

香港海事博物館  
HONG KONG MARITIME MUSEUM

**Tinubuang bayan s dagat**

**Perumahan di dalam laut**



香港海事博物館  
HONG KONG MARITIME MUSEUM

香港外籍傭工  
導賞手冊

GUIDEBOOK FOR  
FOREIGN  
DOMESTIC  
HELPERS

本手冊由香港城市大學創意媒體學院（「藝術與媒體策展」主修）「策展實踐」課程小組「哲人的石頭」出版  
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#### 封面設計

航船駛離家鄉，漂浮於海上，去往未知的土地。

"Tinubuang bayan s dagat"與"Perumahan di dalam laut"分別為菲律賓語與印尼語，意為「相逢江海上」

#### Cover Design

Far away from the hometown, the boat is floating on the sea to the unknown land.

"Tinubuang bayan s dagat" is Tagalog, "Perumahan di dalam laut" is Bahasa Indonesian, which both mean  
"Homeland on the sea"

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**Homeland on the sea**

**Tinubuang bayan s dagat**

**Perumahan di dalam laut**

**相逢江海上**  
香港外籍傭工活動  
導賞手冊

**Guidebook**

Public Programme  
for foreign domestic helpers  
in Hong Kong

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# Floor Plan

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## Foreword

Sea, Land, Home, Homeland.

Foreign domestic helpers are a big but invisible community in Hong Kong. We live on the same land, but their lives seem so far away from us. Restricted by identity, language, and purchasing power, they are often not active audiences but caregivers when they are visiting the museum or participating in art events. Therefore, we published *Homeland on the sea--Activity kit for Foreign Domestic Helpers*, hoping to provide them with broader options in cultural events. Make the voices and stories of them be heard and seen, and narrow the gap between this community and the locals.

From coolies to Vietnamese refugees, in the Hong Kong Maritime Museum, we learn the history of migrant workers from different historical periods. Similar to the foreign domestic helpers, migrant workers also left their hometowns and experienced the pain of family separation. Facing problems like discrimination, identity crisis, and homesickness, they are struggled to make their livings on the foreign land as "outsiders". They have no idea about when they can go back to their hometowns and don't know if the foreign land they stepped on can become their real homelands. It seems that they are a group of people who still drift on the sea and don't know where to go.

The activity kit will be divided into three main parts: "*Connection: The beginning of our story*", "*Separation: The destiny of floating*" and "*My secret land-make your own zine*". Combining the interpretation of exhibits with the stories of foreign domestic helpers, the kit mainly focuses on the migrant workers which are closely related to Hong Kong, going deeply into their unknown stories and thoughts. The ocean connects us but also separates us. Nowadays, we are watching a new wave of migrant workers and refugees. There are many issues that are waiting for us and the world to note, think, and take actions. Maybe one day, it will be our turn to experience the life as an outsider, will we share the same feelings at that time? The participants could use the working sheet to make the mini ZINE, draw and write down their own stories.

We hope this project could provide foreign domestic helpers with better engagement and a platform to tell their stories and encourage other participants to pay attention to the current situation of migrant workers. Hope Hong Kong can become a harbour with more warmness, equality and humanistic care that can embrace diversity and the difference.

## 前言

Sea, Land, Home, Homeland.

外籍家庭傭工是香港社會中一個龐大卻隱形的群體，我們共同生活在這片土地上，但是她們的生活似乎離我們十分遙遠。受制於身份，語言和消費能力，她們往往不是作為一位主動的觀眾來到博物館或者參與其他文化活動。由此我們推出「相逢江海上——外籍家庭傭工活動手冊」，希望借此機會為外籍家庭傭工提供更多的文化活動選擇。讓外籍家庭傭工的生活得到了解，拉近她們與社區的距離。

從碼頭苦力到越南難民，在香港海事博物館中，我們常常可以看到跨國移民勞工的歷史。如同外籍家庭傭工，他們也都背井離鄉，與親人分離，作為「異鄉人」在異國的土地上艱難的生存工作，也同樣面對著歧視，身份焦慮和思鄉的問題。他們不知道何時才能回到屬於自己的家鄉，也不知道他們踏上的土地是否能真正成為他們的家鄉，雖然身在陸地，卻彷彿終日漂泊於海上，不知歸處。

