**Barrier-free Access Experience Centre**

**Fact sheet**

**Background of Barrier-free Access Experience Centre**

With a rapidly increasing elderly population in Hong Kong, the number of people with mobility impairments and other disabilities is expected to rise in turn. Therefore, there is a growing need for barrier-free facilities and services.

Providing a barrier-free environment not only includes eliminating physical barriers, but also removing the barriers that exist in our minds. Meeting this deep-rooted need is the main purpose of the Barrier-free Access (BFA) Experience Centre. We hope that public education promoting social integration can help bring people closer and eliminate discrimination against people with disabilities and other people who require barrier-free facilities.

The BFA Experience Centre provides interactive experiences, problem solving exercises, and fun and inspiring activities that enable participants to understand and empathise with the plight of people with physical impairments. Also, by offering participants the chance to engage in direct communication with people with disabilities, they can recognise that disability is only a part of life but not the whole.

**Centre’s characteristics**

*Target audience*

* Staff of The Link Management Limited
* Managers and frontline staff of other shopping malls, shops, cultural centres and places of public entertainment
* Carers of people with disabilities and the elderly
* Students

*Hardware*

* Demonstration of barrier-free environment:
To demonstrate international standards of design and implementation of barrier-free facilities to management from local shopping malls, shops and public areas.
* Multi-experiential area:

**Psychological Impacts**

* create an awakening moment
* self-reflection
* inducing positive attitude and respect towards persons with disabilities

**Behavioural Change**

* learn how to interact and support persons with disabilities
* link with different partners in the community to create a barrier-free environment

**1st Hand Experience of**

* barrier-free facilities for persons with disabilities
* limitations in mobility, coordination, space and communication faced by people with disabilities
* how persons with disabilities feel and act
* Barrier-free resource centre:
To provide demonstrations and reading material, research reports and visual aids on the subjects of barrier-free access and integration to members of the public.

*Software*

* Consult local and overseas professionals on the design of barrier-free environments
* Collaborate with various organisations working for people with disabilities

*Our service*

* Training programmes
* Design and management of barrier-free environment and facilities
* Barrier-free customer service
* Disabled friendly environment
* Facilities and customer service of inclusive working place
* Removing stereotypes and labels
* Multi-professional training and seminar
* Tailor-made training programme
* Educational programmes
* Multi-dimensional experiential activities
* Outreach and educational activities
* Open day and other special events
* Tailor-made educational programme

*Features of programmes*

* Experiential learning
* Fun and inspiration
* Communication and interaction with people with disabilities
* A variety of programmes designed to meet different needs

 **About Hong Kong PHAB Association and its goals to promote**

**the BFA Experience Centre**

“Integration between people with and without disabilities” has formed part of the mission of the Hong Kong PHAB Association since 1972. In addition to integration between people with and without disabilities, integration between segments of society, including people of different ages and different socioeconomic backgrounds, should also be considered.

* Devoted to enabling people of all ages with or without disabilities to enjoy unrestricted access to all public places and facilities by removing visible barriers in the community;
* Devoted to promoting an inclusive culture and encouraging policy improvements, full access to the physical environment and better management practices in order to break the invisible barrier between people with and without disabilities.