in this essay is about, “Does Hong Kong really do have a spirit? If Yes, then another question will be “What is the “spirit of Hong Kong?”

According to our Chief Executive Donald Tsang (when he was a secretary) “As long as Hong Kong people rekindle the admirable "get-up-and-go" spirit that has characterized our development and transformation in decades past, Hong Kong will continue to forge ahead toward an even brighter future.” This statement very well shows that the Hong Kong government is very strong and the people are docile.

When government makes a new policy or starts a new project of redevelopment on the name of Hong Kong spirit, we do hear Hong Kong people tiny miny voices, but in the end everything is done in the name of redevelopment for a prosperous Hong Kong. I am not interested in politics neither do I have such a great knowledge of politics but I am generally viewing the situation of whole picture. I see that every government policy is based on economic benefits and development is the only ideology. And this development ideology for Hong Kong people has become an obstinate belief. Hong Kong people don't question the logic of its existence. And as a result, do you think Hong Kong is diversified? No, it's monopolized by the huge concept of commercial logic. It is obvious to see, all commercial buildings of malls, plazas, properties and streets with same merchandise, same shops, same products, same taste and same greetings. Where is something of Hong Kong? Something is missing. If you walk through Festival Walk and then Elements, you see Hong Kong has everything but what it doesn't have is a “Personality” which every other world city has but Hong Kong doesn't. Our past generation in 60s and before them, tried and gave it a personality, which the current generation are unaware of and simply don't care to save it. And they are being taught to not caring it.

Moving on to the next point why Hong Kong spirit is also always described as a

world city and with whom and why it is compared? Is it compared with New York, and Berlin, and Japan, London, etc? In term of infrastructure, safety, shopping paradise Hong Kong has over passed them long ago. Why it does still has the inferiority and keeps reminding oneself of achieving “world class” city? If it really has to be compared, why isn’t compared in terms of historical sites, ancient streets, vivid traditional cultural aspects, autistics villages and factories sites that are left outside or preserved in museums?

Will the representative of spirit of Hong Kong still and continually be Hotel and with nice harbor view? Or the shopping and commercial buildings all over the city? When and by whom Hong Kong did created this definition as the meaning of “Spirit of Hong Kong”? The real estate developers? Or the people of Tuen Mun, Sai Wan, Shum Shui Po and Wan Chai?

Recap of an article I read, before Hong Kong people are educated in such a way that they believed there is no consideration on principals, and adjustment can be made easily, nothing that requires the pursuit of perfections or long term. What we learnt that we are good at adjusting, we can do and learn anything, we can pass and deliver in a short time, we demand the biggest and quickest results and the problem with our generation now is that we don’t demand as collective interest but as our individual interests. We as student don’t care about Hong Kong as collective place thus don’t take interest or raise questions on social issues. Instead after graduation students gratefully join the bureaucratic system and support the domineering governance.

Another issue with Hong Kong that I foresee is the growing number of many different nationalities. They simply gave up on trying to be a part of Hong Kong or to regard Hong Kong as home due to the less attention given to them by the government. These nationalities’ second generation is hoping time will change. Because they grew up and educated here just like any other Hong Kong person. And if all diversified Hong Kong people take responsibility, hold hands, and stand for collective interests, then that’s what I will call a “Hong Kong Spirit in Action”



Little small things can create a community. These people may live beside each other but may never know till this day when they come out to this small place provided for drying cloths. It created a way of communication and a community, thus a spirit.

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