

Joyce Samoutou-Wong – Co-Founder, New Sight



Dr Joyce Samoutou-Wong BSc (Hons) MBChB DRCOG DTMH MRCGP and her husband Henri Samoutou are the founding directors of the New Sight. Joyce, a recipient of the Hong Kong Outstanding Students' Award (1992), the International Excellence in Ophthalmology Vision Award (2012), Women of Hope Award (2017), and Compassion Award (2020), graduated from Diocesan Girls' School in Hong Kong before winning a full scholarship to study at the United World College of the Atlantic in the UK. She then read medicine at the University of Edinburgh, which was followed by a stint as a visiting fellow at Harvard University. She has been involved in several humanitarian projects across the globe, including running a mobile clinic and creating a first aid programme that has since been completed by over 40,000 people along the ancient Silk Road in Uzbekistan.

In 2006, Joyce and Henri relocated from the UK to develop a non-profit eye centre in a missionary hospital in the rainforest of Gabon. The eye centre has since become self-sufficient and continues to help around 6,000 patients a year. In 2012, the couple founded New Sight, and together with their three young children, moved to northern Republic of Congo to pioneer its first non-profit eye centre with surgery. New Sight provides full non-profit eye services, including consultations, glasses, medical and surgical treatments, as well as free screening and community eye education in the villages. New Sight also empowers the local community by training nurses and support staff. In 2016, at the invitation of the local authorities, they embarked on plans to build a hospital in Ouessou, Congo, on a 6-hectare area. In 2019, they moved to Ouessou and started their second eye centre in Congo. Since then, they have established the country's first facility to manufacture prescription glasses locally, as well as providing a free children's magazine to educate and inform children around the country, currently with 22,000 readers in over 30 schools nationwide. Construction of the eye block of the hospital took place from 2022 to 2024, and it is expected to be open by the end of 2025.

Joyce and Henri are passionate about transforming lives by giving the priceless gift of sight. They are also passionate about empowering children locally and internationally through their work with over 30 schools in Congo, as well as the Project Two Front Teeth, which they founded with their children. The meaningful work of Joyce and Henri has been featured in the BBC and *South China Morning Post* and was the subject of a documentary series by Hong Kong's Cable TV. In 2017 and in 2023, the Samoutous were invited to the Forbes Philanthropy Summit in New York.

Joyce is an inspirational and sought-after speaker known for her sincerity and natural ability to make the audience both laugh and cry; she has been invited to speak in several countries to audiences such as the Royal Geographic Society, TEDx, Harvard Club, and New Sight's fundraising events are routinely sold out.