

## **Chui's Student Excellence Scheme — Ho King Chun Leadership Fund**

### **徐氏卓越學生計劃-何琮珍卓越領袖基金**

#### **Learning Report**

#### **Lau Ka Ying Tiara**

I am very grateful for the opportunity to represent the Hong Kong Girl Guides Association to attend the 2019 Helen Storrow Seminar . Helen Storrow Seminar has been held at Our Chalet in Switzerland since 1986, one of the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS) World Centres. I have become Girl Guides since I was 8 and visiting the world centers has always been my dream. A few years back, I was selected to participate in the Girl Scouts International Camp in Korea. However, I could not go eventually since I did not receive enough financial subsidies. Therefore, I am very fortunate for the subsidy from Ho King Chun Leadership Fund to support my trip.

During the seminar, I met twenty other Girl Guides from all around the world and learned about environmental issues together. I shared the environmental situation in Hong Kong and exchanged ideas of environmental measures with other representatives. Hearing different perspectives and ideas from representatives of different countries, I have inspired by their passion for the environmental issue and their innovative ways on how to cope with it. For example, representatives from Japan from last year designed recycled magnets and shopping bag with the idea of “Mottainai”. This term in Japanese conveys a sense of regret over waste and so to encourage people to "recycle, reduce and reuse”. Even after several months, I still keep in contact with my fellow participants from all over the world and share inspiration and motivation to keep working on our environmental projects.

Also, I have learned leadership practices by participating in leadership training, planning environmental projects, personal challenges, learning how to be a changemaker, etc. I got the chances to challenge something I did not try before, such as snowboarding, campfire on the snowfield, etc. Throughout these leadership activities with other representatives, I have understood more about my personal strengths and self-development. Since it was an international event organized by WAGGGS, I also learned the WAGGGS mindsets and how to use these to develop my leadership abilities, and how WAGGGS empowers women and youth as leaders for over 100 years.

My other favorite part of this seminar is the cultural exchange with all the fantastic young girl guide leaders. We lived, shared and exchanged together for a week. We shared our own cultures during the international night and Swiss nights. While it was the Chinese New Year during the week, I made a presentation on Chinese New Year and shared the Chinese food with them. It was my first time celebrating Chinese New Year abroad without my beloved family, but they were just like my sisters from around the world and we created great bonding with each other.

The Helen Storrow Seminar was not only a chance for me to connect with girl guides from around the world and learn how to be a leader but also to make a real difference to an environmental issue that affects my community. After this seminar, I will apply what I have learned during this event and initiate an environmental awareness campaign with other Girl Guides in Hong Kong. Besides, this event has inspired me to keep involving in the Girl Guiding movement and contribute to WAGGGS in the future.





