



PRESS RELEASE

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【Cross-generational, Cross-cultural and Cross-disciplinary Asia's Prestigious Science Event】

The Inaugural Hong Kong Laureate Forum is Coming in November and Brings Together Shaw Laureates and Top Young Scientists for Exchange in Hong Kong

Organised by the Council of the Hong Kong Laureate Forum (the HKLF), the Hong Kong Laureate Forum (the Forum) will take place on 13-18 November 2023 at the Hong Kong Science Park. The HKLF held a press conference and kick-off ceremony at sky100 Hong Kong Observation Deck today (6 June). **Prof Sun Dong, JP**, Secretary for Innovation, Technology, and Industry, HKSAR Government, together with **Prof Timothy Tong, BBS, JP**, Chairman of the HKLF, **Dr Colin Lam, SBS**, Director of Lee Shau Kee Foundation and Prof Kenneth Young, Chair of The Shaw Prize Council, were the officiating guests and they delivered their speeches to signal the launch of the Forum.

The inaugural Hong Kong Laureate Forum, with its theme “Meeting of Inspirational Minds”, will have 20 plus Shaw Laureates around the world from the three disciplines, namely Astronomy, Life Science and Medicine, and Mathematical Sciences, gathering in-person in Hong Kong. They will share their research and ideas with more than 200 young scientists from over 30 different countries and regions through seminars, talks and discussions. The Forum will offer a unique opportunity for cross-disciplinary dialogue between established and budding scientists, thus fostering research and development of a new generation of scientific talents. Some sessions of the Forum will be live-streamed to break the geographical boundaries, allowing academics and young people around the world to participate in the Forum.

Prof Timothy Tong, BBS, JP, Chairman of the HKLF said at his welcome remarks, “The HKLF aspires to foster exchanges among cross-generational, cross-cultural and cross-disciplinary scientists; promote understanding and interests in science amongst the young generation in Hong Kong; and support youth development both here and beyond through facilitating networking among young scientists from different parts of the world. Over the years, we have held many different online and offline activities. I would like to take this opportunity to thank our principal sponsor the Lee Shau Kee Foundation and major partner the Shaw Prize Foundation for their unwavering support as well as Cathay Pacific, MTR Corporation, and the Hong Kong SAR Government, in particular the Secretary for Innovation, Technology and Industry and Invest Hong Kong, for their staunch support.”

Prof Sun Dong, JP, Secretary for Innovation, Technology, and Industry, HKSAR Government shared at his speech, “Hong Kong is world renowned to be a welcoming place for investment and talents, a place of world-class infrastructure and with ease of doing business, but perhaps less known for our strength and prowess for innovation and technology. Innovation and technology development have always been a top priority for the Hong Kong SAR Government. The Hong Kong SAR Government is fully behind the work of the HKLF and the hosting of the Forum. It not only provides a useful platform for young scientists but also for us an opportunity to showcase the advances in innovation and technology development here in Hong Kong when they visit the research institutes and have dialogues with local renowned scientists.”

The HKLF has been fully sponsored by Lee Shau Kee Foundation since its launch in 2019. **Dr Colin Lam, SBS**, Director of Lee Shau Kee Foundation said, “Dr Lee Shau Kee founded Lee Shau Kee Foundation, with the goal to do good and give back to society. Dr Lee recognised that education is the foundation of progress, for which we must leverage our combined strengths. It is with this vision in mind that the Foundation supports the work of the Council of the Hong Kong Laureate Forum and believes that the Forum will foster the synergy between education and innovation.”

The Shaw Prize was established under the vision and generosity of the late Mr Run Run Shaw. It is an international award to honour scientists who have made outstanding contributions in academic and scientific research or applications. Since its establishment, over 100 scientists from different countries have received the award. **Prof Kenneth Young**, Chair of The Shaw Prize Council said, “This year, working together with the Hong Kong Laureate Forum, there will be over 20 Shaw Laureates gathering in Hong Kong in November, to attend the inaugural Hong Kong Laureate Forum. These Laureates span the two decades of awards, and they will bring with them a wealth of knowledge on topics as diverse as the vast universe to the tiny cells, and to the abstractions of mathematics. The gathering of great minds will ignite the imagination and passion for the young scientists joining the week-long programme.”

Shaw Laureates have been supporting the HKLF over the past four years, two of them shared their expectations about the Forum through video recordings. **Prof Steven A Balbus**, Shaw Laureate in Astronomy 2013 said he is very excited about coming to Hong Kong and participating in the Forum. He loves to teach and share passion in science and hopes that through the Forum, he can motivate the young scientists. **Prof Gero Miesenböck**, Shaw Laureate in Life Science and Medicine 2020 said he is looking forward to participating in the Forum in November. He believes that the Forum will be an inspiring event as it draws scientists from. He believes hosting the Forum in a global dynamic metropolis like Hong Kong will generate a vibrant atmosphere for exchanges.

Representing the official airline sponsor Cathay Pacific, **Ms Priyatha Menon** shared with us how science helps to reduce the environmental impact of flying. **Ms Cheris Lee** of MTR Corporation, collaborating organisation of the HKLF how MTR is utilising technology to enhance railway services and further develop smart railway in Hong Kong. **Mr Andy Wong** of InvestHK, another collaborating organisation of the HKLF shared with us the competitiveness and attractiveness of Hong Kong as a destination for innovation and technology development.

The HKLF believes that the Forum will not only bring great benefits to advancing global scientific development, but also through the hosting of the Forum, demonstrate to the world that Hong Kong is moving towards being a leading innovation and technology hub.

For high resolution photos, please click [here](#).



Prof Sun Dong, JP, Secretary for Innovation, Technology, and Industry, **Prof Timothy Tong, BBS, JP**, Chairman of the HKLF, **Dr Colin Lam, SBS**, Director of Lee Shau Kee Foundation and **Prof Kenneth Young**, Chair of The Shaw Prize Council officiating the kick-off ceremony.



Prof Timothy Tong, BBS, JP, Chairman of the HKLF gave his welcome remarks.



Prof Sun Dong, JP, Secretary for Innovation, Technology, and Industry gave his speech.



Dr Colin Lam, SBS, Director of Lee Shau Kee Foundation gave his speech.



Prof Kenneth Young, Chair of The Shaw Prize Council gave his speech.



Group photo: **Prof Sun Dong, JP**, Secretary for Innovation, Technology, and Industry, **Prof Timothy Tong, BBS, JP**, Chairman of the HKLF, **Dr Colin Lam, SBS**, Director of Lee Shau Kee Foundation and **Prof Kenneth Young**, Chair of The Shaw Prize Council, **Ms Priyatha Menon**, representative of Cathay Pacific, **Ms Cheris Lee**, representative of MTR Corporation, **Mr Andy Wong**, representative of InvestHK.

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About the Hong Kong Laureate Forum

The Hong Kong Laureate Forum (the Forum) is a world-class scientific exchange and networking event to be organised by the HKLF to aspire and connect the current and next generations of leaders in scientific pursuit. The Forum also aims to promote understanding and interests of the young generation in Hong Kong and around the world in various disciplines in science and technology, in particular Astronomy, Life Science and Medicine, and Mathematical Sciences. The inaugural Forum will be held on **13-18 November 2023** at the Hong Kong Science Park.

The HKLF was established in May 2019 and is fully sponsored by the Lee Shau Kee Foundation. The Shaw Prize Foundation - which organises annually the renowned international award, The Shaw Prize, is the major partner of the HKLF. Since its launch, the HKLF has been putting every effort to promote science in the community and around the world as well as in preparation of the inaugural Forum.

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