The Secretary for Home Affairs, Mr Tsang Tak-sing, today (September 6) presented commendation certificates to 37 volunteer leaders of 11 youth uniformed groups in recognition of their commitment to promoting youth training and development over the years.

Mr Tsang said during the presentation ceremony, "Over the years, the uniformed groups have been nurturing young people with dedication through challenging and inspiring programmes and providing guidance to encourage youths to think independently, explore their potential and build up their self-confidence. Through such work, the uniformed groups have helped Hong Kong nurture generations of young leaders. In this process, the officers, leaders and mentors of the uniformed groups have devoted their invaluable time and effort to inspire every member through their words and deeds."

He said he hoped that the commendation scheme could give recognition to the volunteer leaders for their contributions and encourage more youngsters to join the uniformed groups to take part in volunteer work and pass on the volunteer leaders' spirit of serving the community so as to build a better Hong Kong.

He said the uniformed groups had always been good partners of the Home Affairs Bureau (HAB) in promoting youth development. Members of the uniformed groups have participated in the Service Corps programme launched by the HAB this year. They will depart for the Mainland later this week to provide volunteer services for six months.

To further promote youth participation in the uniformed groups and sustain the good results of last year's event, Uniformed Groups Day will be held again in November this year. Mr Tsang said he hoped the uniformed groups would actively participate in the function to showcase their unique characteristics and promote healthy youth activities to members of the public.

All the volunteer leaders commended in the ceremony have been providing services for a long time in their respective uniformed groups. All of them have served in their groups for at least 10 years, and among them nine have been serving for 30 years or more.

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