

Press Release
For Immediate Release

The Academy of Sciences of Hong Kong officially inaugurated

Distinguished scientists to strengthen the bedrocks for Hong Kong's innovation-based future

Hong Kong, 5 December 2015 – The inauguration ceremony of The Academy of Sciences of Hong Kong (“ASHK”) was held today in the Government House. The ASHK's establishment marks a much-expected milestone in the road map of Hong Kong's science innovation and technology, heralding a new phase of societal and economic development empowered by scientific breakthroughs.

Under the presidency of Professor Lap-Chee Tsui, ASHK sets out to promote scientific research and education, to serve as a focal point for academic assembly and discussion, and, to help realise Hong Kong's aspiration as a centre of scientific and technological excellence. The Academy will also conduct studies and periodic summits to bring together international expert scientists and the business sector to discuss on issues relevant to Hong Kong's science and technology development, including related policy agenda.

The inauguration ceremony was officiated by Professor Wan Gang, Vice Chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference and Minister of Science and Technology, the Honourable CY Leung, The Chief Executive of the Hong Kong SAR, Professor Bai Chun-li, President of Chinese Academy of Science and Professor Lap-Chee Tsui, President of The Academy of Sciences of Hong Kong. Renowned international academicians representing counterpart academies from the US, UK, France, Europe and Taiwan also attended the ceremony and offered congratulatory remarks.

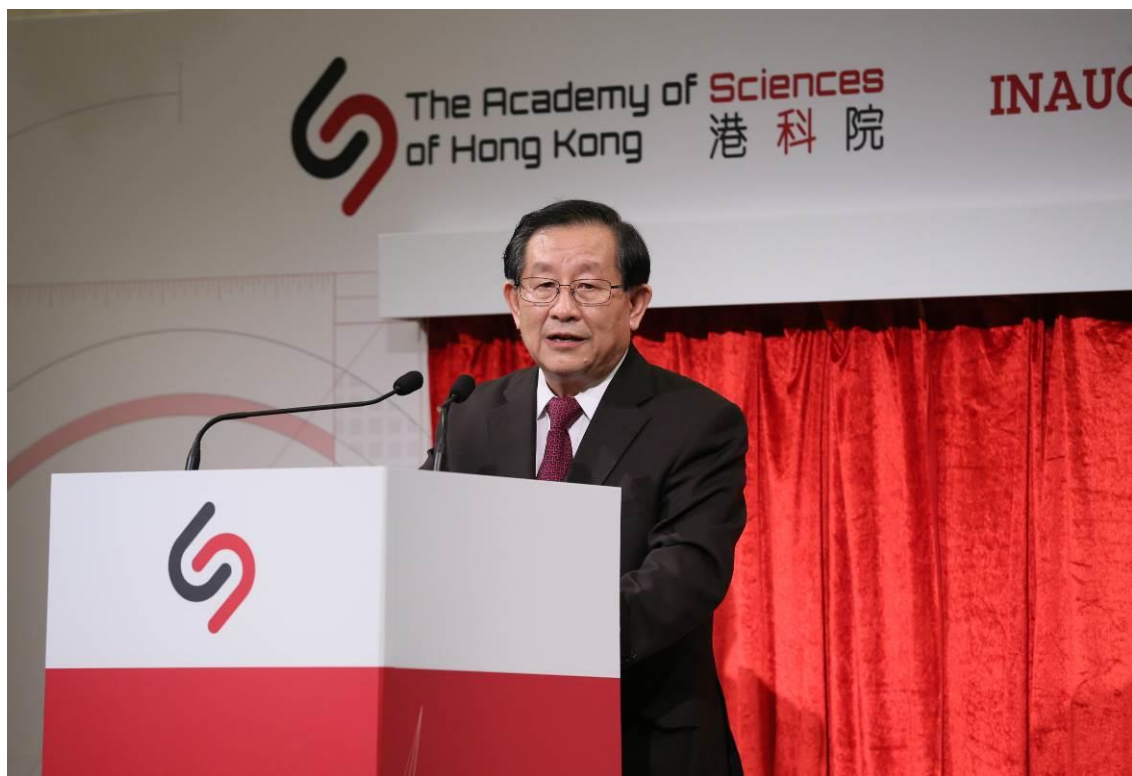
The idea of establishing a high-level, independent and non-profit making organisation that comprises Hong Kong's most prominent science intellectuals stemmed from the time when Hong Kong was hit by the outbreak of SARS in 2003. While Hong Kong successfully eradicated the viral epidemic, the incidence highlighted the quality of science and medical research, and the leadership position of Hong Kong academics in basic and translational research among the international academic community.

“Hong Kong ought to recognise its exceptional scientific leaders. Hong Kong is unquestionably a great city for scientific research and innovation, with world-class universities and so many distinguished academics working tirelessly in different fields of science and nurturing the next generation of scientists,” said Professor Lap-Chee Tsui.

