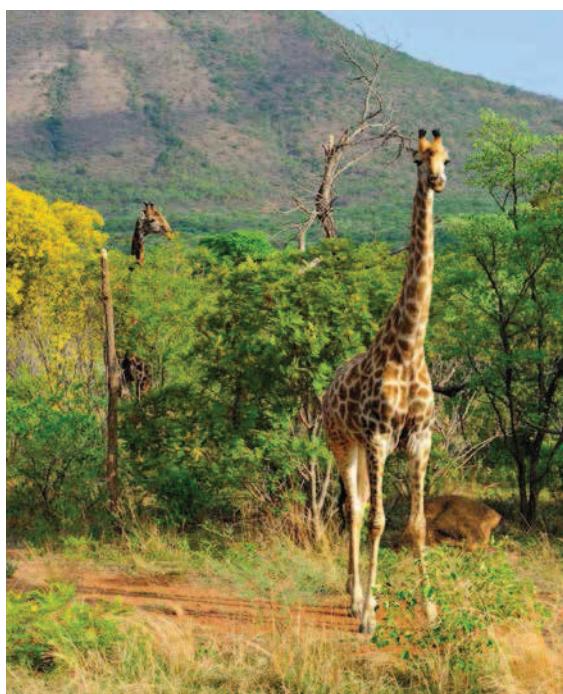


# HONG KONG BROADBAND NETWORK BETTER LIFE SOUTH AFRICA 2013

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*DIARY OF A TALENT*



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Published by Excel Media Group Limited 2013 | [hrmagazine.com.hk](http://hrmagazine.com.hk)



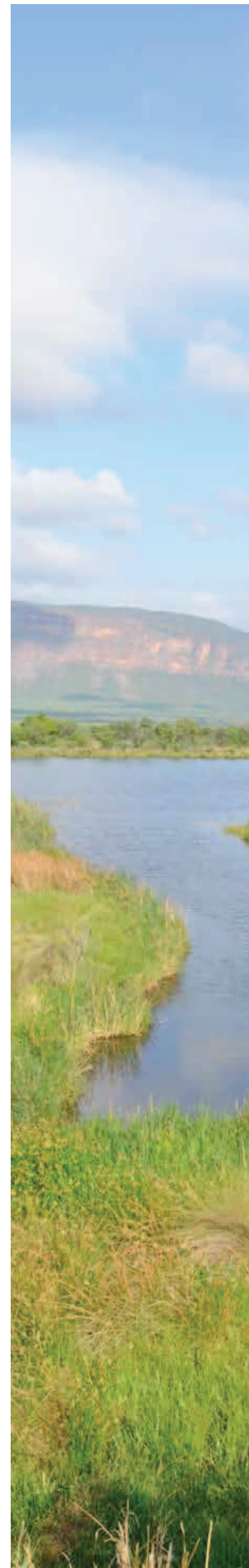


*“The best way to build teamwork is to experience new unforgettable things together ... Let's Ubuntu!”*

*— NiQ Lai, Head of Talent Engagement, CFO & Co-Owner, HKBN*

In November 2013, Hong Kong Broadband Network took the concept of team-building to new levels by jetting 83 senior executives to Johannesburg and Cape Town, South Africa to gain exposure to one of the most dynamic social enterprise ecosystems in the world.

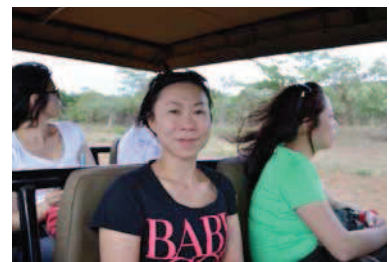
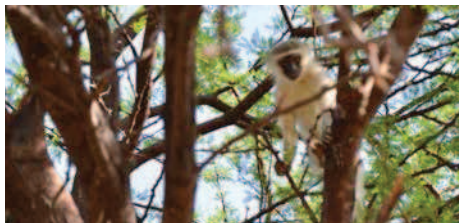
Falling under the theme of ‘Better Life’, the eight-day expedition incorporated activities and site visits designed to widen staff exposure to social entrepreneurship through the lens of South Africa’s communities, people and government, and inspire HKBN staff to help make Hong Kong a better place to live and work. To Hong Kong residents more accustomed to spending time in big shopping malls, the open vastness of South Africa was a new experience and one they would never forget.





