工程及醫療 義務工作協會季刊



Association for Engineering and Medical Volunteer Services

Aims

To serve the public through professional practices;

2. To arouse the concern of professionals and the public of the needs of professional service;

3. To involve professionals in volunteer services.

Motto "Social Servicing is our Object Professional Volunteering is Our Way."

Scope of Activities

- 1. Technical Aids Services to the Disabled (TASD)
- 2. Computer Aids Services for the Disabled (CASD)
- 3. Engineering Services
- 4. Medical Services
- 5. Occupational Therapy / Physiotherapy Services
- 6. Others

For more details, you are welcome to contact us at 3-7768569.



Chinese Character to Cantonese Braille Transcription Programme

In the past, blind people have to depend on their sighted counterparts to read to them books or whatever information so that they can transcribe it into braille. If more copies are needed, duplication can be made by using a thermoform machine to print the braille on braillon sheets. One alternative is to record the materials onto tapes. However, for both methods, it is time-consuming as well as manpower-consuming. Furthermore, these methods also interfere with the independence of the blind in reading and communicating with others. It is particularly worse in the case of reading and writing in Chinese.

Now, we have computer technology to help in many aspects of our daily life. Could we employ computer technology to facilitate the independence of the blind in their reading and writing? If a braille edition could be made for every publication produced, our blind fellows could then enjoy as much reading as the sighted in their own ways. It should be a most fantastic idea, shouldn't it? Nevertheless, this idea is still far from reality.

The computerization of Chinese braille is not easy. Firstly, we have to enter the Chinese characters into the computer. Then we have to distinguish those synonyms and words with the same pronunciation. We can then make use of a software to transcribe the Chinese characters into braille and make braille copies through a braille printer. The critical requirement is a software for the transcription.

In mid 1987, the Hong Kong Association of the Blind made a request to our Computer Aids Services for the Disabled for designing such a software.

After several months' hardwork, our volunteer, Mr. Edward Wong, had overcome all the technical difficulties and given the birth of this "Chinese Character to Cantonese Braille Transcription Software". The software has been on trial by the Association of the Blind for some time and is found working very satisfactorily.

Recalling the process of designing this software, Edward said that he had encountered a lot of difficulties during that period of 30 working days. For instance, there are too many Chinese characters which are different in writing but same in pronunciation. The job to identify them is difficult. They are to be screened and inappropriate pronunciation should be deleted. Besides, the software requires the backup of a huge datafile of the Chinese characters. It is indeed a great effort to get the job done.

In our visit to the Hong Kong Association of the Blind, Mr. Chong Chan-yau, the President, had demonstrated to us the use of the software to read the Chinese part of the last issue of our News Bulletin in braille.

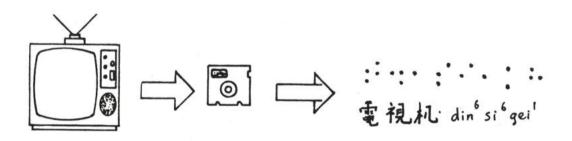
In fact, Mr. Chong is also a member of EMV. In the past, he can only 'read' EMV publications through others. Later, with the aid of computer and/or special reading equipment for blind people, he can read directly the braille version of whatever we put on a computer disk in English. Now, our service has brought such communication even a step further. With this software and appropriate hardware, whatever on a computer disk in Chinese can also be communicated directly to our blind fellows! We share as much the excitement of this successful link as Mr. Chong!

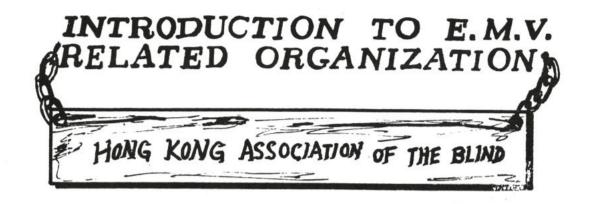
According to Mr. Chong, the most urgent task now is to expand and proofread the datafile of characters so as to optimize the effectiveness and efficiency of the transcription. He says, with this software, blind people can get access to information in Cantonese braille much much easier. He adds that the publishers can also make use of the software to produce a braille edition of their publications so that blind people can enjoy much more reading than before.

