Six months before his 60th birthday several years ago, Mr. Wan M Y contemplated various ways for celebration. At last, he chose to share a part of his life experience with young people and decided on the subject of lifelong learning rather than surveying, and spent two hours on the eve of the birthday talking to over 100 young people about some 30 books. He called it “Learning to Learn”. He wishes that such sharing will become a tradition for the hard working Chinese when one turns 60. The talk has since been repeated several time adding good books recently read, and those forgotten but coming back to memory.

He likes reading, and has read many good books amidst a lot of rubbish. Introducing to the young generation some good readings will help them navigate an interesting life itinerary and mitigate the waste of time, hence life. It is impossible to reread every book so he will talk from memory. He wishes to contemplate with the audience what we are, where we are, how to survive, making a living and the lives of some exemplary people with their biographies/autobiographies in an overall attempt to picture a way to live a good life.

This is another repetition of the birthday talk.

SYNOPSIS:

Mr. Wan M Y was a graduate of Hong Kong Technical College with a High Diploma in Building and Surveying in 1969. He is a surveyor in private practice engaging in project planning, project management, development planning and land consultancy. He worked in land administration in the government, property development in the developer sector, and is now self-employed consultant. Of the many projects he undertook and is now undertaking, notably he developed Marina Cove in the mid 1980s, took the first and last planning/final appeal to the Privy Council of UK in 1996, and participated in the development of IFC at the turn of the century.

In the area of public service, he has been and is now a member of the Hong Kong Housing Authority, the Long Term Housing Strategy Review Steering Committee (twice), the last Board of KCRC before the “merger”, the Elderly Commission, some government consultative/appeal committees and is a member of the Election Committee and a Justice of the Peace.

In community work, in addition to running a youth service from scratch, he participated in the building of several schools, the headquarter buildings of two youth organizations, a soft drug rehabilitation center, an elderly center, a monastery and a park, and the extension of a youth camp twice and the renovation of a cancer hospital. He has done youth work for over 20 years. He is now the Honorary President of Youth Outreach, the Honorary Secretary of the Hong Kong Federation of Youth Groups, school manager of two secondary schools.