“My fellow members of ASHK and I are also aware of the importance of interplay between science and society; besides working within the scientific community, we will enhance our role in the business sector, to facilitate application and commercialisation of our research findings, and to assist research and development in the industry sector, and in promoting STEM education in schools to nurture the next generation of scientists. I am confident that ASHK will have a lot to contribute towards steering Hong Kong to become Asia's leading centre of scientific research and development,” added Professor Tsui.

With ASHK's inauguration, Hong Kong now has an official organisation to provide our highest academic honour. It will be treated on equal terms with counterparts in the Mainland, the US, UK and elsewhere. ASHK is composed of 27 founding members (see Appendix) of international stature and each of them has provided outstanding contributions to the advancement of sciences in Hong Kong.

The first ASHK event after its inauguration is a Science and Technology Innovation Summit to be held at Hong Kong Science Park tomorrow (Sunday). World renowned scientists and leaders of various sectors in Hong Kong will debate on the subjects of Science and Society, as well as Application of Scientific Research Findings.



Professor Wan Gang, Vice Chairman of the National Committee of the CPPCC, and Minister of Science and Technology congratulates the establishment of ASHK. He remarks during the inauguration ceremony that technology and innovation is a strategic focus of the National 13th Five-Year Plan proposal.



Officiating guests unveil the inauguration plaque, (from left to right) Professor Lap-Chee Tsui, President of ASHK; the Honourable CY Leung, The Chief Executive, HKSAR; Professor Wan Gang, Vice Chairman of the National Committee of the CPPCC, and Minister of Science and Technology and Professor Bai Chunli, President of the Chinese Academy of Sciences.



Guests and founding members of ASHK with renowned international academicians representing counterpart academies celebrate the inauguration of ASHK in the Government House.



Prof Lap-Chee Tsui, President of ASHK, remarks that the long-term objective of ASHK is to propel Hong Kong to become a leading centre for scientific research & development in Asia.



The Honourable C Y Leung, The Chief Executive, HKSAR congratulates the establishment of ASHK.

END

About The Academy of Sciences of Hong Kong

Established in 2015, The Academy of Sciences of Hong Kong (ASHK) is committed to promoting the development and advancement of science and technology in Hong Kong, and fostering Hong Kong as a centre of scientific excellence.

ASHK has several key functions: (a) to promote the development and advancement of science and technology in Hong Kong, (b) to promote and advance the teaching of science and technology in Hong Kong, (c) to educate and inform the public on issues pertaining to science and technology and (d) to foster Hong Kong as a centre of scientific excellence.

The Academy will cooperate with the industrial and commerce sectors to strengthen the application of research results. It will also conduct independent studies to inform and advise the HKSAR Government on formulating policy in science and technology.

More information about ASHK is available at <http://www.ashk.org.hk/>.

Media Contact:

Prof Henry Wong

Tel: (852) 3943 6110;

Email: hncwong@ashk.org.hk

Appendix

Founding Members of ASHK

Members	Organisations
Jean-Marie LEHN	Université de Strasbourg
Yuet-Wai KAN	University of California at San Francisco
Tak-Wah MAK	University of Toronto
Daniel C. TSUI	Princeton University
Paul C.W. CHU	University of Houston
Philippe G. CIARLET	City University of Hong Kong
Lap-Chee TSUI	Victor and William Fung Foundation and Zhejiang University
Chi-Ming CHE	The University of Hong Kong
Andrew Chi-Chih YAO	Tsinghua University and The Chinese University of Hong Kong
Henry N.C. WONG	The Chinese University of Hong Kong
Mu-Ming POO	University of California, Berkeley, and Institute of Neuroscience, The Chinese Academy of Sciences
Way KUO	City University of Hong Kong
Ching-Ping WONG	The Chinese University of Hong Kong
Albert S.C. CHAN	Sun Yat-Sen University
Nancy Y. IP	Hong Kong University of Science and Technology
John C.Y. LEONG	Hospital Authority of Hong Kong
Vivian W.W. YAM	The University of Hong Kong
Yum-Tong SIU	Harvard University
Sheung-Tat FAN	Hong Kong Sanatorium and Hospital
J. S. Malik PEIRIS	The University of Hong Kong
Ching W. TANG	University of Rochester, and Hong Kong University of Science and Technology
Kwok-Yung YUEN	The University of Hong Kong
Wing-Hung WONG	Stanford University
Dennis Y.M. LO	The Chinese University of Hong Kong
Joseph J.Y. SUNG	The Chinese University of Hong Kong

Ming-Jie ZHANG	Hong Kong University of Science and Technology
Tony F. CHAN	Hong Kong University of Science and Technology