



**Opening Ceremony of Future Skills Community Event
9 December 2022, Friday**

**Welcome Address by
Mr Tony TAI, JP
Chairman of VTC**

Deputy Chief Secretary Cheuk (Mr CHEUK Wing-hing, Deputy Chief Secretary for Administration), Secretary Choi (Dr Choi Yuk-lin, Secretary for Education), Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good afternoon. A warm welcome to all of you for joining the Opening Ceremony of VTC's Future Skills Community Event today. With the support of the Government, this Community Event is both a celebration event marking the 25th Anniversary of the establishment of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region and a signature event of the VTC's 40th Anniversary. I would like to thank the Deputy Chief Secretary for Administration, Mr Cheuk Wing-hing, for gracing the Ceremony today as our Guest of Honour. My sincere thanks also go to Secretary for Education, Dr Choi Yuk-lin, for sponsoring and supporting this Community Event and joining us in person.

In addition to our special guests, I see at the Event today many long-standing partners from various industries and academia as well as representatives from Consulates, and friends from the Mainland and overseas organisations. We also have VTC alumni among our attendees – together with VTC colleagues and students joining us physically and online. Welcome everyone.

The theme of this three-day event is “Future Skills for Community”. VTC is a major provider of vocational and professional education and training in Hong Kong, or VPET in short. “Skills” have always been a focus for the VTC over the course of our 40-year history. Through the 13 member institutions that come under the auspices of VTC, our VPET programmes and initiatives are created and delivered with important input from our industry partners. In addition to

providing work-ready vocations for our students as well as routes for their further education to build up their career paths, our VPET programmes help meet the manpower needs of Hong Kong and have been making significant contributions to our economy.

The world is fast-changing, so is the talent demand across industries, especially in the post-COVID era. To equip our students with future-ready skills, we are, under a transformation of the environment for learning and teaching—powered by digital technologies; characterized by even closer collaboration between the public and private sectors; and among educators and companies – including those in attendance today.

We are thankful to the Government for the staunch support rendered to the VTC over the years. In the Chief Executive’s Policy Address announced earlier in October, the Government has reiterated the importance of VPET to equip young people with necessary skills for the future. A series of new initiatives were also announced to further promote VPET as a parallel pathway to the conventional academic education route. And this Community Event is a tangible demonstration to showcase VPET as an attractive progression pathway.

The three-day community event features a variety of VPET-oriented activities from innovative project showcases to thematic seminars and talks by industry experts that explore ways to equip the next generation with professional skills and knowledge. You will meet some award-winning individuals and teams and hear from VPET graduates about their learning and working experiences.

One highlight is the “Sharing by WorldSkills Competitors” this Sunday where VTC students and graduates, also medal winners of the WorldSkills Competition 2022 Special Edition will share their stories and how skills have changed their lives. The Team Hong Kong comprising VTC students and graduates just finished the Competition hailed as “Skills Olympics” and returned home with one Gold Medal and 12 Medallions for Excellence, a record high number of awards since we first participated in the Competition 25 years ago. This is a clear and good reflection of the high professional standards of our young people as well as the quality of vocational education in Hong Kong.

Please do take a tour of the event after the ceremony. I am sure you will be intrigued and enlightened by our VPET students and graduates – who are indeed our “future”.

Much remains to be done to promote the development of VPET for the betterment of our society. I hope this interactive event will provide inspiration for all participants and sincerely look forward to your continued support in providing the grounding and motivation for our future leaders!

Before closing, I would like to thank all our speakers, experts and partners for taking part in the Event. My gratitude also goes to the sponsors for their support. I would also like to thank Mr Kennedy Liu and Dr Wingco Lo for their valuable advice on the organising of this Community Event and other VTC anniversary programmes.

VPET is a two-way street. As much as we seek to transform the lives of our learners through the acquisition and mastery of skills, they will be contributing to Hong Kong's ability to succeed and thrive in the world of today, and into the future.

Now, let me say a few words in Chinese.

歡迎大家出席「新世代 新技能」博覽開幕典禮，特別感謝政務司副司長卓永興先生和教育局局長蔡若蓮博士親臨典禮。在此，我亦要多謝教育局的支持及資助，使 VTC 能夠成功舉辦這次博覽。

職專教育一直支持香港經濟增長和社會發展，為各行各業建立人才庫，自 1980 年代初以來，為香港培育出 90 多萬名職專精英，佔香港總人力近四分之一。VTC 是全港最具規模的職業專才教育機構；現時，VTC 透過轄下 13 間機構成員，每年為 20 萬名年輕人及在職人士，當中包括四萬名全日制學生，提供由文憑至學位、具價值的職專教育課程，幫助他們確立志向，發展專業。

藉著今次博覽，我們展示 VTC 學生在不同專業學科的研習成果，以及畢業生的專業成就。我希望各位學生、家長和老師，可以透過今次博覽，了解職專教育為年輕人帶來的多元選擇和發展機會。

希望大家能撥出時間去參觀博覽。我在此再次衷心多謝大家出席今日的開幕典禮。