With regards the future development of this software, Edward looks forward to designing a software which can automatically delete those inappropriate words but select the right pronunciation. Such a software would be much more convenient to the users.

If we are going to explain the technical details of this software, it would be too complicated. Should any reader wish to know more about the technical information, please feel free to contact our Executive Secretary, Ms. Lam.

Thanks to Mr. Edward Wong and Mr. Chong Chan-yau for their sharing with us the above information!





History

The Hong Kong Association of the Blind was founded on 14th September, 1964. It was formerly known as the Hong Kong Blind Friends' Club.

The formation of the Association signifies the birth of a self-help movement of the blind in Hong Kong because the Association is an organization organized and managed by blind people themselves to work for the "Equality, Independence and Opportunity" of the blind.

At the first beginning, the Association's premises was at the rooftop of Block 33 of Wong Tai Sin Estate.

In 1968, the Association moved to Kowloon Caritas Centre.

In 1972, its educational services were moved to Maryknoll Sisters' Office where the Association established the then Students' Centre to provide resource support - technical aids and volunteers - for blind students. The Centre is now known as Education & Resources Centre.

In 1978, all services other than educational ones were moved to the newly established Activities Centre in Oi Man Estate granted by the government.

In 1980, the Association returned its office at the Kowloon Caritas Centre to Hong Kong Caritas and moved also to the Education & Resources Centre.

The Work of the Association

The Association has been relying on its members and volunteers to carry out its work, which are mostly educational services and social and recreational activities.

Until 1978, the government starts to subvent part of the expenses of the Association's Activities Centre. The other end of the budget has to be met by donations from the public.

At present, the Association provides a wide variety of services and activities, ranging from cultural and recreational activities, educational services, public education, public policy involvement, employment services and targeted services for the elderly blind, families of blind persons, children of blind parents, and so on. These services and activities are mainly carried out at the two units of Activities Centre and Education & Resources Centre mentioned above.

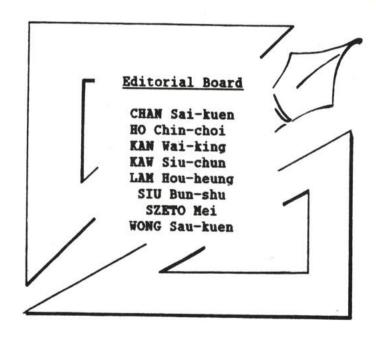
The Way Forward

The Association has been quite active in providing services for the elderly blind since they represent about 60% of the total population of blind people in Hong Kong.

Another important development of the Association worthmentioning is its Self-help Workshop. The Workshop has been established for one and a half years. Yet, it has to strive for financial independence. The Association has been seeking for support from the government for a better premises. More importantly, support is much needed from the public, especially the commercial sectors, to provide more employment opportunities for our blind counterparts. They have been working hard to earn their living, they hope to become contributory members of the society. Please give your support!

In fact, ENV has been in close contact with the Association ever since its establishment. The first example is our cooperation in our Pilot Project on "Technical Aids to the Disabled". A second example is our joint effort in producing the "Chinese Character to Cantonese Braille Transcription Programme" as introduced in this issue's 'That is the Case'.

Here, our special thanks go to Mr. Bobby Lee, Executive Secretary of the Association, who gives us the required information.





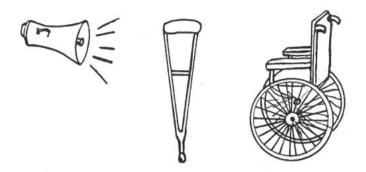
NEW VOLUNTEERS

From December to now, 16 new volunteers had joined EMV in order to serve the community with their expertise. They include

- 6 Engineers
- 1 Technician
- 4 Students
- 2 Teachers

- 1 Nurse
- 1 Physiotherapist
- 1 Clerk

If you would like to join us, please call at 3-7768569.



