

PRESS RELEASE

Date: 18 November 2021

**Three-Day “Masterminds, Masterclasses” organised by the
Council of the Hong Kong Laureate Forum (the HKLF)
Attracted Near 700 Online and Offline Participants**

Held in a hybrid format by combining physical seminars and dialogue sessions with online platform, the three-day (16-18 November) **Masterminds, Masterclasses** event, organised by the Council of the Hong Kong Laureate Forum (the HKLF), concluded today and it had attracted near 700 fellow scientists, young scientists and students who are interested in science.

The event gathered award-winning scientists and scholars from around the globe to discuss their research topics and applications, research journeys and the experience that they gained during the process in three disciplines of science.

The first day of the event focused on life science and medicine. Renowned local scientists, Professor Dennis LO, awardee of the 2021 Breakthrough Prize in Life Sciences and the 2021 Royal Medal in Biological Sciences, and Professor Ivan HUNG, Professor of Medicine and Assistant Dean (Admissions) and Chief of Infectious Diseases Division, Department of Medicine, Li Ka Shing Faculty of Medicine, the University of Hong Kong joined us to share how their contributions towards medical research impact our lives. Professor Goncalo CASTELO-BRANCO, a neurobiologist at the Department of Medical Biochemistry and Biophysics at the world renowned Karolinska Institutet, from Sweden joined the seminar via Zoom as well. Professor TSUI Lap-chee, world-renowned molecular biologist; President of the Hong Kong Academy of Sciences and Council Member of the HKLF, served as moderator in the panel discussion.

The seminar themed “Astronomy” followed on the next day with three astrophysicists as speakers who have spent many years studying the mysteries of our universe and shared a passion on dark matter. To provide an environment that mimic direct exchange with the audience for those who could not share their inspirational experiences with us in-person due to the pandemic, Professor Francoise COMBES, awardee of the Gold Medal of CNRS (2020)

and 2021 L’Oreal-Unesco International Award was beamed in to present her discoveries on black holes and galaxies. Professor Simon WHITE, Shaw Laureates in Astronomy for 2017, whose research focus is on formation structure in the universe, also joined us in 3D form to explain how to read cosmic history from the sky. The third speaker, Professor CHU Ming-chung from the Department of Physics, The Chinese University of Hong Kong, shared his research on neutrinos. He has spent decades studying them and was there to help us understand more on the neutrino universe. Professor Kenneth YOUNG, Chairman of the Council & Vice Chairman of the Board of Adjudicators, The Shaw Prize Foundation and Council Member of the HKLF served as moderator in the panel discussion.

The last episode of **Masterminds, Masterclasses** held today shed lights on Mathematical Sciences. Three mathematicians who excel in different spectrum of mathematics, from numbers that transcends, algebra to geometry and algebraic geometry which span both areas, joined together to reveal the mystique of mathematics. Chair Professor and Director of the Institute of Mathematical Research, the University of Hong Kong, Professor MOK Ngai-ming, gave a talk on “From transcendental numbers to functional transcendence” whereas Professor Pierre-Louis LIONS, Fields Medalist in 1994, Senior Fellow of the Hong Kong Institute for Advanced Study, City University delivered his presentation on “Some Perspectives in Applied Mathematics”. Professor Jean-Michel BISMUT, Shaw Laureates in Mathematical Sciences for 2021, was present in the form of a 3D hologram to take us through his journey on how a mathematician spent his 24 hours a day. Professor WANG Yang, Chair Professor of Department of Mathematics of the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST); Director of HKUST, the Big Data for Bio Intelligence Laboratory, served as moderator in the panel discussion.

Professor Timothy W TONG, BBS, JP, Chairman of the HKLF, “I would like to thank our renowned ‘Masterminds’ from Hong Kong and different parts of the world in taking their precious time out to deliver their presentations for us. Apart from our speakers, I would also like to thank our renowned moderators for the three panel discussions following the presentations. Without them, our Masterminds, Masterclasses would not be a success.”

“As academic research and scientific discoveries go beyond boundaries, we are confident that together, we will succeed in inspiring our young generations to pursue scientific careers and bringing more scientific breakthroughs and new knowledge for the betterment of mankind.” Professor TONG added.

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



The three-day (16-18 November) **Masterminds, Masterclasses** concluded today and attracted near 700 fellow scientists, young scientists and students who are interested in science.



The panel discussions which focused on how to enthuse young people through teaching of basic knowledge of science and technology and potentially awaken their interest in a research career.

For media enquiries, please contact:

Michelle Li

Tel: (852) 2905 6504

Email: michelleli@hklaureateforum.org

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 7-12 November 2022 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.

Website: <https://www.hklaureateforum.org>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/HKLaureateForum>

Twitter: <https://www.twitter.com/HKLaureateForum>

Weibo: <https://www.weibo.com/hklaureateforum>

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/hklaureateforum/>