

**The 5th round of the “Distinguished Master, Accomplished Students” Mentorship Programme
54 scientists and engineers to mentor local secondary students**

More than 200 guests, including renowned scientists, engineers, students and school principals, attended the launch ceremony of the fifth round of the “Distinguished Master, Accomplished Students” Mentorship Programme today (2nd April 2023), which is jointly organised by the Hong Kong Academy of Sciences (ASHK), Hong Kong Academy of Engineering Sciences and Hong Kong Institution of Science. **Mr. John LEE, Chief Executive of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region**, and **Mr. Jeff SZE, Under Secretary for Education**, were invited as officiating guests for the event.

This year, a total of 54 scientists and engineers became voluntary mentors for 114 local secondary school students who are interested in science subjects. In a pre-recorded speech, the Chief Executive of HKSAR, Mr. John LEE, said the Government always strive to provide learning and development opportunities for students who aspire to venture into the I&T sector, with an aim to cultivate them as innovators and life-long learners. The Chief Executive believes that through learning from the mentors' experience, students would gain deeper understanding of the opportunities for I&T offered by the nation, the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, and also by Hong Kong. He hopes that the Programme would provide students with broad international perspectives and knowledge of the latest scientific trends on a global scale.

Addressing the ceremony, **Under Secretary for Education of HKSAR Mr. Jeff SZE** expressed his delights in witnessing the beginning of the students' exploration in the world of science. He also expressed his gratitude to the three key Programme organisers for providing valuable learning opportunities to local students over the years, which became an important foundation for them to pursue their goals in science and technology.

The President of ASHK, Professor Dennis LO, welcomed the Hong Kong Government's tremendous efforts over recent years in supporting I&T, which have been beneficial to social development. Since its launch, the Programme has become an important part of science education in Hong Kong, thanks to the steadfast support and financial backing by the Government. The Programme provides a channel for students to gain knowledge on scientific research and its impact on the society. It also gathers a group of scientists and engineers who are passionate about science education, enabling them to share their knowledge and experience with the younger generation.

During the ceremony, two participants of last year's Programme, Winnie Ng and Marco Lee, shared their experience together with their mentor, **Professor Anderson SHUM, President of the Hong Kong Young Academy of Sciences (YASHK)**. Winnie said the Programme enabled her to realize that successful research findings and inventions require the scientists to go through countless trials and errors, without losing enthusiasm. Marco thanked Professor Shum for his patience in answering the questions he encountered during his quest for science. Professor SHUM encouraged students to observe their surroundings and to explore the wisdom of science, pointing out the connections between science and daily life.

Photo Captions

001a & b: The fifth round of “Distinguished Master, Accomplished Students” Mentorship Programme launch ceremony was held today, where 54 renowned scientists and engineers began their voluntary mentoring roles for 114 local high school students interested in science subjects.

002: Mr. Jeff SZE, Under Secretary for Education of HKSAR, believes that the “Distinguished Master, Accomplished Students” Mentorship Programme enables students to pursue their goals in science and technology.

003: Professor Dennis LO, the President of ASHK, encourages students to gain knowledges from various sources.

004: Professor Anderson SHUM, the President of YASHK, encourages students to observe their surroundings and to explore the wisdom of science in daily life.

005: Mr. Jeff SZE, Under Secretary for Education of HKSAR (first from the right) and Professor Dennis LO (second from the right), the President of ASHK, share their experience with the students.

The above information is released by AsiaNet Communications Limited on behalf of ASHK.

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