



**Opening Ceremony of Technological and Higher Education Institute of
Hong Kong Chai Wan Campus
18 April 2019 (Thursday)**

Welcoming Address

**Dr Roy CHUNG, GBS, BBS, JP
Chairman of VTC**

Chief Executive (The Honourable Mrs Carrie Lam), Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It's my great pleasure to welcome you all to the official opening of the new Chai Wan Campus of THEi, the Technological and Higher Education Institute of Hong Kong. On this significant and memorable occasion, we are very honoured to have the Chief Executive of the HKSAR, the Honourable Mrs Carrie Lam to be our Guest of Honour. We are also very delighted to have amongst our guests today, members of VTC Council and THEi Board of Governors, VTC Honorary Fellows and Training Board Chairmen, friends from the Consulates, and many of our long-standing partners from the Government, industry and academia to share our excitement.

Vocational and professional education and training (VPET) has played a pivotal role in addressing the workforce needs of Hong Kong industries, contributing to the city's betterment. To support the development of our knowledge economy, THEi was set up by VTC in 2012 to extend the value chain of VPET, grooming work-ready young talent with degree qualifications. THEi started off with six programmes and some 200 students. In seven years' time, our student population has grown to over 3,000 students, across 20 vocationally and professionally oriented degree programmes, covering expert training in niche areas such as horticulture and landscape management, sports therapy, culinary arts and management and more.

This newly completed Chai Wan Campus offers an innovative and sustainable learning environment for 21st Century professional training in the areas of design and environment, as well as management and hospitality. Together with the Tsing Yi Campus which focuses on engineering and science programmes, the dual-campus setting of THEi provides most up-to-date teaching and learning facilities to produce work-ready graduates. Already THEi is enjoying an employment rate of 95%.

Apart from state-of-the-art hardware, our students also develop a global and entrepreneurial mindset through a wide range of learning opportunities and international exposure. In the last academic year, THEi students had their international footprint across 9 countries in 4 continents through various exchanges and internship programmes offered in collaboration with our global partners. It was also our honour to host the inaugural International Conference on Applied Education, Technology and Innovation on the theme of “Education 4.0: Applied Degree Education and the Future of Work”, over the past few days in this campus, with over 100 participants from 12 countries and regions.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the HKSAR Government for the relentless support, providing VPET a broad range of support measures and subsidy schemes. I must also thank Dr Clement Chen, my predecessor, for laying a good foundation for this new campus. My thanks also go to Estates Committee Chairman Ir Conrad Wong and members for their contribution to the project in the past few years. Without their staunch support, the vibrant and engaging learning environment here won't be possible. I also want to thank our industry friends and international partners who offer valuable internships and exchange opportunities to THEi students. In fact, many of our graduates are hired by the internship employers because of their good performance during the internship period – so a big ‘thank you’ to all of our industry partners. It is this very close partnership with industries that should make THEi unique and scale new heights in the coming years.

Today marks a milestone in the development of THEi. I am sure that the new campus will inspire our future generations to learn, innovate and unleash their potentials and shape a better future. In fact, we also see the active participation of THEi students today, including our MCs, student helpers serving drinks and greeting and guiding our guests around the campus. Ladies and Gentlemen, do feel free to talk to the young people around you to understand their learning experiences and aspirations.

Last but not least, I would like to extend my gratitude to the President, Professor Christina Hong and every staff member of THEi across the two campuses who has contributed to the success of this institute over the past years. Much remains to be done to promote the development of VPET for betterment of our society and beyond. I sincerely look forward to your continued support in the nurture of our future leaders!

Thank you.