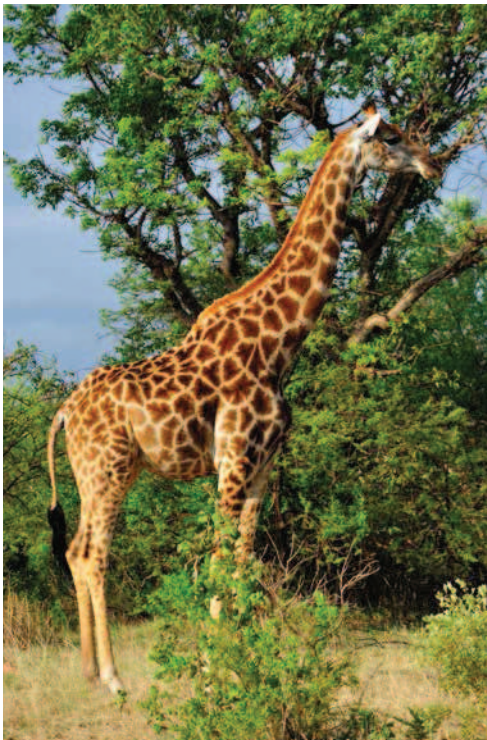
## DAY ONE: INTO THE WILD

After seventeen hours of traveling by train, plane and coach, we finally arrived in the wildest depths of South Africa, kicking off our Better Life tour with welcome drinks and a buffet lunch at Monomotapa at the beautiful Legend Golf and Safari Resort. After a little break to relax and acclimatise, we hopped in open-top Jeeps and ventured into the 22,000-hectare conservancy in search of shooting the African “Big 5” with our cameras.



*“I dream of an Africa which is in peace with itself.”*

*— Nelson Mandela*



Elephants, buffalo, zebra and giraffes were among the creatures on show throughout the game reserve; for most of us, this was the first time we had experienced seeing such animals in their natural habitat.

An evening of relaxing and unwinding with a buffet feast at Shebeen soon followed, where we gathered together and shared our memories of the safari which, for many of us, was the experience of a lifetime.



## DAY TWO: BUILDING BONDS

No sooner had the sun risen on the second day of our adventure, then we jumped back in our Jeeps and returned to the wild landscapes of Entabeni Game Reserve to enjoy a morning safari of wildlife spotting. This was another chance to come face to face with some of South Africa's famous animals, and for several lucky Talents, spotting a leopard sprawled out in the sun whilst driving out of the reserve was the cherry on the cake.

Following a big breakfast at Signature Clubhouse, overlooking the soaring planes of the reserve, we gathered together to enjoy a group activity hosted by CY Chan, Senior Manager-Talent Management & Co-owner, HKBN. We were tasked with the challenge of compiling a list of five words to describe South Africa, among which 'wild', 'hot' and 'beautiful' often arose.



*“Lead from the back – and let others believe they are in front”*

— Nelson Mandela



A sharing session by Ms. Derryn Campbell, author of *Awesome South Africa*, offered us a glimpse into the social, political and economic history of the country, which has striven to build a better future among its diverse communities. Campbell taught us a new word not found in the Oxford dictionary—Ubuntu—literally meaning “human-ness” or “human kindness”.

After a buffet lunch at Monomotapa on the grounds of the reserve, we enjoyed an afternoon of team-building and archery in the sun, before freshening up for dinner at White Lion Boma. Here we were treated to a feast of South African treasures whilst watching a performance of traditional tribal African drumming around a campfire under the stars—a perfect end to our adventure in the wild.





## DAY THREE: THE HEART OF AFRICA

Leaving the luxury of the Legend Golf & Safari Resort behind us, we journeyed into the heart of Soweto to visit Kliptown Youth Project to gain a glimpse of Township life in one of the poorest, yet most inspiring communities in the world. Built on the philosophy that positive initiatives bring success, the project aims to eradicate the poverty of mind, body and soul and disadvantages imposed on the children of Kliptown, by providing educational support and after-school activities through tutoring, athletic and arts programmes. By providing such support, the community strives to change the future of its children and in turn change their world.

