

Press Release

15th September 2021

Three YASHK Members Awarded the 2021 Xplorer Prize

Professors Wang YAO and Professor Yi Chun LU, founding members of The Hong Kong Young Academy of Sciences (YASHK), and Professor Mingxin HUANG, member of YASHK, have been awarded the 2021 Xplorer Prize.

Dr Lap-Chee TSUI, the Founding President of the Hong Kong Academy of Sciences (ASHK), congratulates them on their achievements in fundamental research. Dr TSUI points out that fundamental research is Hong Kong's strengths. Under a robust system of peer review, Hong Kong's achievement in fundamental research enjoys a high degree of credibility and recognition and enhances our scientific research competitiveness in the world. Furthermore, our outstanding scientific researchers also contribute to maintaining the high international ranking enjoyed by Hong Kong's universities. Dr TSUI notes that more resources should be committed to fundamental research to reinforce our competitive advantages and to facilitate the development of Hong Kong into an international innovation and technology hub.

Professor Vic LAW, the President of YASHK, also congratulates the three YASHK members for their outstanding academic achievements. He promises that the YASHK will act as a platform for promoting Hong Kong to become an education, research and innovation center for the Greater China Region.

Professor Wang YAO is awarded in the field of mathematical physics, Professor Yi Chun LU is awarded in the field of energy and environmental protection fields, while Professor Mingxin HUANG is awarded in the field of new chemical materials. Amongst the 50 top national researchers in China awarded the 2021 Xplorer Prize, three of them are from Hong Kong and all of them are YASHK members.

The Xplorer Prize was jointly initiated in 2018 by the Chairman and CEO of Tencent, Mr Pony Ma and 14 scientists. The Prize provides support to full-time Chinese mainland-based scientists under 45 years of age working in areas of fundamental science and cutting-edge technologies. It is one of the schemes which grant the largest amount of fund to young science talents in Mainland, Hong Kong and Macao.

The Prize was first opened to Hong Kong and Macao applicants in 2020. In that year, three awardees were from Hong Kong and Macao. Among them, Professor He YAN and Professor Zuankai WANG are members of the YASHK.

YASHK members are outstanding scientists in Hong Kong. In addition to winning the the Xplorer Prize, many of them were also awarded in the RGC Senior Research Fellow Scheme and the RGC Research Fellow Scheme funded by the Research Grants Council (RGC). They include Professor Benjamin COWLING, Professor Raymond Wai-yeung WONG, Professor Wang YAO, Professor Zijian ZHENG, Professor Johnny Chung-yin HO, Professor Vic Kam-tuen LAW, Professor Kevin Kin-man TSIA, Professor Feng WANG, Professor He YAN, Professor Cong WANG and Dr Stephanie Kwai Yee MA.

About the Xplorer Prize

The Xplorer Prize was jointly initiated in 2018 by the Chairman and CEO of Tencent, Mr Pony Ma and 14 scientists. The Prize provides support to full-time Chinese mainland-based scientists under 45 years of age working in areas of fundamental science and cutting-edge technologies. In addition to a trophy, each of the 50 winners a year will receive at the presentation ceremony a total of 3 million RMB over the next five years provided by the sponsor and initiators of the Prize through the Tencent Foundation. The Prize upholds the principle of “Facing the future, empowering the youth in leading technological innovation, and encouraging exploration”.

About the RGC Senior Research Fellow Scheme and the RGC Research Fellow Scheme

The RGC Senior Research Fellow Scheme and the RGC Research Fellow Scheme are organised by the Research Grants Council (RGC) of the University Grants Committee (UGC). They aim to provide extended support and relief from teaching and administrative duties to exceptionally outstanding researchers at the associate professor or full professor ranks working in UGC-funded universities in Hong Kong. The objective is to facilitate the awardees to dedicate fully to research and development and to assist universities in attracting and retaining research talent.

About The Hong Kong Young Academy of Sciences

The Hong Kong Young Academy of Sciences (YASHK) 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 who are committed to serving the community. They are dedicated to promoting scientific research, popularisation of science education and nurturing talents in science in Hong Kong. YASHK members work with ASHK members to facilitate international exchanges and collaboration, and to consolidate efforts in enhancing Hong Kong's status in the world of science.

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

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