

**SOCIAL VALUES OF THE YOUNG
GENERATION IN HONG KONG,
TAIWAN AND MAINLAND CHINA**

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Executive Summary

1. Public opinion surveys have revealed significant gaps in social values between the young generation in Hong Kong, Taiwan and mainland China.
2. Youth from the three regions have different goals in life. The Mainlanders are more keen to pursue personal success and economic wealth, and more optimistic about technological progress.
3. The three groups of youth also differ in their views on the relationship between individuals and society. Hong Kongers and Taiwanese are more individualistic and more committed to self-expression.
4. While mainland youth are much less religious, they are more compliant with traditional family values and more conservative when it comes to homosexual issues.
5. Although the youth in all three regions are equally aware of environmental issues, Hong Kongers and Taiwanese are more likely than their mainland peers to give priority to environmental protection over economic growth.
6. Mainland youth are more likely to believe that women should have equal rights to work, but are much less likely than their counterparts to believe that women are able to take up leadership roles in administration and business.
7. Value gaps between the younger generations could affect their relations with each other. Beijing may have to take into account the value orientations of the young generation in Hong Kong and Taiwan if it aims to win their support.
8. Youth in Hong Kong and Taiwan may need to be made aware that one of the most important preconditions for sustaining their political ideals is to develop the economy given that material affluence is the foundation for pursuing non-material goals such as self-expression or civic rights.