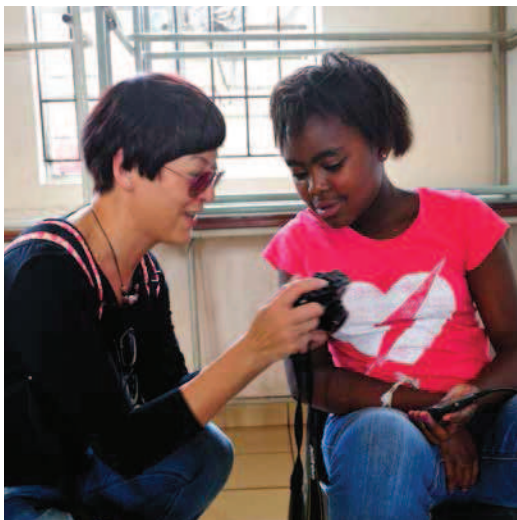
The programme aims to provide a life to the children of Kliptown not defined by survival, but by the ability to be active community members, to have dreams and most of all, to have hope about the future—the very spirit of Ubuntu.



*“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.”*

— Nelson Mandela





We were fortunate enough to have a tour of the town by CNN Hero Mr. Thulani Madondo, who shared his insight on the mission of the programme and asked us to always remember that, "We are all human, all the same, and we all have red blood, not blue." After playing with some of the children of the community and enjoying an energetic gumboot performance by some of the men from the town, we embarked on a sightseeing tour of Soweto. This included The Hector Pieterse Museum, Orlando Towers and Mandela House, before heading to OR Tambo International Airport in Johannesburg to jet off to our next destination, Cape Town.



## DAY FOUR: NURTURING LOVE...AND WINE

After arriving late at night in Stellenbosch the previous night, we woke up in the beautiful natural surroundings of the Spier Estate, founded in 1692, being one of the oldest wine farms in South Africa. Following a leisurely breakfast, we ventured to the nearby offices of Thandi Wine, the biggest black-owned exporting wine company in South Africa, and the first wine brand in the world to receive Fairtrade accreditation in 2003.

Here we were treated to a tour of the wine cellars and vineyards with the General Manager of the company, Vernon Henn, who gave an overview of the history of the farm, which is owned by 250 farm-worker families who hold 55% shares in the company. Walking us through the past, Vernon explained how Thandi came to be the first agricultural Black Economic Empowerment (BEE) project with the main purpose of uplifting and empowering previously disadvantaged communities out of poverty and providing them with the means to a better life. The very name itself, Thandi, means “nurturing love” and that is exactly what the project is doing by dreaming big and working hard to give back to the local community.

*“A winner is a dreamer who never gives up.”*

— Nelson Mandela



The farm prides itself of producing quality wines for devoted wine lovers in 20 countries across the globe. We were lucky enough to meet some of the farm workers up in the rolling hills of the vineyard before returning to the office to sample a glass or two of Thandi's finest.

We had the opportunity to share our impressions and experiences of South Africa with delegates from the Western Cape Government over lunch back at Spier. The afternoon presented us with the chance to take part in an exchange and learning session on the subject of Fair trade by Ms. Arianna Baldo with Fairtrade Label South Africa. As the evening came, we enjoyed a wining, dining and shopping experience at the V&A Waterfront mall located by the beautiful coastline of Cape Town.





## DAY FIVE: SUCH GREAT HEIGHTS

Climbing was certainly the theme of the final day of the Better Life South Africa tour, as we took our adventure to new heights—1,085 metres to be exact—and ventured to the summit of Cape Town’s Table Mountain. After being elevated within a state-of-the-art rotating cable care, we embraced the breathtaking views from the natural landmark, which now boasts the accolade of being one of the New 7 Wonders of Nature.



*“After climbing a great hill, one only finds that there are many more hills to climb.”*

*— Nelson Mandela*





A visit to Boulders Penguin Colony shortly followed, where we encountered a unique and endangered land-based colony of African Penguins along the Cape Peninsula coastline. After enjoying a delicious lobster lunch (whole lobster each!) at the seaside Fish Hoek Gallery, we proudly ventured to the most south-western point of the African continent—the Cape of Good Hope. We were able to reach the final landmark of our tour, Signal Hill, just in time to watch the sun set over the mountains and our South African experience. As the evening drew in on the final day of the Better Life tour, we ended our adventure with a bang, quite literally, as we took to the African drums at Gold Restaurant following a feast of opulent African cuisine with a western twist, and a little sprinkling of gold dust.

