

Press Release

The Hong Kong Institution of Engineers Building a Reserve of Professional Talent for Hong Kong's Future Helping Young People Pursue a Different Future

(8 August 2023, Hong Kong) The world is facing various challenges brought on by climate change, shifting working and living styles, and evolving technologies. Engineers, who use their professional skills and scientific knowledge to safeguard the public and facilitate social and economic development, have become increasingly important. The Hong Kong Institution of Engineers (hereafter “the HKIE”) is determined to build a reserve of talent for Hong Kong and help the new generation pursue a different engineering dream.

“Engineers,” said President Ir Dr Barry Lee, “form the backbone of those who build our society. We are striving to build a more sustainable, resilient world for everyone, making engineering an enabler and an accelerator for achieving the goal of sustainable development. According to a report by UNESCO¹, engineering has been transforming our world for millennia and the remarkable changes that are happening now at the dawn of the Fourth Industrial Revolution, including the application of advanced AI and biomedical engineering technology, are improving people’s lives and the manufacturing processes. Evidently, therefore, engineers are utilising their scientific knowledge and experience to transform innovative ideas into sustainable development projects that benefit everyone.”

“The HKIE is determined,” continued Ir Dr Lee, “to nurture a new generation of engineers and help them pursue a different future. We have launched a series of initiatives to attract young people to join the industry. These initiatives highlight the pivotal role engineers play in driving social progress and the opportunities that they have to engage in diverse green construction projects focusing on environmental protection, energy saving and emission reduction, by which engineers contribute to a sustainable ecological environment while finding vocational fulfilment.”

Various large-scale infrastructure projects are being pressed ahead with in Hong Kong. It is estimated that the annual total construction volume would reach the range of HK\$240 billion to HK\$375 billion in the next 10 years². The HKIE has estimated earlier that there is a shortage of approximately 3,000 local construction engineers; and with the government striving to develop Hong Kong into an international innovation and technology hub, the industry’s craving for talent is all the more insatiable. With the wider adoption of new technologies, the HKIE is taking the initiative to help the next generation pursue a different engineering dream in the field of innovation and technology:

¹ UNESCO Digital Library (2021): *Engineering for sustainable development: delivering on the Sustainable Development Goals*

² cic.hk (25 July 2023): *Construction Industry Council Releases the Latest “Construction Expenditure Forecast”*

- **[Promote exchange]** Organise more exchange activities in the industry at home and abroad for young engineers to enhance Hong Kong engineers' innovative technology capabilities and further consolidate Hong Kong's position as a regional professional knowledge exchange centre. On 12 August, the President, leading 40 other engineers aged below 35, will go to Guangzhou for a Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao scientific technological exchange, enabling young engineers to acquire new knowledge through having a better understanding of the development of engineering projects in different cities and the application of green engineering technologies.
- **[Cultivate interest]** Support and cooperate with the government to launch programmes related to STEAM education. Through pairing engineers with primary and secondary schools, the "One School One Engineer" scheme enables engineers to help these schools organise STEAM activities, thereby enhancing students' understanding of the relation between the engineering profession and innovative technology, and in turn cultivating their interest in STEAM learning.
- **[Internship programmes]** Signing the Charter of Cooperation strengthens the HKIE's cooperation with outstanding enterprises in the industry. The HKIE will provide assistance through mentorship and guide the companies to join Scheme "A" Graduate Training to nurture the next generation of engineering talent for the industry and the enterprises. Enterprises that have participated in the first phase include Automated Systems, China Mobile Hong Kong, Hong Kong Broadband Network Group, Huawei, OTIS and TK Elevator Hong Kong (in alphabetical order).
- **[Move with the times]** As technology evolves, the HKIE is planning to launch more professional qualification recognitions within this year, covering new technologies such as Building Information Modelling (BIM), Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), stage engineering, etc., to uplift professionalism and build a reserve of talent for the industry.
- **[Reciprocal Recognition Agreements]** Continue expanding the Reciprocal Recognition Agreements into more engineering disciplines and provide more opportunities for Hong Kong engineers. The HKIE has signed 23 agreements for reciprocal recognition of professional and technologist qualifications with 6 countries and districts and 2 agreements with mainland China.



President Ir Dr Barry Lee (5th left), Immediate Past President Ir Aaron Bok (5th right),
Senior Vice President Ir Eric Ma (4th left),
Vice Presidents Ir Alice Chow (4th right) and Ir Prof Frank Chan (3rd left),
Executive Members Ir Norman Chan (2nd right), Ir Ambrose Chen (2nd left),
and Ir William Luk (1st right),
Chairman of Public Service Committee Ir Mandy Leung (1st left) and
Chief Executive and Secretary Ir Prof Alfred Sit (3rd right)
attend the media gathering and share the latest developments of the Institution



President Ir Dr Barry Lee (middle) and
young engineers from the HKIE President's Protégé Scheme

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