

HKMA Charitable Foundation ~ Dr. CHOW Pak Chin



The financial tsunami last year attacked most countries in the world, and Hong Kong is inevitably one of them. Many Hong Kong people are suffering from huge pressure as a result of unemployment, investment failures or losses, and difficulties with their family and work relationships. These people are on the verge of emotional breakdown, they need channels to relief their stress else they may commit suicide. The demand for befriending hotline services increased significantly ever since. In view of this, the Hong Kong Medical Association (HKMA) and the HKMA Charitable Foundation (Foundation) have decided to donate all funds generated from the Annual Charity Concert, **WITHOUT deducting any cost**, to the **Suicide Prevention Services** (SPS) for enhancing its services by means of increasing manpower and strengthen the skills of volunteers to handle people battered by the financial crisis specifically.

The HKMA, the Foundation and the SPS held a pre-concert press conference on 13 July 2009 to publicize the charity event and to introduce the services of SPS. Amongst all other guests, we have invited **suicide survivor, volunteers of the hotline and outreach service** to do some sharing. It was how wonderful to see that both the service recipients and the volunteers have been benefited greatly in the course of healing and caring.

The Concert was held on 1 August 2009 at the Hong Kong Cultural Centre, a different venue from our previous concerts. Everyone was longing to feel the excellence of the grand Concert Hall. Our special thanks to Prof. Hon. Gabriel LEUNG, Under Secretary for Food and Health, and the Hon. LEUNG Chun Ying, Hon. Adviser of the Foundation, who were our two Officiating Guests. Together with Dr. TSE Hung Hing (President of the HKMA), Dr. CHOW Pak Chin (Chairman of the Foundation) and Mrs. Linda LAU (Board Member of SPS), they set the concert start.

The HKMA Orchestra played in the first part of the concert. A 10 years old girl, Faith LEE, daughter of Dr. Rayson LEE Kwok-tung was invited to perform the Mozart Violin Concerto #5 as soloist, accompanied by the full HKMA Orchestra. Both the performance of Faith and the Orchestra was impressive. The Choir sang in the second part. The songs were well chosen, and well sang of course. We could tell that everyone enjoyed the singing very much.

All 1,700 tickets have been distributed. Some hundreds of which were re-allocated to the deprived families on behalf of the donors, sharing the joy with the less fortunate. As at 5 August 2009, nearly \$600,000 has been raised. We look forward to your continuous care and support to the less fortunate and the needy.