Special Advertisements

Seminar on

"Residual Ability Optimization thro Technical Aids"

Our Technical Aids Services to the Disabled (TASD) is going to hold a seminar on "Residual Ability Optimization thro Technical Aids" to introduce to the physically handicapped the use of technical aids. The seminar will be held

> on 29th May, 1988 (Sunday) at 2:30 - 5:00 p.m. at Kwun Tong Community Centre (Tsui Ping Road, Kwun Tong, Kowloon)

You are cordially invited to come to the Seminar

Also, please help us to disseminate this important news to you friends

Furthermore, we urgently want about 20 volunteers to help reception, decoration, photography, control of audio and visual equipment, demonstration of aids and assisting the participants in their transportation.

Please give a free hand by calling Mr. Edward TONG, our Occupational Therapist, at 3-7768569.

Special Events

88.1.23 1988 Flag Day

With the support of more than 2,000 flag sellers and other volunteers from about 100 schools and agencies, we have raised about HK\$870,000.00 from the 1988 Flag Day, including donations from individuals and corporations.

THANKS to YOU all who give us Support!

88.2.1 Orientation Day

We have 13 new members and volunteers, service teams leaders, ExCo and staff members and members of our Members & Volunteers Liaison Team attending this Orientation Day. Through photos and video appreciation, leaflets, demonstration of aids, tour around our premises, our newcomers have grasped more understanding about the historical development and activities of the Association and and become acquainted with other members and volunteers. This will no doubt be helpful for their future participation in the Association.

88.3.27 6th Annual General Business Meeting

We have held the 6th AGBM in which we have elected the new Executive Committee for 1988-90:

Chairman

Mr. E. Herbert LI

Vice-Chairman

Mr. CHAN Yuk-keung, Simon

Financial Secretary

Mr. LAW Chit-wai, Jeffrey

Committee Members

Mr. CHAN Fan

Mr. CHAN Hok-sum

Mr. CHOY Tak-cheung, Thomas

Mr. TSANG Lok-man, Albert

Also, at the pre-meeting lunch gathering, members and volunteers have enjoyed a good chat.

A Reclining Commode Chair for the Needy

Function : special chair for toiletting and toiletting

training with reclining back and raising foot rest

Target Group : severely physically handicapped children /

adolescents

Accessories : adjustable / detachable arm rest

detachable leg abductor

swing lateral trunk support swing leg support

caster with brake

Range of Movement of Back and Foot Rest: 0 - 90

If you find this chair useful to you or your organization, please call us at 3-7768569.



個票

漢字鸟音點字翻譯程式

長久以來,失明人士很多時候都需要依靠第三 者將資料誦讀給他們翻譯點字;如有需要則再將之 翻印,以便其他失明人士使用。這個過程十分繁複 ,不但需費頗多人力物力,更妨礙了失明人在閱讀 和溝通時的獨立性,這情況尤以中文為然。

現今科學進步,電腦已成為人類不可缺少的工具之一,它也可以為失明人所碰到的資料障礙提供協助嗎?試想想,如果可以在書本出版時多加一個點字版本,那麼失明人便可以跟其他人一樣閱讀任何資料,那真是天大的喜訊。可惜,這理想還很遠哩!

中文點字翻譯電腦化並不簡單,首先要將文字輸入電腦,然後將同音字及同義字分類識別,再透過一套軟件將這些文字轉成點字,最後透過點字印字機印出來。整個編印過程的關鍵在於一套軟件一一套將文字翻譯成點字的電腦程式。

在八七年中,香港失明人協進會與本會聯絡,希望與本會合作設計這樣一套軟件,經過多個月的努力耕耘,本會義工黃維字先生已成功設計了這套「漢字粵音點字翻譯程式」,經過多次校正,現已交與失明人協進會使用。

談到設計這套軟件時,黃維宇說在三十個工作 天中遇到不少困難。舉例說,中國文字的同音異字 太多,難於分別,在輸入文字時須作過濾,把不適 用的字音刪除,此外,這套軟件更需要一個龐大的 文字儲存庫來支持,在發展初期需要虛耗不少人力 物力來輸入正確的讀音及字義。

