

Name: Chong Chung Sing Louis

Age: 18

School: St. Mark's School

The New Generation's View on the Hong Kong Spirit and Hong Kong's Future

“He steps up the spot...and converts the penalty with a right footed shot to the top left hand corner! Goal! Hong Kong football team has just rewritten the history! They are now the champion of the East Asian Games 2009! This is the first time for us to be crowned with gold medal in this event...” It may be an once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for us to witness such a dramatic match and massive triumph of Hong Kong Football Team. It was definitely not just a 120-minute physical contest, but a thought-provoking inspiration for me, the commentators as well as thousands of audience in the stadium. The players had showed us what Hong Kong Spirit really is.

Hong Kong's impression has long been an incredibly hectic lifestyle and diversified business sectors. ‘The Pearl of the East’ is often accused of rendering no sense of belonging and a lack of cohesion among fellow citizens. I would like to avail myself of this chance to dispel such wrong views. Without a doubt, Hong Kong is surely a city of passion and unity.

Hong Kong people are enthusiastic at helping others in spite of the ostensible apathy on the surface. For instance, we have joined in a common effort in reaching out helping hands to those victims of natural disasters. It would be fine if we had chosen to turn a deaf ear to those who lost homes and were haunted by hunger, pain and sorrow. But we have decided to launch various fund raising activities in hopes of relieving their physical and mental suffering. These actions were not for money or other kinds of materialistic benefits. No matter they are our fellow countrymen or the refugees in Haiti, we sent them love and care. It is a perfect illustration of our passion and unity. This is the spirit of Hong Kong.

Going back to the issue of Hong Kong football team, in addition to the worth-appreciating effort of players, it is also undoubtedly encouraging to see Hong Kongers shaking off their unconcern for local sports events. They showed their support in the simplest way – buying the tickets, getting into the stadium and chanting for the team as loud as they can. Once again, it sent us a simple message – success is just a stone's throw away if we stay together and strive for a mutual goal. United we

stand, divided we fall. We will never collapse if we keep up with our spirit.

After such a breath-taking performance from the Hong Kong representatives, I hope that the government can start to place more emphasis on local sports development. Endowing funds is not the only thing that can be done, but to create the vibe which ignites every school kid to have a vigorous all-rounded development as well. For instance, many professional sports academy can be found in cities around the globe. The coaches, trainers, equipments and the training system are operated and maintained in professional quality. Although several comparable football academies have been set up in Hong Kong in the recent years, many parents are loath to waste their money or to make their children distract from the academic work by allowing the kids to embrace qualified physical training. Try to imagine, if the government had constituted more subsidized academies like the Hong Kong Sports Development Institute, more sports elites could have been nurtured. It is never impossible for us to have another Wayne Rooney, LeBron James or Usain Bolt.

Sport is only part of Hong Kong's future. Economic, political and educational developments are still at stake. What matters most is that every single one of us will always keep faith and continue our unique spirit. Modernization will never make our cultural values fade away. I believe Hong Kongers will not cease to preserve our precious tangible historical heritage. The zealous objection against the district redevelopment projects like those of Wing Lee Street and Fa Yuen Street is a perfect showcase of our sense of unity and determination. As long as Hong Kong spirit lives, can a brighter and more flourishing tomorrow be brought about.

Under the influence of the 2012 political reform, Hong Kong's future seems to be a toss-up. It may sound like a myth for Hong Kong to have breakthrough in different immature aspects. Nevertheless, nothing can be done if nobody takes the initiative. Hopefully the recent success in the East Asian Game can serve as a wake up call for the government to lead people exploring new fields. The Hong Kong spirit can always back us achieving things that look impossible, this time is no exception.