

A lesson in civic education

THE best way to promote civic education was to adopt a "whole school" approach but not to treat it as a separate subject, Director of Education Mr Li Yuet-ting said yesterday.

Mr Li said civic education should be imparted through all relevant subjects now being taught in schools as well as through extra-curricular activities.

Mr Li told the Rotary Club of Hongkong Island East the Education Department had done its part in promoting civic education in schools through the territory-wide Community Youth Club (CYC).

The CYC scheme aimed

at organising young people within the school system to actively engage in activities which contributed towards the well-being of the community, Mr Li said.

Established in 1977, the school-based scheme is administered by the CYC section of the Education Department and now has 234,000 members in 930 participating schools.

Over the years, the CYC scheme has instilled a spirit of civic responsibility in its members through overseas tours, fun days for the elderly, annual parades and educational television.

Mr Li said about 400 CYC members had also got

into the Guinness Book of Records by painting and assembling a giant 2,582 square metre poster on the theme of "Hongkong My Home".

"Not only are the CYC functions healthy pursuits in their own right as extra-curricular activities, but the opportunity avails itself for service to the community at large," Mr Li said.

The education chief hoped, through the continuous success of the CYC programme and other civic education activities staged by the department, the 1.25 million students in Hongkong would eventually become useful citizens.