在我們訪問香港失明人協進會時,會長莊陳有 先生就給我們示範了如何利用這軟件閱讀我們上一 期季刊的中文版的粵音點字版。

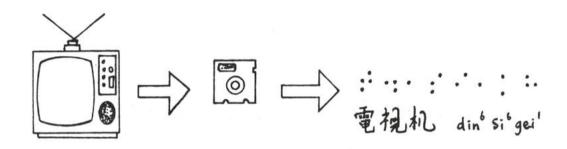
原來, 莊先生也是協會的會員哩!以往, 他只能通過其他人來'閱讀'協會的刊物。後來, 有了電腦及閱讀輔助儀器, 莊先生便可以直接以點字閱讀協會給他的電腦磁碟的英文資料。至今, 協會的服務又將與失明人的溝通帶前一步, 通過這翻譯程式, 失明朋友也可以獨立地閱讀中文資料。為此成功的聯系, 我們跟莊先生感到同樣的興奮。

莊陳有先生表示現今最迫切的是需要擴大及校正一個文字儲存庫,以期令這套軟件發揮更大的功能。他表示有了這套軟件,今後失明人要閱讀粵音點字就可以容易得多,出版商更可以利用這套軟件將書本製作點字版,使失明人可有較多機會分享到書本的樂趣。

談到將來的發展,黃維宇希望能夠設計一套能自動刪除不適用文字及選取適當讀音的軟件,使用者更覺方便。

由於若要詳細介紹這套軟件的內容將會涉及不少頗複雜的技術用語,故本文著意不提那些技術性的內容,如讀者有興趣深入瞭解這套軟件,請與本會執行秘書林巧香小姐聯絡。

鳴謝:本欄資料由香港失明人協進會會長莊陳有先生及協會義工黃維字先生提供,特此致謝!

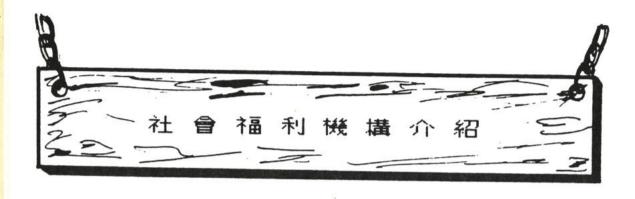


支持傷殘人士就業 我們誠意向你推薦

服務範圍 中文英文電腦打字 資料輸入數據儲存 教中文文字輸入法 展才電腦打字及其他服務

譚國村

地址:九龍朋利郅利明樓9樓926室電話:3-425331(12時至7時)



香港失明人協進會

歷史

「香港失明人協進會」成立於一九六四年九月十四日,原名是「香港失明人聯誼會」。協進會的成立正標誌著一個失明人自助運動在香港的開始,因為它是一個由失明人自行組織、管理,致力為失明人的"平等、獨立、機會"努力耕耘的團體。

最初的會址設於黃大仙三十三座天台;後於六八年遷到界限街明愛中心,至七二年將其教育服務 遷往瑪利諾修女辦事處,成立了「學生中心」,為 失明就學人士提供輔助儀器和義工服務,即現時的 「教育及資源中心」;又於七八年將其他的服務和 活動遷往政府撥予,位於愛民鄧的「活動中心」; 後因明愛中心需要徵回地方,總辦事處亦於八零年 遷入「教資中心」現址。

會務

一直以來,協進會的所有工作均全賴會員和義工合力分擔,而主要工作多集中於教育服務和文康活動。至七八年政府開始資助該會活動中心的部份經費,其餘大部份經費都要倚賴社會人士的捐資。

該會現時的服務可說十分多樣化,由文康活動 教育服務、公眾教育、政策參與,以至職業服務 和針對特定對象(如失明老人、失明人士家庭、失 明家長之子女等)的工作。這些服務活動主要是透 過上述的活動中心和教資中心提供。

明日展望

基於香港失明老人佔了失明人口總數的百份之六十以上,該會近年正積極為失明老人提供活動和服務。

另一項值得介紹的工作是該會附設於活動中心的「自助工場」, 這計劃已成立了一年半, 但在財政上仍未能自給自足, 該會現正與政府商討, 希望可獲地方, 更希望獲得更多社會人士(特別是工商企業家)的支持, 為更多的失明人提供就業機會。雖然工友們的平均收入仍未達到基本的生活水平, 但他們都堅持工作, 實能自力更生。

本會與協進會一直都有緊密的聯繫,如本會初 成立時所舉辦之「拓展傷殘人士輔助儀器計劃」, 以至本期季刊所介紹的「漢字粵音點字翻譯程式」 ,都是彼此合作的好例子哩!

