



Media release
For Immediate release

**The Academy of Sciences of Hong Kong hosts
The 2nd Science and Technology Innovation Summit**

Spearheading discussions on bio-medicine and smart materials
research development
Fostering exchange between academia and industry for research
commercialisation to suit market needs

Hong Kong, 5 May, 2017 – The Academy of Sciences of Hong Kong (ASHK) hosted The 2nd Science and Technology Innovation Summit today to spearhead discussions between the academia and the business sector and explore opportunities of research commercialisation in a bid to connect market demand and adoption of technologies. Bio-medicine and smart materials, two scientific areas where Hong Kong shows strengths and development potential, were chosen as the focus areas of the summit. Following presentations by academics on their R&D development and interactive discussions with participants during the summit, industry representatives in the audience concurred that Hong Kong boasts ample R&D talent and innovative technologies. In concluding the summit, ASHK underlined Hong Kong's unique advantages in bio-medicine and smart materials, and urged for immediate collaborations on commercialising R&D results to capitalise on market needs and promising opportunities.

Riding on the success of The 1st Science and Technology Innovation Summit held in December 2015, ASHK staged the summit for the second time, drawing a high turnout of scientists, academics, policy makers, entrepreneurs and industrialists. The event was officiated by high-profile guests, notably The

Hon. C.Y. Leung, Chief Executive of HKSAR; Prof. Mu-ming Poo, Director, Institute of Neuroscience, Chinese Academy of Science; and Prof. Lap-Chee Tsui, President of ASHK.

A professional platform for converging technologies with the market

ASHK, established in 2015, is committed to promoting the development and advancement of science and technology in Hong Kong and to raise the city's profile as a centre of scientific excellence in Asia. Bridging the gap between technological advancement and market adoption, while applying R&D results appropriately, is the priority in maximising the social benefits of R&D in a knowledge-based economy. Through the summit, ASHK aims to provide a professional communication platform for the innovation and technology ecosystem where communication is facilitated to enhance the synergy between the academic and the business sector.

Two key technology topics in tune with community needs

Bio-medicine

The summit led in-depth discussions on daily applications of advanced technologies to address health concerns. Bio-medicine was the first technology area on the agenda, and discussions on brain studies and anti-cancer research were held in the morning session chaired by Prof. Tsui.

The discussion on brain projects was kicked off with Prof. Poo's presentation of the "China's Brain Project and Its Implications". Pointing to the launch of the China Brain Project, he shared unique insights on the pros and cons of China's brain science research, the opportunities for Hong Kong's ecosystem, and the potential contributions that Hong Kong can make to the project. The next speaker, Prof. Nancy Ip, followed with a discourse on "Understanding the Biology of Alzheimer's Disease – Insights for Development of Therapeutics". She is Vice-President for Research and Graduate Studies, The Morningside Professor of Life Science, and Director of the State Key Laboratory of Molecular Neuroscience of Hong Kong University of Science and Technology.

Valuable information in the area of cancer research was also shared in the session by two speakers. Prof. Hsiao-chang Chan, Li Ka Shing Professor of Physiology and Director of Epithelial Cell Biology Research Center of Chinese University of Hong Kong explained “Cystic Fibrosis Transmembrane Conductance Regulator (CFTR) as a Tumour Suppressor and Prognosis Indicator”, while Prof. Chi-ming Che, Zhou Guangzhao Professor in Natural Sciences and Head of Chemistry Department of The University of Hong Kong shared his study of “Anticancer Medicine”.

The importance of levelling up bio-medicine research is underlined as the global population continues to age and cancer and other health concerns are fueling the demand for cure and prevention. Hong Kong offers world-class R&D talent, technologies, infrastructure and certification systems. The summit encourages the industry to put more resources in these areas and contribute to a greater extent to the bio-medicine field.

