Charities quiet on Pakistan

I am surprised that, given the magnitude of funds needed to deal with the recent flooding in Pakistan, few charity organisations seem to be giving it top priority.

We are talking about a country with a huge population already living with poverty, corruption and complicated religious problems, and now a quarter of its people are severely affected. Yet no Hong Kong charity organisations are making enough efforts to raise funds.

I contacted the Hong Kong Red Cross, and it has a fund only for Southeast Asia, not specifically for Pakistan.

I am a lifetime Catholic, and I see the urgent need for us to pay special attention to aiding this troubled Islamic country, especially now.

This is a chance to prove to our Muslim friends that we are together in this world to help each other.

Eugene Wong, Tai Tam Road

Crack down on telemarketers

Today, with so many different channels of communication, we are deluged with unwanted marketing. I wholeheartedly welcome the news that Hong Kong Post is launching an opt-out sticker scheme for certain unaddressed circulations. “One way to stop some of that junk mail”, August 25.

However, the real menace is not mail, but telemarketing calls. Telemarketing is the most inconvenient type of marketing because it requires active participation by the recipient, at a time that is convenient to the caller. Why should the public be expected to adjust to the schedules of telemarketers who are selling a product that they most likely do not want or need – and one which they certainly did not solicit?

A few years ago the telecommunications watchdog DTAC launched the “Do-not-call” register for pre-recorded messages. It has not happened until that time that it extended this register to include non-recorded – that is, live – calls.

This is hardly a novel idea: do-not-call registers in other countries typically make no distinction between pre-recorded and live telemarketing calls.

This would cause a harry and cry from telemarketers, who would claim they provide a useful service that brings benefits to consumers. Yet that is nonsense; the only beneficiaries are the telemarketers themselves and the companies they represent.

The theft of property is an offense punishable by a prison sentence. I wonder if telemarketers could provide a convincing argument why we should tolerate the theft of our time.

All Elham, Mid-Level

An apology was called for

Grenville Cross gave a fairly comprehensive account of the factors judges consider when sentencing a reception calling “Checks and balances”, August 25.

Knowing more about the process of sentencing, however, did not lessen my disappointment with

City dwellers can learn so much from joining coastal clean-up

I refer to the letter by Simon Deane (“Clean beaches responsibility of everyone”, August 21).

Mr Deane expressed his displeasure with the amount of trash piled up on Hong Kong’s naturally beautiful beaches and coasts.

The fact is, many of us city-dwellers never see the direct impact of our disposable culture and consumption habits.

We seldom feel any connection to the sea that surrounds us – and Mr Deane says – it’s a case of out of sight, out of mind.

I invite your correspondent to take heart, and check out an event that aims to, among other things, raise awareness of the direct responsibility we as a community have to take care of our beaches and marine environment.

Ecovision’s Hong Kong International Coastal Clean-up Challenge (www.hkcoastalcleanup.org), now in its 10th year, is a large-scale community event that invites companies, schools and organisations to sign up a team and clean a beach.

Anyone can sign up a team at the above website, and Ecovision provides the necessary education and materials.

This year’s coastal clean-up challenge will take place from September 25 to October 25.

Over the course of the month, thousands of volunteers will hit the beaches of Hong Kong to spend a few hours picking up litter and collecting data on what they find.

In doing so, participants gain a deeper understanding of how their actions affect the environment, while spending a memorable, fun and meaningful day outdoors.

The data collected by participants is later compiled to produce detailed annual local and global reports on routine debris, an essential way to finding solutions.

The message to take home from the event is that rubbish does not fall from the sky; it falls from our hands, and that rethinking, reducing, reusing and recycling is vital to minimising the vast amount of litter that washes up on our shores.

The clean-up challenge is part of a larger global event organised by Ocean Conservancy, the International Coastal Clean-up, which celebrates its 25th anniversary this year.

In 2009, 500,000 volunteers removed 3.4 million kilograms of debris in 388 countries, making it the largest volunteer event of its kind in the world.

I encourage South China Morning Post readers to get involved in this very relevant cause and sign up a team.

Lisa Christensen, ED, Ecovision Asia

Postcard

We are in Hong Kong, the Central has been the massive set, but the with a simply scrapped progress has it to time to each by alation has people are far but that were put people have always models in the people high public

If this time is have digested any more of luxury. Instead, they here there they can media natural opportunities for people at least Chris Putten to all was dropped on getting emotional naturally, but all of them them the park and 5,000 36s of greenery, of buildings for arts and entertainment aims don son so that its also chairman wants to cover two designs at the hub may this does not little people core vision of each design, each budget. No not know how on it is the the project and make parity any again.

Just not hands

One-third of the people were given, but much of the amount was 80,000 people that have been fed. The world at a time to

This is about and was 3,000 people that were given, but much of the where it is the number of people’s funds fed.

Don’t blame all Filipinos

With regards to Albert Cheng, the statement that needs to work.