

Hong Kong Academy of Engineering Sciences
(Incorporated with limited liability)

香港 大埔 白石角 香港科學園 科技大道西 西 19-座 329 室
Unit 329, Tower 19W, Hong Kong Science & Technology Park,
Science and Technology W Avenue, Pak Shek Kok, Tai Po, Hong Kong
電話 Telephone : 2692 8123



PRESIDENT'S REPORT (2020-2021)

Ir Dr Otto Poon

1. Honours

The Following Fellows were honoured by the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region :

- Sir Ir C K Chow, Grand Bauhinia Medal (GBM)
- Hon Ir Dr W K Lo, Gold Bauhinia Star (GBS)
- Professor Wah Wan Sang Benjamin, Bronze Bauhinia Star (BBS)
- Ir Professor J G Teng, Justice of Peace (JP)

The Following Fellow was honoured by the Royal Academy of Engineers (RAE) :

- Ir Professor Alfonso Ngan, Fellow of the Royal Academy of Engineers

Our congratulation goes to the above distinguished Fellows.

2. Office of Hong Kong Academy of Engineering Sciences

The new office of the Academy is at Unit 329, Building 19W, Hong Kong Science & Technology Park, Science and Technology Park W Avenue.

The office is fully equipped and has an Executive Officer and two assistants.

3. Activities

A Forum on “How to Enhance Translational Research and Commercialization” was held on 27 August 2021 attended by some 60 delegates and Fellows. A paper was subsequently drafted and forwarded to the Secretary for Innovation and Technology to emphasize on the importance of elevating high value and high tech industry to become the fifth pillar of Hong Kong’s economy and to provide more assistance to incubation companies for wealth creation for Hong Kong.



Another important event will be the two day “International Bay Area Summit” in May 2022. This high level Summit will provide a platform for distinguished speakers from New York, California, Tokyo Bay areas and other successful innovation and technology clusters to share their experience with us for the Great Bay Area. We are seeking support from Chinese Academy of Engineers, Guangdong Academicians Alliance and the Hong Kong Government. It is expected there will be some 500 delegates from Hong Kong, GBA, Mainland China and overseas. Following the two day Summit, a one day tour will be conducted for the overseas delegates to show case opportunities and explore business cooperation at GBA. SVP Ir Professor J G Teng is spearheading this Summit.

Other events in the pipe line are:

- A Pitch Competition in 2022 to invite university undergraduates to propose solutions to address global challenges. The winning team will together with their Coach travel to the Mainland China to attend the Grand Global Challenge Summit (GGCS2022) and to participate in the International Student Competition. The exact date of GGC2022 has yet to be finalized by the host, Chinese Academy of Engineering. PP Ir Professor P C Ching is responsible for this event.
- To launch a prestigious Hong Kong Engineering Science and Technology Award (HKEST) in 2022 to honour excellence among the younger generations in the arena of engineering science and technology. There will be six awardees in a Presentation Award Ceremony with a Distinguished Lecture and speakers from the Guanghua Engineering Science and Technology Awardees. SVP Ir Dr Alex Chan will lead this Award.

The office, three staff and the above activities are substantially funded by the GSP-ITF.

- In June 2021, Secretary Sit sought advice from HKAES on the possible adjustment of the RAE (Research assessment exercise). PP Ir Dr Andrew Chan set up a small Task Force and we submitted a “Progress Summary of the Task Force” to ITB in September. A reply was received from ITB indicating a substantive reply will be provided in due course.
- Ir Professor Charles Ng will help to develop HKAES’s e-portal to provide more effective communication to Fellows and the public.
- Another on-going event, jointly organized with ASHK, is the “Distinguished Master, Accomplished Student” and the fourth cohort of students will soon be selected among the secondary schools. A number of our Fellows have kindly agreed to be Masters.
- There is also a quarterly breakfast meeting on Science and Technology Development hosted by the Great Bay Area Association of Academicians attended by HKFI, HKIS, ASHK together with a representative of the Government (CE or SIT).



The areas for future discussion are:

- I&T Roadmap
- How the 5 R&D Centers can better collaborate with academia
- The future plan for Innocenters
- The link between UGC/RGC with ITB
- The integration of Science Park, Cyberport and the LOOP.

Further discussion will take place in future quarterly breakfast meetings.

- Inno Tech Expo 2022 will be organized by Our Hong Kong Foundation to mark the 25th anniversary of Hong Kong returning to the motherland. HKAES is invited to participate and co-organize this event from 23 June to 8 August at HKCEC. Displays on Space Technology, Deep Sea Technology, Geological Technology and Biological Technology will be from the Mainland. There will be a Hong Kong Pavilion and Hong Kong's universities can showcase their achievements in R&D with display panels and/or lectures.

4. Looking forward

The standing and reputation of HKAES depends on the critical mass of the Fellows, it is important we would continue to encourage highly qualified scientists and engineers to join the Academy. The Membership Committee under the Chairmanship of Professor H S Kwok is taking up this role and SVP Ir Dr Alex Chan will further report to you at the AGM.

As with any enterprising organization, HKAES should also groom young talents to prepare for succession. SVP Ir Dr Alex Chan has kindly also taken up this assignment and he will report to you on the setting up of a "Committee for Young Fellows".

At the recent Executive Meeting, I was tasked to set up a "Strategy and Finance Committee" to look into the sustainability of your Academy.

One of recent initiatives is to reinforce our dialogues with the HKSAR Government mainly with ITB. I believe we should do the same with other Bureaux such as Development, Housing, Transportation, Environment and Education. As a leading professional body on Innovation and Technology, we should contribute to the Government's Policy Address and Annual Budget. The Executive will endeavour to do some of these progressively bearing in mind of our limited resources.

With so much going on, the Executive is also exploring into the possibility of getting some publicity from the news media to enable HKAES to be more visible to the public.

5. Election of the Legislative Council

For Fellow's information, Ir Professor Charles Ng, one of our Fellows, is standing in as candidate in the Election Committee Constituency.

6. End Note

We had an eventful year and in closing I would like to thank our Fellows for their support and my Executive team for their advices and generous contributions. It is only through our joint effort that HKAES can continue to progress in the time to come.

As the festive season is approaching, I wish you all Merry Christmas, Happy New Year and most importantly best of health.

Ir Dr Otto Poon
President 2020-2021
Hong Kong Academy of Engineering Sciences