本導賞手冊由「連結：故事的開始」，「分離：漂泊的命運」與「我的秘密基地－製作屬於自己的 Zine」三個主要部分構成。這本手冊將對展品的解讀和外傭的個人故事相結合，主要聚焦於從古至今與香港密切相關的跨國勞工群體，走進他們不為大眾所了解的生活故事和思緒。海洋將世界聯結亦將世界分離。如今，我們正在目睹新的「移民浪潮」與「難民浪潮」的興起，種種問題正等待我們和世界去關注、思考並付諸行動。或許某天，我們也會成為某地的「異鄉人」，那時我們是否會和他們有著相同的體會？觀眾可以使用手冊中附帶的手工紙製作自己的微型書，記述屬於自己的故事。

我們希望，通過閱讀使用這本導賞手冊，外籍家庭傭工可以擁有更好的博物館體驗和表達的平台。希望可以引導其他參觀者關注跨國勞工群體的生活現狀，走進彼此，相互關懷，相互幫助。期待香港成為一個更加溫暖，平等，充滿人文關懷的港灣。

The body of contents of this book is mainly in English for welcoming more foreign domestic helpers to participate in the programme.

# Chapter One

## Connection: The beginning of our story

The maritime trade between Southeast Asia and China developed without ceasing from the past to the present. The ocean was the origin of our communication with the Philippines and Indonesia. The maritime trade route was not only a shipping line for exchanging goods, labors, and techniques but also had left many stories that have cultural impact. Along the maritime trade route, let us discover the beginning of the connection between our homelands through the history of the crews, explorers, and merchants.

BAB 1-- Hubungan:  
Awal dari kisah kita

Unang kabanata--Koneksyon:  
ang simula ng ating kwento



### Exhibit 1

Display model of 9th century  
Indonesian oceangoing boat  
Rich Creation International, Hong Kong 2005, Wood

**Location: Deck C1**



### Introduction

During the Tang Dynasty, China had direct maritime trade with Indonesia. Borobudur boats were often used by the Indonesian crew. The model of 9th century Indonesian oceangoing boat is a wooden double outrigger sailboat that is imitated from ship depicted on some reliefs on Borobudur stupas. The function of the outriggers is to stabilize the ship.



### Do you know that?

Except for Borobudur boats, do you know any other traditional vessel types that have been commonly used in the history of Southeast Asia?

### Karakoa



Without nails, Karakoa was a traditional large outrigger warship made from the Philippines. The average Karakoa was 25 meters long, with three masts, and was capable of carrying 100 oarsmen and warriors.

Karakoas were distinct from other traditional Philippine sailing vessels in that they were equipped with platforms for transporting warriors and for fighting at sea. They were mainly used as warships and troop transports during the traditional seasonal sea raids or piracy. While in peacetime, they became trading ships.

## Kora-kora



Kora-kora was a traditional canoe from the Moluccas Islands of Indonesia.

It was approximately 10 meters long and extremely narrow, quite open, low, and weighs about 4 tons. There were outriggers of bamboo about 5 feet off each side, which supported a bamboo platform extending the whole length of the vessel. The middle portion of the boat was covered with a thatch-house, in which baggage and passengers were stowed.

Nowadays, Ternate in North Maluku holds the Kora-kora Festival in December, an annual marine event to promote traditional Kora-kora ships as an important part of its regional history and culture.

## Observe the Chinese traditional warship in the museum:

Why are these traditional vessels designed into different shapes?

If you were to design a ship, what function would you focus on?



## Exhibit 2

The voyage of Zheng He

Location: Deck C1



## Introduction

In Ming Dynasty, under the command of the emperor, the Chinese Muslim explorer Zheng He (also known as Sanbao), with about 200 boats and 20,000 crews, did seven far-reaching ocean voyages and had been to over 30 countries and islands. It was the largest maritime voyage in the world at that time, 80 years earlier than that Columbus found the America.

From Southeast Asia to East Africa, the voyage of Zheng He promoted communication in culture, trade, and politics between China and many countries, which left numerous interesting stories.



Why do many Chinese people who live in Indonesia regard Zheng He as a god?

This is because the early overseas Chinese traveled to Indonesia by ships. When sailing on the sea, their lives were not guaranteed. They could only pray for the gods to protect their journey. Zheng He was able to solve the danger and sailed smoothly every time in his voyages, which meant a miracle to overseas Chinese. Thus he was regarded as a god that can do everything.

