Launch Ceremony of Future-ready Talent Incubation Program
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Chairman of VTC

Chief Secretary (Mr Matthew CHEUNG, Chief Secretary for Administration), Filippo (Mr Filippo GORI, Deputy CEO of J.P. Morgan, Asia Pacific), Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good afternoon. On behalf of Vocational Training Council (VTC), I would like to welcome you all to the Launch Ceremony of Future-ready Talent Incubation Program. First of all, I must thank the Chief Secretary for Administration the Hon Mr Matthew Cheung for taking time from his busy schedule to attend the ceremony as our Guest of Honour. I would also like to express my sincere appreciation to our close partner J.P. Morgan for their generous support of the Program.

At VTC, through the provision of Vocational and professional education and training (VPET) and diversified learning opportunities, it is our mission to cultivate high-calibre professionals and future achievers for Hong Kong and the region while staying attuned to the changing times. In support of the Government policy directions in technological innovations, we have stepped up efforts to nurture technology talents. The Program that we launch today is one of these new initiatives for promoting innovation. We are heartened that J.P. Morgan shares a similar value in partnering with us to develop the potential and future-ready skills of our young generation.

As the name of the Program implies, our objective is to develop the next generation of talent and to enhance students' innovative and technological competencies, enabling them to contribute effectively in the development of Smart City in Hong Kong. With the HK$11.7 million support of J.P. Morgan, the Program will benefit some 600 VTC students in 3 years studying Higher Diploma programmes in 6 smart city technology-related areas. Students will be able to enhance their

professional skills and cyber know-how through a series of work-based training including industrial attachment, workshops and seminars as well as problem-based industrial project.   They can also gain valuable advice and career guidance from industry mentors throughout the program. Taking this opportunity, I must also thank our industry partners for offering attachment places for our students to make this program possible. Many of them are with us today, let us give them a round of applause!

Driven by the Smart City vision and the evolving talent needs, VTC endeavors to develop new facilities on VTC campuses to further our capabilities in nurturing innovative talent. Our Cybersecurity Centre and Innovation and Technology Co-creation Centre will be open later this year to provide students with simulated workplace training and facilitate collaboration with industry and stakeholders.

We are truly grateful that our graduates are well received by the industries contributing to technology drives in Hong Kong as entrepreneurs, fin tech specialists, data scientists and cyber security consultants, to name a few. The creativity and technical skills of our students are also well demonstrated. Let me share with you a piece of good news. Recently, our IT students competed with technology-savvy teams from around the world and won the third place at the Amazon Web Services Artificial Intelligence Hackathon with their project "Lab Monitor". With the launch of the Program today, I do hope that more students will be able to stretch their potential through the many different exposure and learning opportunities.

Today, in addition to launching the Program, we will have a panel discussion about "Nurturing Talent for Smart City". We are pleased to have IT leaders and experts from the Government and Industry to join the discussion and share with us their insight and aspirations for grooming new talent.   I hope you will enjoy the seminar.

Before I conclude, let me thank once again the Government and all our industry partners for working with us in the skills-training journey. I look forward to your continued support in the years ahead. Thank you.