



Community Engagement

HKU Faculty of Dentistry helps Indonesian helpers

4, 6, 11, 13 March 2011



The HKU Faculty of Dentistry set up temporary clinics at the Indonesian Consulate General on four days in March 2011 to provide free oral health services for 163 Indonesian domestic helpers.

The Oral Health Programme for Indonesian Domestic Helpers was a Faculty Community Oral Health Project of a group of nine BDS IV students, supervised by Dr Xiao-li Gao in collaboration with Prof Edward CM Lo, Prof Colman McGrath, and local dentists Dr Alex Chau and Dr Anthony Wong. The team gave educational talks, offered dental check-ups and treatments such as scaling and simple fillings, and distributed oral care products donated by Colgate, Oral B, and GlaxoSmithKline.

The oral health status of the 140,000 or so Indonesian domestic workers in Hong Kong is unknown. "These workers have difficulties in seeking dental care," says Dr Gao, "so our programme not only provided much-needed primary care, but our BDS students also gathered data to find out more about their oral health. In addition, our team gave the workers advice on improving the oral hygiene of elders and children under their care." At the Opening Ceremony on 6 March 2011, which was attended by the Indonesian Consul General and representatives of the Indonesian Labour Suppliers Association and Hong Kong Labour Department, Prof Lakshman Samaranayake, HKU Dean of Dentistry, said the event was a shining example of HKU's many efforts in increasing engagement between the University, community, professionals, industry, and government.

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Knowledge exchange (KE) at the HKU Faculty of Dentistry (<http://facdent.hku.hk>) aims to maintain a two-way dialogue between the Faculty and all sectors of the community. The Faculty's KE strategy, public education, and community activities form part of the Faculty's fourth mission of "engagement". We will be pleased to consider any suggestions or comments, or community/school invitations; please e-mail dentku@hku.hk