## The Explorers in the Foreign Country

Explorers are not the legend that only appeared in history but also living beside us every day. Long long way to Hong Kong, it's a tough choice to support families and achieve their ideal life but also an exciting adventure in a different land with various new things and cultures.

Foreign domestic helpers are also great explorers in Hong Kong, do they find anything interesting? mysterious? disappointing? From their dreams and life experiences in Hong Kong, the new connection is established between Hong Kong and their homelands.

### "I want to open my own store."

May pulled out a lemon-yellow shirt from her bag and showed it to us proudly.

**"When I finish my 6 years contract, I will go back to my home and open my clothing shop. I now often buy clothes in Hong Kong and send them back to my home. When I go back to my hometown, I can still do it. I love these clothes."**



May comes to Hong Kong not only to earn tuition for her son but also wants to earn the fund for her own business. Her wishes represent many foreign domestic helpers in Hong Kong. Some of them plan to open a laundry shop or a bakery, some buy the lands and want to build their own houses, while others want to go to another country. Hong Kong is only the starting point of their bright future.



When asked them why they came to Hong Kong, the most common answer was the good salary. However, if you're willing to ask further, you'll get various answers.

**"I love winter. The Philippines has no winter. Only summer."**

**"I can buy lots of things in Hong Kong. And Hong Kong is beautiful."**

**"I like Jackie Chan. So I want to come to Hong Kong."**

**"I can do and experience things that I can't do in my hometown."**

**"There is a day off in Hong Kong. Hong Kong is not as strict as Singapore. We can do what we want to do on our holidays."**

The "one day-off per week" policy is also one of the main reasons for them to choose Hong Kong.

On this day, they are travelers. They explore different corners of the city and have a taste of exotic beauty. Hong Kong is also a shopping paradise for them. They can buy shoes and clothes which are rare to see in their hometowns. They can also enjoy famous snacks such as curry fish balls and egg puffs like every tourist. Before they go back to the "home", they can always buy bubble tea from Share Tea (歌腳亭).

**Great explorers!**  
*Where is the destination for your next adventure?*



### Exhibit 3

The maritime trade route

Location: Deck C1



### Introduction

The maritime trade route was used for both of commodity trade and cultural exchange activities between ancient China and other countries. Filipino and Chinese businessmen started the trade through the route, which was important for marine transportation of porcelains, hardware, spices, herbs, gems and so on.



### A beginning to know about each other

Early before the voyage of Zheng He, a history book about the Song Dynasty firstly recorded the communication between China and the Philippines. It said that boats from the Philippines loaded many valuable goods and stopped at the coast of Guangzhou(China's southern city). From then, many Chinese boats shipped there and they learned that the life of the local Philippines to boil the seawater for salt and use bamboo to make cloth and recorded it in *Song Shi* (China's ancient book recording the history of the Song Dynasty).

「要想富，須往貓裡務」

**"If you want to become rich, you need to go to the Maoliwu of the Philippines."**

貓裡務 (菲律賓布里亞斯島在中國明朝時的稱呼)

Maoliwu (the Chinese name of the Burias island in Ming dynasty)

This is a lyric from a folk song that is famous among the businessmen of Quan Zhou (a coastal city in southeast China) at that time. Before the Ming dynasty, there were thousands of businessmen traveling from Fujian (a province in southeast China) to the Philippines, many of them even settled at there. They exchanged local goods such as yellow wax and pearl in the Philippines with silk, porcelain, and iron.

### Do you know that?

#### Cinnamon Merchants

Southeast Asia's trade with China and India occurred mainly in the Malay Peninsula and southern Vietnam. Merchants carried various products, such as cloves, cinnamon, cardamom, and pepper from one place to another and crossed thousands of miles. Malay sailors were recorded that they had engaged in the cinnamon trade since B.C. Cinnamons from southern China were shipped to Indian markets or were sold to western Asian and Mediterranean markets through Malay trading posts in East Africa. Therefore, Malay sailors were called "Cinnamon merchants" by historians. Meanwhile, Indian and Chinese businessmen also began to engage in Southeast Asian trade actively as the coastal ports gradually prospered.

How do you use it in your daily life?

Is there any special way to use

cinnamon in your country?





