



For Immediate Release

AXA and PHAB help the physically challenged and retirees to show the art of being “life confident”

[Hong Kong, 16th October 2007] AXA China Region Insurance Company Limited, AXA General Insurance Hong Kong Limited and AXA Rosenberg Investment Management Asia Pacific Limited (“AXA subsidiaries”) join forces with Hong Kong Physically Handicapped and Able-bodied Association’s (“PHAB’s”) to organise a series of art creation and voluntary initiatives that aims at helping the physically challenged and retirees to become more “life confident”. The programme marks one of the important events to celebrate PHAB’s landmark 35th anniversary.

The programme has seen several AXA subsidiaries in Hong Kong sponsor a series of art workshops between June and September, 2007, to gather members from PHAB, AXA and retirees association to join. The collaboration will culminate at an exhibition during 16-17 October, 2007 at Hong Kong Central Library, which will showcase more than 200 exhibits from physically challenged artists and retired local artists.

“Art is the ideal platform via which to demonstrate the equality between the physically challenged and the fully able”, said Mr. Frederick Ho, Chairman of The PHAB. “By using art forms people can eliminate the distance between one another, making it easier for the physically challenged to fully integrate into society”, he added.

To help increase the effectiveness of the programme, PHAB and AXA decided to recruit volunteers from an increasingly important group in local society – retirees. Said AXA China Region Insurance Company Limited, CEO, Mr. John Cai: “Retirement shouldn’t be viewed as the end of one’s useful and productive life. As average life expectancy in Hong Kong is increasing continuously, local retirees are fast becoming a powerful voice in society. If people plan earlier and better, it is always positive that they can enjoy a very active and fulfilling retirement.”

According to the AXA Group's global Retirement Scope research study in 2007, Hong Kong retirees were the 3rd most willing of the 16 nationalities surveyed to involve in voluntary work. PHAB's ultimate aim in adding retirees to its remit is to use their talents to better serve society as a whole.

As a long-term partner to PHAB, Mr. Cai spoke for the whole of AXA in congratulating the organisation. "PHAB has been tirelessly contributing to Hong Kong society by promoting mutual understanding and co-operation between both the physically able and the physically challenged for 35 consecutive years. I and my colleagues wish them heartfelt congratulations on their anniversary and every success in their future endeavours", said Mr. Cai.

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About AXA

AXA China Region is a part of AXA Asia Pacific Holdings, a member of the global AXA Group, a worldwide leader in financial protection and wealth management. AXA has a history dating back to the early 19th century and commenced business in Hong Kong in 1986. For the year of 2006, AXA's revenues were US\$104.1 billion* and, as of 31 December 2006, its assets under management were US\$1,732.5 billion*.

* Calculated based on an exchange rate of 1 Euro = US\$1.3175.

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