

# 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

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## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

### 29th Annual General Meeting 5 December 2022

It was just like yesterday that you had bestowed on me the honour as the President of the Hong Kong Academy of Engineering Sciences on 14 December 2020 and I have hugely enjoyed the opportunity to work with the Executive, Council Members and Fellows in pursuit of our Vision, Mission and Guidelines so brilliantly laid down by the Founding Fellows.

Over the past two years, I am pleased to say we now have our own office which is the professional home for all our Fellows. We have also a Secretariat ably manned with three staff who can discharge most competently the internal and external duties of a professional organization. These would not have been possible without the strong financial and morale support from the then Innovation and Technology Bureau and the then Secretary for Innovation and Technology.

With funding from ITF/GSP, apart from the office and the Secretariat, the Academy was able to organize and successfully organized the Hong Kong Engineering Science and Technology Award (HKEST Award). The response was enthusiastic and there were 33 entries and the event is at the final stage to select 6 winners.

The Global Grand Challenges Summit (GGCS) organized by the Chinese Academy of Engineering was delayed due to the epidemic. HKAES had organized a Pitch Competition and a strong joint university team had been selected to represent Hong Kong to compete with other teams from the Mainland, United States and United Kingdom at Beijing, the date is still to be confirmed.

The International Bay Area Summit (IBAS) will be held in Hong Kong on 20-21 February 2023. The purpose of the Summit is for scholars, engineers, scientists, businessmen and government officials from New York, California, Tokyo and our GBA to share experience on the opportunities, challenges and cooperation of the four bay area economies.

In addition to the above, fund was also made available to the Academy to set up an e-portal to announce the activities of HKAES as well as to communicate with interested parties and the public.

The Government has been a strong supporter of I&T industries and it was reported that some HK\$1.4 billion was dispensed each year for R&D and infrastructures. However, it was also reported that manufacturing industries account for less than 1 (one) percent of Hong Kong's GDP.

It is felt that with the strong R&D culture at Hong Kong's world class universities, the ecosystem has to be changed to enable successful research projects to be translated from research to technology and to business. The Academy wishes to promote I&T industries to become the Fifth Pillar of Hong Kong's economy.

As such, proposals were made to the Government to establish a "Translational Research Fellow (TRS) Scheme" and a "Hong Kong Industrial Development Corporation (HKIDC)". We organized a Forum and discussions among our Fellows, Legislative Councillors, interested parties and relevant Government officials to promote our causes.

At the 2022 Policy Address, the Government did respond in some ways to address these two issues. The comparison table below indicated that we need to do a lot more to achieve our goal.

	HKAES proposals to HKSAR Government	CE's Policy Address 2022
1.	Translational Research Fellow (TRS) Scheme – to support ~ 50 Hong Kong PhD graduates annually, each for 5 years, to develop their PhD projects into commercial technologies, products or services, with HKAES tasked to run the scheme for the Government.	Research, Academic and Industry Sectors One-plus (RAISe+) Scheme - HK\$10 billion to support commercialization of R&D outcomes by university research teams.
2.	Hong Kong Industrial Development Corporation (HKIDC) – to set up a company with a proper management board, with capital of HK\$ 100 billion over 5 five years, for investment in innovation and technology companies primarily in HK and GBA, similar to the Temasek Fund in Singapore.	Co-investment Fund – HK\$30 billion annually to attract enterprises to set up operations in Hong Kong and invest in their businesses, open for applications from overseas.

Regarding our wish to elevate the image of HKAES in the community, we did approach a couple of newspapers for publicity, but they could not meet our expectation. In summary, as we are setting up our own e-portal, it is recommended that this e-portal will be used to communicate with Fellows, publish articles, make announcements and give opinions as appropriate to a more targeted audience including the Government.

For the financial sustainability of HKAES, a fund raising campaign was made in 2022. With the strong support from the Fellows, over HK\$ 1.3 million was raised. However, the Academy does carry a sizeable overhead and we should be vigilant on expenditure and innovative in applying for more GSP funding.

More recently, I visited Beijing and had the opportunity to meet the Presidents of Chinese Academy of Science and Technology (CAST) and Chinese Academy of Engineering (CAE). These were courtesy visits to re-activate the dialogues that had

been stopped for over three years due to the epidemic. I hope the relationship would be strengthened in the future.

As we have a change of personalities in the Government since 1 July 2022 and the new Policy Address indicated that the Administration will give strong support to our profession, I hope we can continue to influence the Government in our direction.

In closing, this is the last time I would address you as the President of the Hong Kong Academy of Engineering Sciences, I wish to give my wholehearted “thank you” to you Fellows, the Executive and the Secretariat, without your encouragement and support, I could not have discharged my humble duties.

I must also say it has been my honour and pleasure to serve the Academy and you Fellows. I wish the Academy all the best in the years to come.

Ir Dr Otto Poon  
President 2021-2022  
Hong Kong Academy of Engineering Sciences