## Chapter Two

# Separation: The destiny of floating

As an important port and a city with diversity, Hong Kong is significant in the maritime migration of Asia. From coolies to Vietnamese refugees, the stories of migrant workers, living in the foreign life behind the historical event will be shown in this chapter. The tough works day-after-day, the anxiety of humble status and low-class, the discrimination from locals, homesickness...Through the history and the stories behind, we are going to understand their joy, sorrow, nostalgia, and anticipation as well as the cultural impact on different regions brought by migrant workers. From now on, let us rethink the issues and current situation of migrant workers, is the world getting better or not?

BAB 2-- Pemisahan:  
Tujuan dari mengambang

Pangalawang kabanata-- paghihiwalay:  
ang kapalaran ng lumulutang



### Exhibit 4, 5 & 6

*Coolies: Behind the floating hell*

4. "The cook" "The doctor" and "The banker", "Arrive at Hong Kong" and "Chinese passengers from Singapore to Hong Kong"  
W.R, from sketches by JF. The graphic, 14 November 1885  
Intaglio print on paper

5. "Chinese cheap labor" in Louisiana- Chinamen at work on the Milloudon Sugar Plantation  
J.P. Every Saturday, vol. 3, 29 July 1871  
Wood engraving on paper

6. Chinese emigration to America: sketch on board the steamship Alaska, bound for San Francisco  
AH (probably A. Hunt), extra supplement, illustrated London News, 29 April 1876  
Hand coloured wood engraving on paper

**Location: Deck C4**

### Introduction

From the mid-19th century, hundreds of thousands of poor Chinese people from Guangdong province and Fujian province were shipped to America as labours because of the "Goldrush". They were sold to America when they were young and strong but were exploited till death under the long-term tough working. Facing the increasing racial attacks and discrimination, most of the workers spent their whole lives in a foreign country as the low-class and the outsiders.

### The American dream of "piglets"

"Piglets" (猪仔) refers to the Chinese contracted labour tricked to work abroad and badly treated as pigs.

The word comes from a Cantonese slang which means "being deceived", the reality is totally different from the imagination. After the Americans discovered the gold mine in San Francisco, they were short of laborers for mining, so they planned to import a large number of cheap labor from China. The Chinese, attracted by the possibility of getting rich, boarded the ship to the "Gold Mountain" as a slave. However, they didn't realize the realities will be the terrible conditions on the ship, the abuse of capitalists, the endless working and only 1/3 of the wages of white workers.



## Do you know that?

### "Keno" and "Pakapoo"

Many people know that Keno (基諾彩票) is a popular gambling game in the United States. In fact, Keno was originated from a Chinese lottery game called Pakapoo (白鴿票), literally "white dove ticket".



*Veikkaus Keno, photo by Santeri Viinamäki*

Chinese coolies brought this game to the west when they helped to build the railroad in America. At that time, their wages were low, "Pakapoo" was one of their few affordable leisure activities. Later, the Chinese characters on the ticket were replaced with numbers, which has gradually become the American lottery "Keno" today, also called the "Chinese Lottery."

### Cantonese opera in the United States

Cantonese opera came to North America with Cantonese migrant workers. In the days of the "Goldrush", Cantonese opera had been staged for Chinese workers in gold mine camps. Whether under the hostility of the local people or the press of the *Chinese Exclusion Act* (a United States federal law which prohibits all immigration of Chinese labour), Cantonese opera has always been a spiritual force for Chinese immigrants in the United States which supported them to overcome the tough time. In this way, Cantonese opera has become the most international Chinese opera and part of the American music history, it also formed its own unique exotic style in a foreign land.

*Have you found any forms of art or entertainment in other countries that have some similar features with that in your hometown?*

## Life of foreign domestic helpers in Hong Kong

# The Priceless and Joyful Time

One of the strongest parts of human is that we can always create things to make our life more enjoyable and colorful even in a tough situation. The label of domestic helpers limits the imagination of many people about this group. Many people's impression of this community is "people who are good at doing housework" but they ignore their hobbies and artistic passion.

People usually complain about Sunday's gathering of foreign domestic helpers. However, without a private room or venue, the only thing left for them is the free public space. Only on this day, in those areas, they can be free and enjoy the shiny moments for entertainment and leisure.

## Variety is the spice of life



*May showed us the embroidery she was about to complete.*

"Sarah Geronimo!" **Rebecca** excitedly told us about this name. "Every Filipino would get excited when heard her name. She is the most famous one."

