

**Secretary for Education of HKSAR Officiates at the Kick-Off Ceremony of the Sixth Round of the
'Distinguished Master, Accomplished Students' Mentorship Programme
Encourages Local High School Students to Explore Science and Research Subjects**

The sixth round of the “Distinguished Master, Accomplished Students” Mentorship Programme, co-organised by the Hong Kong Academy of Sciences (ASHK), the Hong Kong Academy of Engineering Sciences, the Hong Kong Institution of Science and the Hong Kong Young Academy of Sciences, has officially commenced following a kick-off ceremony held earlier today. Dr CHOI Yuk-lin, JP, Secretary for Education of HKSAR was invited to serve as an officiating guest, and delivered a speech at the ceremony. Around 300 distinguished guests, students, principals, teachers, and parents also attended the event. A total of 56 renowned scientists and engineers will serve as volunteer mentors. They will provide guidance to 105 local high school science students, inspiring them to explore scientific research subjects, and thus lay a solid foundation for cultivating the next generation of scientific research talent in society.

As aforementioned, this year's Mentorship Programme has invited 56 well-known local scientists and engineers to serve as mentors, and will cover the life sciences, engineering, chemistry and other professional fields. This includes Professor TENG Jin Guang, President of the Hong Kong Polytechnic University, and Professor LUK Kam Biu, Chair Professor of the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology who are participating in the programme for the first time.

Dr. CHOI Yuk-lin, JP, Secretary for Education acknowledged that the "Distinguished Master, Accomplished Students" Mentorship Programme has nurtured nearly 700 students interested in science and engineering subjects since it was launched in 2018. The Mentorship Programme brings together enthusiastic and experienced scientists and engineers to guide the younger generation to participate in various high-quality science popularisation activities to open new vistas. Dr. CHOI expressed her gratitude to the experts and mentors for their selfless dedication and guidance to the younger generation. In addition, she encouraged students to cherish this opportunity for learning, achieve success in the innovation and technology sector, and actively make contributions to building an even better Hong Kong and advancing national rejuvenation in the future.

Professor Dennis LO, President of ASHK, believes that sustainable development and scientific research go hand in hand. Consequently, he fully advocates science education that involves the collective effort of various sectors, as this will pave the way for a more sustainable society. Since the “Distinguished Master, Accomplished Students” Mentorship Programme was launched in 2018,

nearly 700 students have participated. This unique platform has been able to bring together scientists and engineers who are passionate about promoting and popularising science education and contributing to society. By sharing the knowledge and experience of the mentors with the younger generations, Professor LO trusts that students will be encouraged to strive for excellence in the sciences, thus cultivating more talented individuals for advancing Hong Kong's future technological development.

Joyce AU YEUNG was one of the mentees of last year's Mentorship Programme, with Ir Dr Alex CHAN Siu-kun serving as her mentor. She said that the Mentorship Programme has allowed her to learn from leaders in the scientific and engineering fields, as well as participate in various scientific talks and laboratory visits. She is grateful for the support received from her mentor, who answered her various questions, enabling her to gain a greater understanding and interest in the sciences. As an F.6 student next school year, she plans to enrol in university courses related to scientific research. Her ultimate goal is to contribute to the development of science and technology in Hong Kong in the future.

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

For media enquiries, please contact:

Ms Chan Tsz-Ching, AsiaNet Communications Ltd.

Tel: 2114 4967 / 6211 3433 Email: tcchan@asianet-sprg.com.hk