Feasibility Report

* *What are you trying to do?*

We are going to build a volunteer management system which integrated with the Wechat official account. Users can sign up automatically with their Wechat account information and sign up for charity activities in the system. The system will be of web-application form. Within the system, manager can publish the activity to the platform and users can register to volunteering activities. Manager can also publish courses/activities that need charges and people can pay for them and register to the courses they are interested in. The system will also record personal information of users as well as activity details in the database.

* *how is it done today, and what are the limits of current practice?*

Chinese Young Volunteers Association, one of main volunteer associations in China, now is recruiting volunteers via their official website and Wechat official account. However, their website is designed to be viewed using browser on computers and user experience on mobile phone is not satisfying.

Another successful application, called *BaoMingBa*, is a native application which can be installed in iOS/Android mobile phones. Users can publish activities on that platform or sign up for activities others published. Since this platform is in native application form, when bugs reported by users, the response of developing team is relatively slow and updating/fixing of a new version can take a long time.

* *What is new in your approach and why do you think it will be successful?*

*Our system will be implemented as a web application using WeChat official account as interface.*

Nowadays WeChat is becoming increasingly popular in China, and it can install in major phone system e.g. Android, iOS. Therefore, people who are interested in voluntary can register to be volunteer and participate in charity activity within their wechat application without downloading additional applications. Also, activity managers can easily group volunteers into one discussion group and it is convenient to inform them of the detail of the activity. The whole system will be designed as a web application, hence user can manipulate it without downloading. When drawbacks/bugs reported by users, they can be fixed very quickly and new version can be released without notifying users.

* *Who cares?*
* ●   Stakeholders of our project, including collaborators from the academia and initiator of this project. Volunteers who want to participate in local volunteer projects.
* *If you're successful, what difference will it make?*

●  New platform add features to previous application which can fulfill the philanthropist’s vision of volunteer activity management.

●   Web application using WeChat as interface provides convenience to potential volunteers and manager to participate in the charity programs.

●   by implementing advanced HTML5 and CSS3 techniques, web page can be app-liked, and user experience can be improved.

●   Simplified management interface and increasing flexibility of the system will reduce the workload of managers

* *What are the risks?*

● Stakeholder may change ideas of system design and new requirements may appear as the project developing.

● User information security is an important issue since we use WeChat as interface and information user submitted maybe revealed though it.

● Team cooperation could be a challenge as we have five people working on this project, it is vital to understand each other’s work and ensure the consistency of the whole system.

● Technique is another risk. In order to make our site app-like, we will use advanced HTML5 and CSS3 techniques and these advanced features may have different view’s in different mobile phone systems and relatively old version of WeChat browser may not support some of the features.

● For people who do not use weChat or follow weChat official account, they can hardly access the platform, also as the amount of user grows, an independent native application maybe necessary. In this case, since we are using ionic to build front side, it can pack web-app into native application.