We are unfamiliar with this singer, but her song is a hot topic among the Filipino helpers. In fact, they have many personal interests, but people just rarely asked. Their lives are much richer than our imagination.

On Sunday, those who share common interests would gather together. Some come with microphones and megaphones, sitting in the tent and singing karaoke. Different small groups practice their dance with YouTube tutorials. Some follow the music and rehearse their model show. You can see them wearing stylish sunglasses and practicing their pose. Some prefer a quiet and peaceful life, they just sit there watching others and making some handcrafts. There are also groups for art lovers. Sometimes they go out and sketch together.



There is a Filipino dance troupe in the Central. They wear the same uniforms, with professional music equipment and a dance instructor. When dancing, they all enjoy the joy of showing their charm and self-confidence. **Bernadette**, the representative of the group, shared with us that they rehearsed their dances every week in the open space of Central. They participate in both large and small-scale dance competitions of the Filipino helpers dancing group. They are also invited by the local community in Hong Kong to do the opening dance of the basketball game. They have their Facebook and upload their dance videos to attract people who love dance to join them.

## "Central is not my favorite."

When thinking of the gathering of foreign domestic helpers, many people think of the overpass, Central, and Victoria Park. But these are not their favorite places in Hong Kong.

Even though they only have one day off, they still have a great plan for it.

Go to church with friends to pray, take photos at Star Ferry, dance Zumba in the park, chat in the McDonald, go hiking, and travel to Macau and the Mainland.



**"Saigon! Beach! I often go to BBQ with my friends. We will bring juice and wine and so on. We don't buy any takeaway foods. We bring raw meat and vegetables and cook it there. "**

**Bernadette** loves the beach in Hong Kong where they share food, chat and swim in the sea. She enjoys the breeze by the seaside. She can just watch passers-by and talk to her friends. They often gather in Central simply because there is enough space for them to meet their relatives and friends. Despite the conditions not that well, on that day, at that place, they belong to themselves. And that's the only thing that matters.



## Exhibit 7

### *The Coolie Trad*

Metal plates for coolies of Lo Hung Keo stevedore, iron hooks, and a wooden case for holding the "tally sticks"

Hong Kong, early 20th century

**Location: Deck B4**



## Introduction

The Chinese phrase 「苦力」(coolie) is commonly understood as "hard labour". The coolie-slave trade flourished in the 19th century. Some of these labours were deceived or kidnapped to signed injustice contracts, some sold themselves to pay off debts, some were voluntary to go to get rid of poverty. That was the beginning of a life with the endless nightmare, they were first imprisoned in a dark and crowd "coolies houses"(豬仔館) and were marked on the naked body.



The living condition during the voyage was so bad that coolies have no human rights at all. Overload, epidemic, lack of food and water...Most of the time Chinese workers could only stay on the bottom of the ship and were put into bamboo cages. They were badly treated by crews and even killed by them. The mortality rate on the coolie ship was high, so the coolie ships were also called "floating hells". Under such cruel circumstances, they still attempted to survive and realize their dreams.

## Do you know that?

### "Gold Mountain Trade" and remittances

The biggest expectation of coolie was to send money or a letter back home. At the time, Hong Kong was the largest interchange for overseas remittance, numerous banks and 「金山莊」 in Sheung Wan and Central were doing this job.

Living a thrifty life, coolies in America could send home an average of thirty dollars per year. In addition to supporting their families, these remittances also contributed to the economic foundation of Hong Kong.



Today, Hong Kong is still the bridge connecting overseas labour and their homelands. In the World-Wide House, it's common to see that the foreign domestic helpers are waiting in a long line for sending their salary home.



### Red headscarf

Apart from men who were sold as coolies, in the early 1920s, hundreds of thousands of women from Samshui (a district of Guangzhou) went to Southeast Asia alone and worked at construction sites in Singapore. During the work, Samshui women always wore a square red headscarf.

The red headscarf could prevent the sands and ashes from the construction site from staining the hair and can also prevent the sunburnt and rain. At construction sites, workers often threw away waste materials from high places. The bright red colour was easy for other workers to avoid accidental injuries. On the other hand, it was easier for their fellows from the same village to recognize and take care of each other with the red headscarf. As time passes, the red headscarf has become the symbol of Samshui women.

