Dear Members and Friends

**Message from the Executive Committee of the HK Branch of the OMRS Society**

Regretfully for those of us who live here, Hong Kong remains a troubled place. Although many of the protests are localised and even with early warning through local and social media, many of us have experienced serious disruption to our daily lives, work and social activities. Transport services have been adversely affected and our local hospitality and retail industries have taken a severe beating, particularly after a significant drop in tourist visitors. Despite some concessions made by Government, it would be a rash, if not to say foolish, person who would predict that the situation will “resume normal” any time soon.

However one has to remain optimistic and hope that things will improve ‘ere too long.

**Recent Events**

It would be disingenuous of the Committee to deny that we have scaled back Branch activities during recent months due to the social unrest in Hong Kong. Having said that, however, the Committee have now embarked on a programme of events which will take us up tp not only the end of the year, but also into 2020. Hopefully a degree of normality will have returned to the city by then! Please see below for more details.

The last event organised by the Branch was held on 30 June, when a group of members and friends visited the Green Hub in Tai Po. The Hub is the old Tai Po police station, constructed in 1899 shortly after the Qing Government in China leased the New Territories to the British Government. It is now a conservation, heritage and education centre run by the Kadoorie Farm and Botanic Garden.

Please see [www.omrs-hk.org](http://www.omrs-hk.org/) for full details concerning our visit.

**Future Events**

The Branch has arranged the following events, to which all are cordially invited: -

**(a) Branch AGM and Social**

The AGM will be followed by drinks and a very short talk and display by Branch President Steve Verralls of medals awarded to members of the Lincolnshire Regiment, which is a major area of interest to Steve. He will concentrate on the 4th Battalion of the Regiment, which was formed from the 2nd (Volunteer) Bn. Lincolnshire Regiment upon the formation of the Territorial Force (later the Territorial Army) in 1908. The 2nd (Volunteer) Bn. saw active service in the Anglo-Boer War and the 4th. Bn. saw action on the Western Front in the Great War, and later in Norway and Normandy during WW2. In 1964 the Bn. Was amalgamated into the Territorial Army units of the Royal Anglian Regiment.

**Date: Tuesday 19 November**

**Time: 18:30  (AGM)**

**19:00 (Drinks)**

**19:30 (Presentation)**

Venue: **Royal HK Regiment (Volunteers) Association Clubhouse, 9/F, Happy Valley Stand, Happy Valley Racecourse**

Please inform the undersigned (martin.heyes@gmail.com) if you wish to attend this event.

**(b) Branch Christmas Party**

Branch President Steve Verralls has already circulated a message providing full details of this event, which will be held at the USRC on Friday 13 December. If you have not received his message, please contact the undersigned a.s.a.p. and I will forward it to you.

Best regards

Martin Heyes

Hon.Secretary

OMRS (HK Branch)