

700 youths learn how to resist drugs

SIX-month programme to teach youths how to resist drugs has been successful, according to its organisers.

The Drug Wise Training programme, organised by the drug awareness committee of the Lions Club District 303 (Hongkong and Macau), was the first of its kind in South East Asia.

It ended earlier this month and was held in Boys' Homes, Girls' Homes, youth centres and the Kai Tak Refugee Camp. About 700 youths participated.

A preliminary review found most of them enjoyed the participatory method of learning, committee chairman Dr James Chi'en said.

Dr Chi'en was speaking after opening a drug awareness exhibition to commemorate International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking.

He said Vietnamese youngsters were particularly impressed by the programme.

"They said it provides them with a psychological immunisation to the appeal of drugs before they resettle to Western countries where drug abuse is a great social problem," Dr Chi'en said.

About 100 Vietnamese students from the New Horizon School inside the camp joined the training programme, he added.

Dr Chi'en said most of the participants had tried drugs and the course was aimed at preventing habitual use.