Co-Working Space Vs Co-Creation Space
What Can We Learn from Cesar Harada's **Makerbay** 工匠灣 *?*

Who is Cesar Harada?

You may or may not have heard of him. But I guarantee that you will be hearing a lot about him from now on. At the age of 31, he is already well known in the West as an inventor, innovator and social entrepreneur. And he has decided to be based in Hong Kong and will soon open his path-breaking MakerBay in May this year in Yau Tong.

Please first of all watch this TED talk that he gave. It will blow you away.
http://www.ted.com/talks/cesar_harada_a_novel_idea_for_cleaning_up_oil_spills?language=en

What does he do?

Cesar Harada is using technology to save our planet, starting with our oceans. A French-Japanese entrepreneur and **TED Fellow**, Harada is the brain behind **Protei** - a groundbreaking, low-cost invention used, originally, to clean up oil spills. Protei is an unmanned, shape-shifting, wind-powered robot (that sails like a fish), and its impact - and that of Harada - is spreading.

When Cesar Harada learned of the devastating effects of the BP Oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico, he quit his dream job at MIT and moved to New Orleans to create a more efficient way to soak up the oil.

Recent awards: Fast Company 2015 Most Innovative 10 Companies in China, StartMeUp HK Grand Award 2014, GOOD100 2014, Gulfstream Navigator Award 2012, TED Senior Fellow 2011,   ARS Electronica Golden Nica [NEXT IDEA] (Austria) 2009.
Cesar worked at MIT as project leader (USA), construction manager of the iHub Nairobi (Kenya), used to teach Masters of "Design and Environment" at Goldsmiths University (UK).

He holds an MA from Design Interactions Department at the Royal College of Arts London, and an MA from ENSAD Paris.

He came up with something which was truly revolutionary - a highly maneuverable, flexible boat capable of cleaning large tracts quickly. Aside from dealing with oil spills, Harada's Protei will also be used to measure radioactivity and plastic debris, monitor fisheries and coral reefs, provide general oceanographic data, and serve as a surface satellite link to underwater vehicles.

Harada built Protei to be **unmanned** (no humans exposed to toxicants), **green** (no fossil fuels used), and **cheap** (highly affordable). It is a machine that has sensing and decision-making skills, and the ability to right itself when necessary as it sails upwind and captures oil downwind.

Harada and his team are also working on giving these robots a home: the International Ocean Station (IOS), an open-source hardware and software mobile laboratory. He taught Masters in Design & Environment at Goldsmiths University, London, and was a project leader at MIT. His films, installations, and lectures have been seen from America to Europe and Japan.

But rather than using his invention to pursue profits, he has opted to open-source the design. He shared his early ideas and prototypes with thousands of interested individuals and organizations across the globe, and leveraged the collaborative talent and resources to test and refine his products along the way. The process of creating the final workable versions (I am sure more 'final' products will emerge) is by itself exemplary and provides insights for many other applications.

For example, although I have written and published over a dozen of books, I have always written them all by myself. Could I possibly 'open source' the writing process and engage more people (experts, practitioners, readers, etc) to collaboratively create a much superior book?

Harada decided to base himself in Hong Kong and will open a unique space called **MakerBay 工匠灣.**

Below is an article from 主場新聞 (2015/4/3):
感謝你，選擇了香港

在這裡，想介紹一個人物。這個人叫 Cesar Harada，日法混血兒。他最為人熟悉的是研發了一架可以在海上自動航行的機械人，用於清理油污、量度數據等。同時他是 TED Fellow，經常在不同的場合演說。

其實，他現在才 31 歲。認識這個人，是在一個講座當中。他在熱情地簡述他的概念， 怎樣通過科技改變世界。他相信知識傳播的重要，因此，他堅持每個發明都通過 open source 形式向所有人公開。不怕被人抄嗎？他說如果別人拿了他的設計並且加以改善，第三者又能夠拿著這個產品在進行改進，世界就是這樣變得更美好。他還開了一個 co-"making" space，讓設計師、工程師等能夠自由地使用空間的材料，互相學習，創造出另一個改變世界的設計。

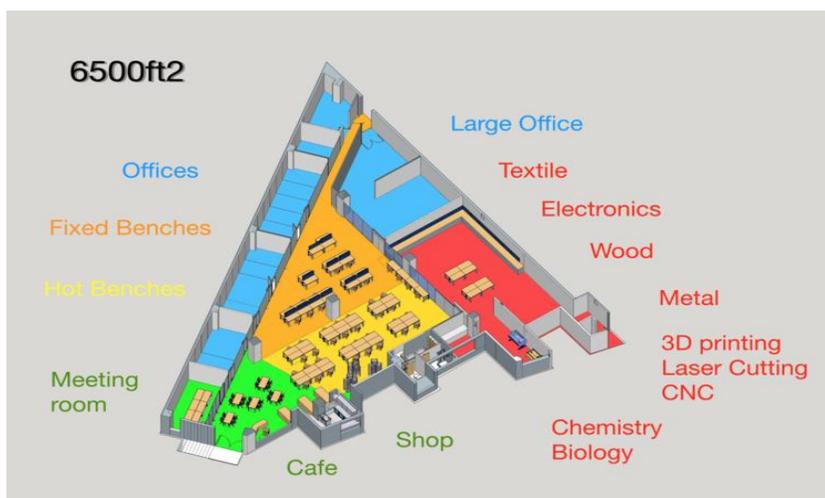說到這裡，他眼裡有火。不過最令我感興趣的，是他選擇了在香港進行他的創做。他的 co-making space，將是香港的第一個。

