

The 50th Anniversary of Apprenticeship Ordinance Honouring outstanding apprentices and showcasing the value of VPET



Pictured in the front row are Mr CHAN Kwok-ki, GBS, IDSM, JP, Chief Secretary for Administration (fifth from left); Mr Chris SUN, JP, Secretary for Labour and Welfare (fourth from right); Miss Grace LI Wai-ting, Principal Assistant Secretary (Further Education), Education Bureau (second from left); The Hon Jeffrey LAM Kin-fung, GBM, GBS, JP, VTC Chairman (fifth from right); Mr Paul CHONG Kin-lit, BBS, MH, VTC Deputy Chairman (fourth from left); Dr Wingco LO Kam-wing, BBS, JP, VTC Deputy Chairman (third from right); and Mr Donald TONG, GBS, JP, VTC Executive Director (first from right) taking a group photo with the Outstanding Apprentices.

2026 marks a significant milestone — the 50th anniversary of the promulgation of the Apprenticeship Ordinance. Introduced by the Government in 1976, the Ordinance laid a structured and systematic foundation for technical training in Hong Kong by integrating on-the-job training and classroom learning to nurture professionals with specialised skills. Following its establishment in 1982, the Vocational Training Council (VTC) assumed the responsibility to administer and promote the Apprenticeship Training Scheme, further deepening and expanding the apprenticeship system to cover a diverse range of professional fields, providing young people with clear and robust pathways for professional development. Over the years, with the support of the Government and industry partners, the Apprenticeship Training Scheme has nurtured generation after generation of skilled and adaptive professionals, becoming an important force underpinning the effective operation of the city and the development of Hong Kong's industries.

Commemorative Ceremony marking half a century of talent development achievements

The 50th Anniversary (50A) of the Apprenticeship Ordinance cum Outstanding Apprentice Award Presentation Ceremony was successfully held on 14 May. The Ceremony not only reviewed the development and achievements of the apprenticeship system over the past 50 years, but also honoured Outstanding Apprentices for their exemplary performance. In addition, tribute was paid to ten 50A Distinguished Apprentice Alumni Ambassadors in recognition of their continued support for the apprenticeship system and their contributions to nurturing talent, highlighting the sustained and far-reaching impact of the apprenticeship system on Hong Kong's talent development framework.

Mr CHAN Kwok-ki, GBS, IDSM, JP, Chief Secretary for Administration and Guest of Honour, said in his speech that the apprenticeship system has nurtured a large number of outstanding skilled professionals across various industries in Hong Kong, serving as a backbone to support their development and continuing to contribute to the city's economic and social progress. The Hon Jeffrey LAM Kin-fung, GBM, GBS, JP, VTC Chairman, also expressed his appreciation to industry partners and to enterprises and employers who have actively participated in the Apprenticeship Training Scheme over the years, thereby playing a vital role in promoting the apprenticeship system by providing apprentices with valuable learning opportunities and professional guidance.



Mr CHAN Kwok-ki, GBS, IDSM, JP, Chief Secretary for Administration and Guest of Honour of the Ceremony, delivers a speech highlighting that the apprenticeship system has nurtured a large pool of skilled professionals in Hong Kong and continues to support the city's economic and social development.



The Hon Jeffrey LAM Kin-fung, GBM, GBS, JP, VTC Chairman, expresses his appreciation to industry partners, participating enterprises and employers for their support to Apprenticeship Training Scheme.

50A Distinguished Apprentice Alumni Ambassador: championing skilled careers and the apprenticeship spirit

Mr Felix CHOI, one of the 50A Distinguished Apprentice Alumni Ambassadors, exemplifies the talent-nurturing outcomes of the apprenticeship system through his professional journey. Mr CHOI joined the VTC Mould and Die Apprenticeship Training Programme in 1984. Through structured training and the dedicated guidance and encouragement of his mentors, he built a strong and solid professional foundation. After completing his apprenticeship, he devoted himself to the mould and die industry, and later established his own company, and developed a patented Three-Material Moulding System, earning wide industry recognition, including the Hong Kong Young Industrialist Award. His company later became an employer under the Apprenticeship Training Scheme, providing systematic mould-making training and nurturing a new generation of skilled professionals. Mr CHOI has also actively given back to his alma mater by making donations to support the VTC Student Development Fund, passing on the apprenticeship spirit from one generation to the next. He shared this message with young people: "Everyone has their own strengths. Choosing the apprenticeship pathway is about finding a route that suits you best. Develop your interests and commit wholeheartedly. While qualifications set the starting point, it is attitude that determines how far you go."



Guests and the 50A Distinguished Apprentice Alumni Ambassadors pose for a group photo, expressing appreciation for the Ambassadors' continued support and contributions to the apprenticeship system.



Mr Felix CHOI, 50A Distinguished Apprentice Alumni Ambassador, shares his apprenticeship journey, showcasing the talent-nurturing outcomes of the apprenticeship system.

Outstanding Apprentice: laying a solid professional foundation through apprenticeship training

Ms Tiffany LAM Ying-tung, one of the Outstanding Apprentice Award recipients, said, "The apprenticeship pathway is not a second-best option, but a route to professionalism and success through practice." Growing up with a car-enthusiast father, Tiffany has developed a keen interest in cars and car parts from a young age. After graduating from the Higher Diploma in Automotive Engineering at the Hong Kong Institute of Vocational Education (IVE), she joined Dah Chong Hong Motor Service Centre as an Engineering Technician (Vehicle) Apprentice. Tiffany said that apprenticeship training not only provides a clear career pathway, but also enables trainees to build professional competence through hands-on experience. As a female apprentice, she has demonstrated through her performance that ability and professionalism are what truly matters in the industry, serving as a role model for young people aspiring to pursue careers in technical and professional fields.



Outstanding Apprentice Tiffany LAM Ying-tung shares how apprenticeship training helps her build a solid professional foundation, enabling her to pursue her dreams with confidence.

Building on the past and shaping the forward: a new chapter for the apprenticeship system



The Ceremony also features an industry expo, thematic talks and skills experience activities, which enables members of the public to gain deeper insights into apprenticeship training and the development prospects of different industries, and how professional skills can support and enhance career development.

Over the past 50 years, the apprenticeship system has supported generation after generation of young people in developing their skills through practice and advancing their careers through work-based learning. Looking ahead, VTC will continue to work closely with the Government, industry and academia to keep pace with the evolving needs and further enhance the content and delivery of apprenticeship training. Through these efforts, the Apprenticeship Training Scheme will continue to play a vital role in nurturing talent in the new era, cultivating more technical professionals equipped with both professional competence and a sense of social responsibility for Hong Kong.