



HKQAA Symposium 2018

Social Capital: A New Perspective for Social Responsibility and Sustainable Economy

Dr Wingco LO

Vice-chairman of the Promotion and Development Sub-committee Community Investment & Inclusion Fund



An illustrative case: a chain fast-food restaurant group

- collaborated with an NGO to connect with ethnic minorities
- offered job opportunities for ethnic minorities
- provided these new recruits with training in Chinese language and career skills
- arranged cultural sensitivity workshop for current staff
- arranged social cohesion activities within the restaurant group





An illustrative case: a chain fast-food restaurant group

- promoting social cohesiveness has become a new model for fulfilling corporate social responsibility
- applying the same model to homemakers in the community offering parttime positions to homemakers
- WIN-WIN-WIN solution for sustainable economy







How did it happen?

- Defining a corporate objective greater than the business itself
- Embracing Cross-sectoral Collaboration
- Meeting Corporate Social Responsibility through Social Capital Building
- Achieving Sustainable Development and Economic Prosperity





Community Investment & Inclusion Fund (CIIF)

CIIF

- 0 Established in 2002
- ② Seeks to build social capital

Objectives

- Promote community participation, mutual aid and assistance, support and social inclusion, and strengthen networks in the community
- ② Encourage and facilitate cross-sectoral collaboration

Community : Target of support, building a caring and sustainable community Community Investment : Philosophy behind the funding approach Social Inclusion : End result, through various means like "mutual support"



What is Social Capital?

- Institutions, relationships and norms that shape the quality and quantity of a society's social interactions*
- ② Critical for societies to prosper economically and for development to be sustainable



* Source: The World Bank



Four main drivers of social development in modern societies*



Social capital:

Increasing social cohesion is the soft power of a society's sustainable development



Cultural capital





Economic capital

Human capital

*Bourdieu, P. (1986) *The forms of capital.* In J. Richardson (Ed.) *Handbook of Theory and Research for the Sociology of Education*. New York: Greenwood, pp.241-258.



Six Core Dimensions of Social Capital *:





Meeting Social Responsibility through Social Capital Building

✓ Social Responsibility

 ✓ Social Capital as a cause and consequence of Corporate Social Responsibility





Meeting Social Responsibility through Social Capital Building

Triple Bottom Line (Elkington, 1994)

- **1. Economic** prosperity and continuity for the business and its stakeholders
- **2. Social** well-being and equity for both employees and affected communities
- **3.** Environmental protection and resource conservation both local and global.





Meeting Social Responsibility through Social Capital Building

- ✓ Social Responsibility
- Social Capital as a cause and consequence of Corporate Social Responsibility *
 - Social networks helps enhance communication with external and internal stakeholders
 - Building trust in the community helps ensure compliance with environmental requirements, rational and economical use of natural resources

*Vveinhardt, J., Andriukaitiene, R., Cunha, L.M. (2014) "Social Capital as a cause and consequence of Corporate Social Responsibility ", *Transformations in Business and Economics*, 13(2A(32A)): 483-505



What is Corporate Social Capital?

 Investments in social capital that can help build trust between the firm and its stakeholders and, thereby, can improve the performance of the firm.







Corporate Social Capital Growth Curve

- 0 Basic Development
- ② Fair Development
- ③ Good Development
- ④ Excellent Development





Corporate Social Capital Growth Curve





Social Capital and Sustainable Economy

- Sustainable development is the "simultaneous pursuit of economic prosperity, environmental quality and social equity" (Elkington, 1997)
- ✓ Triple Bottom Line
- **1.** Economic prosperity and continuity for the business and its stakeholders
- **2. Social** well-being and equity for both employees and affected communities
- **3.** Environmental protection and resource conservation both local and global.



Social Capital and Sustainable Economy

- ✓ Social capital building as a way of achieving social and economic prosperity:
 - engages internal and external stakeholders
 - adopts a new perspective of managing business and social impacts
 - enhances social inclusion, social participation, communication and mutual trust





Social Capital and Corporate Values

In building social capital, both corporates and the society can reap ample returns:

- Boost employees' confidence, capacity and morale;
- Burnish corporate image and enhance reputation;
- Promote harmony in families and communities;
- Instill a sense of responsibility in our future generations;
- Invest in fostering physical, mental and spiritual wellness; build mutual trust and support networks; and inculcate positive values;
- Transfer professional skills and knowledge and promote exchanges of ideas;
- Achieve synergy through collaboration among different sectors; and
- Achieve social and economic prosperity.



Thank You



18