

Interview with VTC Chairman: Steering a new chapter in VPET, building Hong Kong into a talent hub



At the start of 2026, the VTC welcomed its new Chairman, The Hon. Jeffrey LAM Kin-fung, GBM, GBS, JP. As Hong Kong's largest provider of vocational and professional education and training (VPET), the VTC has long been committed to offering young people and working adults a wide range of flexible and well-articulated pathways for further study and professional growth. Since assuming office on 1 January, Chairman Lam has visited several VTC campuses and taken part in different activities to gain a comprehensive understanding of the VTC's education and training initiatives.

VPET nurtures talent and powers the future

With his extensive experience in both industry and public service, Chairman Lam has a deep understanding of the essential role that professional teams with strong skills and broad perspectives play in every aspect of enterprise operations, from research and development to quality assurance and supply chain management. He firmly believes that talent is the key to turning opportunities into driving forces for social progress, "only VPET that keeps pace with the times and aligns with industry needs can support Hong Kong in achieving high quality development."

When speaking about Hong Kong's educational landscape, he noted that VPET and traditional academic education are parallel pathways, each with its own strengths, and that the VTC plays a vital role in nurturing skilled professionals. "By adopting a 'think and do' approach, VTC works closely with industry and provides students with opportunities to learn in authentic workplace like settings, enabling them to acquire professional skills that align with industry needs and contribute high-quality talent to the future development of various sectors."



Chairman Lam visits campuses, meeting staff and students and touring teaching facilities to gain insight into VTC's talent development work.

Leveraging national strategy and strengthening Hong Kong's strategic role

As the nation embarks on the 15th Five-Year Plan, Hong Kong is proactively aligning with national development strategies and stepping up efforts to trawl for talents and advance priority sectors, such as innovation and technology, new energy and new industrialisation. Chairman Lam notes that the VTC, as a pivotal organisation for nurturing VPET talent, is well positioned to support Hong Kong's high quality development at this important juncture.

Chairman Lam advised that the VTC will focus on three major development directions in the years ahead. First, deepening collaboration by strengthening partnerships with the Government and the business sector, so that talent development remains closely aligned with market needs. Second, advancing talent cultivation for new industrialisation, with programme development closely tied to Hong Kong's positioning as the "Eight Centres" and the strategic priorities of the Nation's 15th Five-Year Plan, particularly in areas such as green energy, smart manufacturing and artificial intelligence. Third, promoting regional integration by supporting the development and industrial planning of the Northern Metropolis, nurturing talent equipped with both technical expertise and management capabilities to help drive Hong Kong's emerging economic growth engines.



Chairman Lam attends the Prize Presentation Ceremony of the 2025 Best Apprentice Competition together with industry partners, in celebration of the competition's 40th anniversary and recognising the achievements of a new generation of technical talent.

Embracing the AI era and strengthening teaching excellence

As artificial intelligence (AI) continues to reshape industries, the VTC has been strengthening its AI related teaching, while enhancing both its facilities and staff capabilities. Chairman Lam emphasises, "AI is no longer an optional skill; it has become a core competency required across all professions. Whether in innovation and technology, engineering, business, design, hospitality and tourism, or even property management and social services, the ability to integrate 'AI + professional expertise' can enhance efficiency and quality, accelerate innovation and transformation, and inject momentum into sustainable development of the industry." Looking ahead, Chairman Lam hopes to draw on his experience and networks in the business sector to foster closer collaboration between the VTC and industry, enabling both sides to seize the new opportunities emerging from national and Hong Kong development.

In the spirit of the Chinese New Year season, Chairman Lam extends his warmest wishes for a prosperous Year of the Horse, and looks forward to working closely with the Government, industry partners, professional bodies and chambers of commerce, etc., to advance VPET and nurture more outstanding talent for Hong Kong and the nation.