For Samshui women, the homesickness was the hardest to bear. The letter writers at Upper Chin Chew Street (豆腐街) was where they went most often because most of them can't read or write. Through these home letters, the "Red headscarf" who had no money to go home experienced countless comfort, death, and parting.

*If you are going to leave home to a foreign land for a long time, what do you want to bring with you as a talisman to memorize your hometown?*

## Life of foreign domestic helpers in Hong Kong

# The Member of the City or A Forever Outsider

This is a group of people who are playing an important role in two families. Because of the nationalities, they may always be considered as the outsiders of Hong Kong. Because of the distance, they can not easily go back to their real families across the sea. When the memories of homelands fade away with time, and when the hometowns are not the places of comfort, where are their homes? The nostalgia is the forever bittersweet for migrant workers from the past to the present, although they can not company with their families, they always try their own ways to express their love and miss. And they won't feel that lonely on this strange land because they often have a strong community and reliable friends to support each other.

## Video Call

Thousands of miles away from home, the video call becomes an important way for them to keep in touch with their families. On Sundays, no matter in the subway, or the overpasses, or the parks, we can always see them making video calls with their beloved person.

**Rebecca**, who has been in Hong Kong for almost one year, missing her daughter so much that she makes a video call with the girl every day after finishing her job. She shares her mood and what happens each day with her daughter.



**"My own child grows but I'm not around, and my job is to take care of other children. I just think it is a positive way which is for her better future. And on the other side, I can give her not just her needs but also some of her wants. It's a different matter. And seeing her smile when she gets it is priceless."**

The reality is far different from the expectation, but love can always hold people together. Although she can't be there with her daughter, she wants her to know that she will always love her. For them, the video call is no longer just about communication, but also for connecting them with their beloved family.

**"Well I will miss lots of things here in HK, but as the saying goes there is no place like home...be with your loved ones is everyone's dream."**

## Chocolate

Foreign domestic helpers always buy different gifts for their families, such as milk powder, shower gel, coffee and so on. Then they pack all the things in a box and take it to the World-Wide House to send it back home. Although clothes and shoes are popular gifts, nothing can compare with chocolate.

**"I buy chocolate for my son every time. Only chocolate. It can make him really happy."**

Filipino love chocolate, especially children. A package without chocolate is not perfect. That is because, in the Philippines, chocolate is rather expensive, only the rich or middle-class can afford it. After they get their salary, they need to pay the agency first and send the rest back home. They don't have much money left on their own. Still, they want to buy something for their families. Chocolate is not that expensive so it's one of the best gift that they can afford.



They cannot afford the plane ticket, but they can let the chocolate fly over the sea for them to make up for the missing companionship.

# Happy Birthday to you

**"I'm so blessed that the family I've worked for is so kind that they treat me like a family. And on my every birthday they prepare special food with cake just like how I celebrate my special day in the Philippines."**

**Rebecca** told us, this is the moment that she feels Hong Kong is her home. Although not all the employers would celebrate their birthdays, they have their own birthday ceremonies.

Near the Star Ferry, we met a group of Filipino helpers who were having a birthday celebration. They bought a 6-inch cake and each of them prepared a can of soda.



They gathered around and sang the happy birthday song to the birthday girl. They sang it in Tagalog but shared the same tune with us. They took a selfie together with the cake, just like every girl in the town.

Most of the foreign domestic helpers can only return home once a year, and some even return once every two years. Most of their important days are spent with friends in Hong Kong. They support each other and become the families even if they are not related by blood. How could the families not celebrate the birthday for their members? Even if they need to share the small cake with 7 people, you still can see the joy from their faces.



## Exhibit 8

*Escaping by water--The Vietnamese refugee*  
"Vietnamese boat people":  
the ship Skyluck aground and sinking on Lamma Island Hong Kong

**Location: Deck B4**



## Introduction

"Bắt đầu từ nay" is a Vietnamese phrase means "From now on". This Vietnamese phrase was famous in 1988 when the Hong Kong government adopted a *Comprehensive Plan of Action* to separate political refugees (classified as refugees) from economic refugees (classified as "boat people"). The boat people were considered as illegal immigrants and had no right to be sent to the third country.



The RTHK radio broadcasted in Vietnamese every night to announce the new policy and began with the phrase "Bắt đầu từ nay". It became the Vietnamese phrase that many Hong Kong people could speak and it was also the collective memory of Hong Kong people for Vietnamese.

