

Lianhe Zaoboa Reunion eidition interview

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Photo from left: Kau Luen Tong Sze-To Clan Guild & Mutual Help Association - Sihoe Kok Soon (MHA former Chairman), Szeto Choon Peng (KLT Vice President), Lim Choon Keng Alice (KLT Secretary) and See Toh Kwok Hoong (KLT President)

Five societies joined SFCCA, hoping to intergrate resourcesand expand contacts.

The Singapore Federation of Clan Associations which has more than 200 member groups has welcomed five clan groups to join. The societies interviewed all realized that the clan groups used to be an important channel for members to connect with each other. Nowadays, with the development and progress of society, there are many Community clubs and Social service centers, and the survival of Clan groups is being changed. They hope to use the power of the federation to integrate resources and expand their network of contacts and connections.

Szeto Kau Luen Tong and Mutual Help Association with a history of more than 150 years is one of them. Szeto Kau Luen Tong's President, See Toh Kwok Hoong said in an interview that the history of the association can be tracked back to the 1860. At that time, the Szeto Clan from Kaiping, Guangdong, China established the "Situ Family School" located at No.1 Chin Lai Street, Tanjong Pagar. In the early 1930, the great depression of the world economy led to the closure of many local businesses. With the closure of several shipyards in Tanjong Pagar, many Szeto clan members working in the harbor lost their jobs and activities of the clan guild were suspended.

In 1936, "Situ Family School" resumed its activities and was officially registered as a society. During World War II, it was used as a dormitory for workers by the Japanese army. After the year, it was renamed "Kau Luen Tong". The name "Kau Luen" comes from Situ Xintong, the originator of the Situ family in the Situ family in Kaiping. During the Yuan Dynasty, Situ Xintong settled in "Chikan", Kaiping, Guangdong. He took Education with Human Ethics as his family motto, advocated education as his purpose, and pursued the ethical virtues of Monarch's and Ministers, Father and Sons, Couples, Elders and Children, and Friends. His descendants later named "Kau Luen Tong" and the family magazine also named "Jia lun Monthly" which is still published regularly today.

Affected by the war, the Chin Lai Street clanhouse of Szeto Kau Luen Tong was dilapidated, at the initiative of its memebtrs and puchased No. 85 Club Street. However, the plan to relocated the clanhouse was later shelved due to the influence of the British colonial government's control of Rent Act in 1948, due to factors such as the inability to directly raise funds from members, Szeto Kau Luen Tong established a new affiliated "Mutual Help Association" to facilitale the raising of funds for clan guild affairs and activities. Therefore, the full name of the association is "Szeto Kau Luen Tong and Mutual Help Association" to this day.

In 1958, the clan purchased a new clanhouse on 76-C, Horne Road and established a bursary in 1964 to help members' children receive education. Today, it is distributed in the form of scholarships. The 85, Club Street clanhouse was renovated in 1994 after the abolition of Tenancy control act, the clan guild generated revenue from the rental units.