

2,300 walkers benefit the preventably blind by stepping out at Orbis's 18th Walk for Sight

Held every year since 2000, Orbis Walk for Sight once again attracted a bumper field of around 2,300 compassionate individuals and family members. Held at Tai Tam Country Park, the 2017 event was a huge success, raising nearly HK\$2,000,000 in support of Orbis's global sight-restoring work. During the previous 17 years, the annual walkathon has recruited over 48,000 participants to support Orbis's cause, generating some HK\$38,000,000 in support of various worldwide blindness fighting initiatives.

The World Health Organization estimates that there are currently around 285,000,000 visually impaired people worldwide. If these people represented a nation, it would be the fourth largest population in the world. In striving to overcome such an enormous challenge, Orbis and its volunteers and donors are continually doing everything possible to enhance their sight-restoring capabilities.

The VIP guests at the 2017 walk's opening ceremony officially kicked started the event by putting coins into a cheer box and sharing participants' blessings of light and vision with visually impaired people everywhere. Expressing her heartfelt thanks to those who turned out in the surprisingly chilly late Spring weather to walk, **Ms. Mary Lau, Director of Development, Orbis China and Hong Kong** said: "We are delighted to welcome 2,300 walkers to our latest walkathon. Their kindness and compassion will ensure we can continue to spread the blessings of light by sharing desperately-needed state-of-the-art skills with local medical professionals across the developing world. Thank you all for enabling us to take such giant strides forward for the visually impaired as they travel the often rocky road to sight recovery. We would once again like to extend our gratitude to Hong Kong International School for sponsoring such an inspiring venue, and to our sponsors and volunteers for their typically selfless support."

This year's walkathon included a choice of pleasant 6kms walks for families and more challenging 10km hikes for experienced walkers. A fun-packed post-event carnival made the day doubly memorable and meaningful for everyone who came along.

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