"From now on", a term means the unknowns of future life. For some, they may finally have a new life in a strange city. For others, they lose their last hopes and have to step on drifting life again.

As the last closed camp shut down in 2000, the wave of Vietnam refugees has come to an end, but today, there still are many "Asylum seeker" (尋求庇護者) from different countries have stayed in Hong Kong for more than a decade, struggling to survive and waiting for a long approval process for a refuge identity. Of the 30,000 claims received at the Immigration Department, only 99 were officially approved.

## Do you know that ?

### "Pho" and "Banh Mi"



Many people know about Vietnamese iconic food "Pho" (Vietnamese beef noodles) but few are curious about the story behind it. Vietnamese noodles always have many bean sprouts. These bean sprouts were not originally intended for flavoring.

At that time, many Vietnamese fled from their hometowns, they couldn't afford to buy too many noodles, so they added a lot of cheap bean sprouts to feed the hunger. Another representative food is "Banh Mi" (Vietnamese sandwich). It became popular because it is easy to make and carry. These features adapt to the needs of people who were fleeing.

In the refugee camps, even if there were many arguments between the southerners and the northerners, it was difficult for them to give up the common food memories. As they escaped to different countries, they also brought the two foods around the world. For us, it's just the food. But for them, a bowl of "Pho" with sprouts and a pig liver sauce sandwich is their unspeakable nostalgia.

### If the land is safe enough, why do they escape to the unknown sea?

Nowadays, a new wave of refugees is sweeping the world, there are too many questions around this community waiting for us to figure out. How to solve this issue through the international cooperation? Where is the balance between humanitarian and national resource allocation? The problems of Vietnamese refugees are still far away from being solved.

# My Secret land

## - Make your own ZINE! -

At the end of the tour, we would like to invite you to create your own ZINE, a self-made mini-book, to draw and write down your stories in foreign lands, to find that we are always connected by the same joyful and nostalgia feelings. Share us with your amazing homeland and the adventures that you experienced in the other lands, establishing the re-connection between our lands.

### Try it !

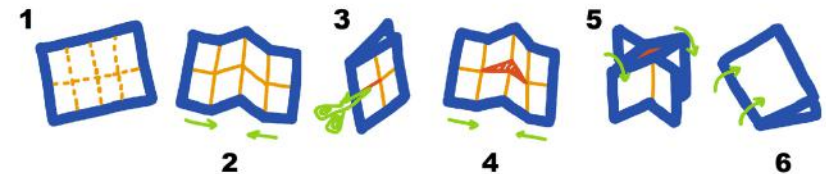
1. Follow the questions on the ZINE sheet, draw and write down your stories in foreign lands.
2. Follow the instruction below to fold the working sheet into a ZINE form.

*After finishing, you can:*

Bring back home with you.

Exchange with others.

## Instruction



# Your Notes



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- "Cantonese opera in the United States": <https://reurl.cc/R4XDIG>
- "Pho and Banh Mi": [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nQ7S6OMrv\\_s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nQ7S6OMrv_s)

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- Page 7–Engraving of a karakoa from The Discovery and Conquest of the Molucco and Philippine Islands (1711) by Bartolomé Leonardo de Argensola, translated into English by John Stevens. {{PD–HK}}: [https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/0/0b/Caracoa\\_%28Karakoa%29.jpg](https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/0/0b/Caracoa_%28Karakoa%29.jpg)
- Page 8–Een kora–kora met grootzeil, ©JohannesVingboons, Atlas Blaeu–Van der Hem : [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Een\\_kora–kora\\_met\\_grootzeil.jpeg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Een_kora–kora_met_grootzeil.jpeg)
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接受我們採訪並提供慷慨幫助的外傭朋友

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Christin	who has been working in HK for 2 years
Dahlia	who has been working in HK for 10 months
May	who has been working in HK for 4 years
May	who has been working in HK for 6 years
Monica	who has been working in HK for 1 year
Rebecca	who has been working in HK for 1.5 years
Rose	who has been working in HK for 6 years
Susan	who has been working in HK for 31 years

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**Thanks for joining the Programme Homeland on the Sea.**

**Please help us to finish the following feedback form to support our further improvement. Thank you very much for your help.**

<https://forms.gle/A7Vq1j94KTRG3b7G8>



