

Thumbs up for Hong Kong

To conclude this section, we look at surveys which explore how Hongkongers feel about their home. They reveal what respondents feel most strongly about, and the special tastes, sights and sounds which they think reflect the city's essence.

Core values

Several surveys have been run by HKFYG over the years to track changing attitudes and values. When asked what mattered, a 2002 survey revealed that the three most fundamentally held values held were freedom (44%), incorruptibility (35%) and fairness (34%). Two years later, in 2004, a second survey's findings showed that they had most confidence in diligence, the rule of law and – once again – incorruptibility. Ten years later, when invited to rate their confidence level with respect to the preservation of values, on a scale of 0-100, youth's confidence in diligence was rated highest, at 72 points on average, followed by rule of law at 69 points, and incorruptibility at 65 points. Confidence in freedom, justice, respect, equality, fairness and trust were all over 60 points.

Widespread concerns

However, today there is widespread concern in the community about the independence of the judiciary and the separation of powers, pillars on which the rule of law rests. In the surveys, 54% said the worsening poverty gap made them feel unhappy and 45% were annoyed by high property prices. Others were concerned about high pressure at work (36%), poor constitutional development (24%), and poor environmental quality (22%).

Outstanding icons

Which outstanding icons do young people single out as essential symbols of Hong Kong? The results in the 2013 HKFYG Very Hong Kong survey varied widely, from heritage and the harbour, Ocean Park and the Golden Bauhinia, to landmarks, certain public figures, freedom of speech, and the International Finance Centre. Some homely items were typical foods and red-white-blue plastic bags, without which Hong Kong would no longer be the home we know and love.

Best features

What pleases Hong Kong youth most about their home city? Given a choice of 12 options, Hong Kong's reputation as an eating and shopping paradise came top of the list for 43% in the Very Hong Kong survey. This light-hearted response was followed closely by freedoms. Hong Kong's multi-cultural society, then good public security and infrastructure, the city's trend-

setting quality, cosmopolitanism, and civic society, as well as its natural environment, social welfare system and heritage conservation were all well noted.

Notes and sources

Statistics are from HKFYG surveys in 2002, 2004 and 2013. Full details available on request.

1. *HKFYG Youth Study Series* 28. "A Study on Social Capital with regard to Citizenship", 2002.
2. *HKFYG Youth Poll Series* 130. "Views of Youth on the Society of Hong Kong Today", 2004.
3. The "Very Hong Kong" Survey, 2013.

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