鳴謝:本欄資料承蒙協進會執行秘書李波比先生提供,特別鳴謝!

15



新義工

由12月至今,共有16名新義工加入本會,用己 所長,參與服務,他們包括:

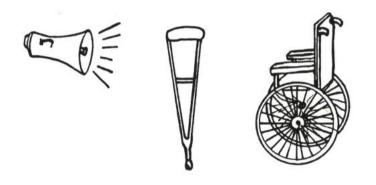
工程師	6 人
技術員	1 人
學生	4 人
教師	2 人
護士	1 人
物理治療員	1人
文員	1 人

如果你有興趣參與本會的工作,請致電3-7768569 與我們聯絡!

" 儀器助展能 "座談會

88.5.29

弱能人士輔助儀器製作服務將於 5月29日(星期日)下午二時半至五時,假座於觀塘社區中心舉行一個專為肢體傷殘人士而設的"儀器助展能"座談會。



歡迎你來參加、參與!

更希望你將這個消息廣傳開去。

現急須約20多位義工協助座談會之儀器示範、接待、音響、場地佈置、攝影及協助傷殘人士上落交通工具等工作。你有興趣參與這次工作嗎?有關詳情,請與本會的職業治療員唐永泉先生聯絡。電話:3-7768569 或 3-7785629

1988年度的賣旗日共得到來自約一百間學校及機構的二千多人士的協助,連同若干公司及個人的捐款,我們共籌得款項約八十七萬元。在此特向所有支持我們的個人和團體深表謝忱。

88.2.1

迎新日

這次迎新日共有13名新會員、義工參加,同座的還有各服務組組長、部份執行委員和職員,當然也有會員/義工聯絡組的組員。透過相片、錄影帶、文字、討論、示範、參觀等活動,讓我們的新隊員對協會的歷史和工作有較全面的認識,也透過新舊成員間互相認識,希望為新隊員未來的參與打下基礎。

88.3.27

第六屆會員大會

當天的大會順利進行了,並選出88-90年度的 新一屆執行委員會,成員包括:

主 席 李華剛先生 副主席 陳玉強先生 財 政 羅哲偉先生 葵 員 陳 帆先生 陳學深先生

蔡德祥先生 曾樂文先生

在大會之前有一個午餐短聚,會員、義工又有一次交流的好機會。

待 贈:可調校大便椅

功能:適用於如廁及用廁訓練,特設有可調校斜背

及可調升之腳踏板。

對象:嚴重肢體傷殘之兒童或成人。

配件:可調校/可拆除之扶手、轉動側身板、可拆

除之分腿墊、轉動側腿板、停掣。

斜背及腳踏板之移動範圍:0-90°

此輔助儀器如適合你或你的機構,請你致電 3-7768569與本會聯絡。





工程及醫療義務工作協會

宋 旨:

- (1) 提高社會及專業人士對專業志願服務需求的關注;
- (2) 切實為本港市民提供工程及醫療專業志願服務;
- (3) 鼓勵更多專業人士參與志願服務。

格 言: 專業技能 服務人群

服 務:

- (1) 弱能人士輔助儀器製作服務
- (2) 弱能人士電腦輔助儀器製作服務
- (3) 工程服務
- (4) 醫療服務
- (5) 職業治療/物理治療服務
- (6) 其他

如需更多資料,請與我們聯絡: 3-7768569

工程及醫療義務工作協會

Association for Engineering and Medical Volunteer Services

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3-7768569

3-7785629