為什麼選擇香港？香港人出名功利，在這裡搞 open source，可以嗎？他聽到問題，停了一停，說，太多原因了。在現實層面中，香港與深圳接近，在香港設計的產品，能夠迅速在深圳大規模製造，然後往全球輸出。他指出，在香港出發，五小時的機程可以接觸到全球一半的人口。加上香港擁有完善的法制、安全的社區、方便的交通、充裕的資金等等。

在人方面，他相信所有人都有 sharing 的基因，不過表達方式不同。你的 co-making space 會成功嗎？不知道，大不了就失敗囉。他說得輕鬆。

謝謝你選擇了香港，也謝謝你說出了許多香港基本但開始被人忘記的競爭優勢。作為一個城市，我們正需要這樣的有理想有行動力的人。這個人，可以在香港出生長大，也可以在世界各地過來。政府要做的，不是要親自搞什麼行業，而是要盡最大的努力吸引更多的 Cesar 來港，並把他們留下來。了解他們來的原因，盡力保持優勢；了解他們的困難，並且為他們解決。政策圍繞人才走，只要有人，他們會創造出我們想像不到的奇蹟。一個城市，正正是有許多的人組成，這個道理簡單。（作者: 文風）

Food for thought (and actions)

1. As a founding member of the **Good Lab** – one of the earliest co-working spaces in Hong Kong, I have been intrigued by the idea of a **co-making** space. Maybe we should rethink the nature and role of the Good Lab as well as our name. At the very least, we should perhaps call ourselves a co-creation space, rather than a co-working space. The latter gives the impression that the members just 'co-work' side by side, but fails to emphasize the imperative of interaction and collaboration. I think any such space should actively promote co-creation by the members, that is to say, every member should seek and benefit from the creative inputs of fellow members.

2. The idea of '**open hardware'** also spurs me reflecting on many of the things my own social enterprise (Education for Good) has been doing. For example, we pride ourselves as a leader in providing lean startup training. What happens if we 'open source' it? Could we enable more organizations to do it and learn from each other rather than just doing it ourselves? Would this make possible a faster dissemination of this method and enhance it effectiveness for all parties concerned?
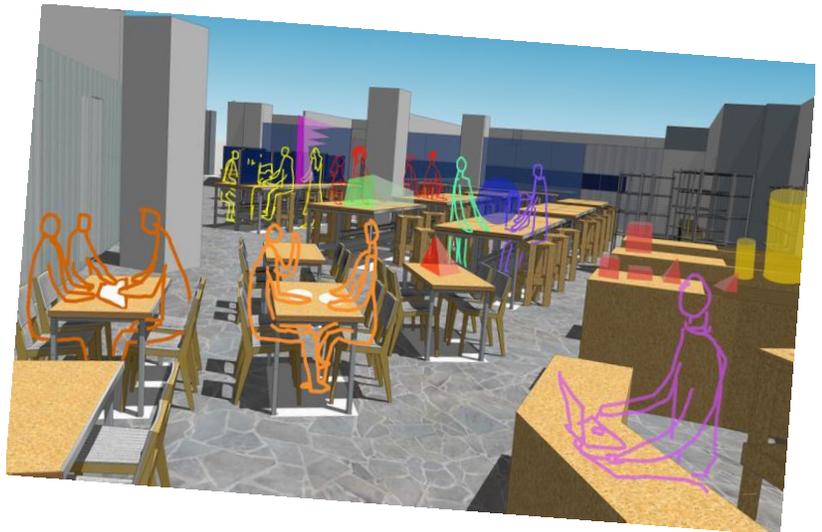
3. Cesar in his TED talk has **set the priority right**:

From

| Profit |
| Technology |
| People |
| Environment |

to

| Environment |
| People |
| Technology |
| Profit |

Shouldn't this be the priority order of all businesses?

4. **Choosing to come to Hong Kong** is our blessing. There will be little doubt that the Maker Bay will create some sort of 'cultural revolution' in Hong Kong. Learning by doing, getting the hands dirty, collaborating with peers and strangers, working with mentors and coaches….will all be new experiences for many would-be innovators and entrepreneurs.

5. **Technology for social good.** I have looked at the website of Maker Bay and gone through the membership criteria. It seems clear that Cesar is promoting (and insisting) the use of technology for creating positive social impact.

6. **An inspiration for young people.** Cesar is 31 this year and has already achieved so much. His presence in Hong Kong will be an inspiration for the young and restless.

http://www.makerbay.org/   Maker Bay – opening in May 2015