

**First online seminar regarding COVID-19 in Hong Kong  
Professor Lap-Chee TSUI : should deepen the understanding of the virus**

**Hong Kong, 14 March 2020** – Professor Lap-Chee Tsui, Founding President of the Hong Kong Academy of Sciences (ASHK) today expressed his appreciation of local scientists’ tireless investigation and research into COVID-19, and urged members of the public to learn more about the disease in a scientific manner.

Professor Tsui gave his opening remarks at the online lecture “Update on COVID-19 from Expert Local Scientists”, the first of its kind in Hong Kong co-organized by the Hong Kong Young Academy of Sciences (YASHK) and the Hong Kong Academy for Gifted Education (HKAGE).

“Scientists take initiatives to study subjects of the public interest. They use scientific methods to observe and collect data, and use their obtained knowledge to analyze the data, draw different conclusions, and make different inferences. While the whole world is being hit by this wave of epidemic, our scientists work tremendously hard to study the virus and try to come up with answers. They may come up with different conclusions at different times, but the general public need to understand that any scientific study has its limitation, and we need to continue to learn and collect information from all directions to help clear our doubts,” he said.

The online seminar was moderated by Dr. Stephanie Kwai-Yee MA of the School of Biomedical Sciences of the University of Hong Kong (HKU). Two experts from HKU’s School of Public Health, Professor Leo Lit-Man POON and Professor Ben COWLING shared their insights of the disease with nearly 200 online participants of the seminar. The three scientists are all founding members of the YASHK.

Professor Tsui said he was happy to see the YASHK took the initiative to work with the HKAGE and organized the online seminar on the most concerned subject. “It certainly helps raise public awareness of the virus and the disease it causes, and enhances public health consciousness,” he said.

YASHK is a chapter of ASHK. One of its primary goals is to promote and advance the teaching of science and technology in Hong Kong via outreach activities.

Professor Vic LAW, Founding President of YASHK, said, “The world is entering uncharted waters as COVID-19 is spreading rapidly all over the world. In this seminar, our two speakers explained to our younger generation how science and mathematics are helping us to understand, detect, prevent, predict the trajectory of the spread of the virus and even find cure for it. With the medical staff, scientists, policy makers and the general public working together hand in hand, we will be able to win the war against the virus.”

**The Hong Kong Young Academy of Sciences** was established in 2018, as a chapter of The Hong Kong Academy of Sciences (ASHK). The YASHK is formed by a vibrant group of aspiring young scientists, working as Faculty members at various tertiary institutes in Hong Kong, and dedicated to serving the community. They are dedicated to promoting scientific research, popularization of science education, nurturing talents in science in Hong Kong. They will also work with ASHK members to help facilitate international exchanges and collaboration, and consolidating efforts to reinforce Hong Kong’s status in the world of science.

**The Hong Kong Academy for Gifted Education**, a subvented non-governmental organization, was established in 2008. It aims at serving the education sector in Hong Kong, offering the latest information, support and appropriate learning opportunities to gifted students, their parents, teachers and other stakeholders engaged in gifted education. Most of its programmes are provided free-of-charge.

\*To watch the seminar, please click [here](#).

Photo Caption: Professor Lap-Chee TSUI (the first on the right) and Professor Vic LAW (the second on the right) attends the online seminar “Update on COVID-19 from Expert Local Scientists”

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

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