Smart materials

In the afternoon session on “Smart Materials”, speakers included Prof. Ben Zhong Tang, Chair Professor of Chemistry and Stephen K.C. Cheong Professor of Science of Hong Kong University of Science and Technology; Prof. Xiaoming Tao, Chair Professor in Textile Technology and Vincent and Lily Woo Professor in Textile Technology of Polytechnic University of Hong Kong; Dr. Paul Ho Director of Research and Development (Sustainable Energy) of Nano and Advanced Materials Institute Ltd; and Prof. Henry Yan, Associate Professor of Chemistry and Associate Director of HKUST Energy Institute of Hong Kong University of Science and Technology. They spoke on the topics of “AIE (Aggregation-Induced Emission) Research”, “A Journey from Creative Science to Innovative Technology, Developments and Applications of Smart Textiles”, “Conducting advance material research for the ever-changing market” and “Toward next-generation organic solar cells that are efficient, low-cost and environmentally friendly”.

The topics focused on smart materials development and applications and explored their implications to the society and daily life. The discussions helped the industry understand the characteristics and attributes of smart

materials and encourage adoption for product design and production to achieve effective cost control and enhance product quality.

Capitalising on opportunities to complement official policies

Perceiving enormous opportunities for Hong Kong's innovation and technology field, ASHK stays true to its commitment in promoting the development and advancement of science and technology in Hong Kong and to raise the city's profile as a centre of scientific excellence in Asia.

The summit was effective in promoting the healthy growth of the innovative and technology ecosystem. It has achieved the purpose of spearheading discussions between the science and the business sectors and helped both sides grasp commercialisation opportunities for R&D work, as well as gauging the real needs of the market. ASHK in turn provides advice to the government on R&D and industrialisation development through exchange and collaboration, in a bid to complement policies on innovative and technology, and ultimately create more opportunities for the ecosystem and generate greater economic benefits for Hong Kong.

Prof. Tsui said: "The success of today's event, a result of the collaboration of all parties, reflects the society's wish to see R&D results being adopted. The Science and Technology Innovation Summit provides a valuable platform facilitating discussions and collaborations between academia and industry. ASHK will continue on the mission of contributing to Hong Kong's technology development and making Hong Kong an outstanding R&D hub."

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Photo Captions:



ASHK today hosts the second Science and Technology Innovation Summit. The Honourable CY Leung, The Chief Executive of HKSAR highlights that Hong Kong will continue its efforts in innovation and technology development.



In his welcoming speech, Prof. Lap-Chee Tsui, President of ASHK, emphasises that ASHK will continue on the mission of contributing to Hong Kong's technology development and making Hong Kong an outstanding R&D hub.



Group photo of The Honourable CY Leung, The Chief Executive of HKSAR (front row, middle); Prof. Lap-Chee Tsui (front row, 4th from the right), President of ASHK, guests and speakers.



Group photo of speakers of the first panel discussion

From left to right:

1. Prof. Mu-ming Poo, Director, Institute of Neuroscience, Chinese Academy of Science
2. Prof. Nancy Ip, Vice-President for Research and Graduate Studies, The Morningside Professor of Life Science, and Director of the State Key Laboratory of Molecular Neuroscience, Hong Kong University of Science and Technology
3. Prof. Hsiao-chang Chan, Li Ka Shing Professor of Physiology and Director of Epithelial Cell Biology Research Center, The Chinese University of Hong Kong
4. Prof. Chi-ming Che, Zhou Guangzhao Professor in Natural Sciences and Head of Chemistry Department, The University of Hong Kong
5. Prof. Lap-Chee Tsui, President of ASHK



Group photo of speakers of the second panel discussion

From left to right:

1. Prof. Ben Zhong Tang, Chair Professor of Chemistry and Stephen K.C. Cheong Professor of Science
Hong Kong University of Science and Technology
2. Prof. Xiaoming Tao, Chair Professor in Textile Technology and Vincent and Lily Woo Professor in Textile Technology, Polytechnic University of Hong Kong
3. Prof. Chi-ming Che, Zhou Guangzhao Professor in Natural Sciences and Head of Chemistry Department, The University of Hong Kong
4. Prof Daniel M CHENG, Chairman of Federation of Hong Kong Industries
5. Prof. Henry Yan, Associate Professor of Chemistry and Associate Director of HKUST Energy Institute, Hong Kong University of Science and Technology
6. Dr. Paul Ho, Director of Research and Development (Sustainable Energy), Nano and Advanced Materials Institute Ltd

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.

ASHK 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/>.

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