

Press Release

Partnership in STEAM Education Empowers Gifted Science Aspirants

(Hong Kong, 19 June 2023) The Hong Kong Academy for Gifted Education (HKAGE or Academy) and the Hong Kong Laureate Forum (HKLf) co-organised a science dialogue session for the first time to kick off the collaborative framework agreement (CFA) signed by both parties earlier.

Last Saturday (17 June), **Professor CHU Ming Chung from the Department of Physics at the Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK), Mrs DO PANG Wai Yee, Secretary-General of the Council of the HKLF, and Dr Jimmy WONG, the Executive Director of the Academy**, who studied astrophysics during his university days and is also an astronomy enthusiast, had a dialogue with three gifted students who have a passion for astronomy. The professionals shared their experiences in exploring physics and science. After the dialogue session, Professor CHU guided the three students and some guests around the physics laboratories at CUHK. The visitors were all very excited about the tour.

Let's hear the thoughts of the three young astronomy enthusiasts on pursuing their love of science.

Building a Telescope by Hand

PUN Yuet, a Secondary 5 student, said excitedly, "I have always been charmed by the beauty of the starry sky since childhood, enjoy identifying and taking photos of different constellations. To understand more about the mysteries of the universe to satisfy my curiosity, I have taken various astronomy courses. One of the programmes was the Cosmos - An Investigative Study programme organised by the HKAGE, in which I learned about cosmology, astronomical observation, and conducted a research project on a self-selected topic in astronomy. My research topic was the North-South Asymmetry of the Sun's Rotation and Sunspot Activities.

"The most impressive part of the programme was building a telescope with our own hands from the most basic parts. The whole process, including assembling the secondary mirror, adjusting the focus, drilling holes in the supporting wooden base, etc., was very challenging. I hope that the Academy and the HKLF will co-organise more discussion activities, workshops, and STEAM programmes, so that we can acquire the latest knowledge in technology and science and get equipped for our future career development in science research."

Getting a Taste of Small-scale Astronomical Research

FONG Ka Wai, a Secondary 5 student and chairman of the astronomy club in his school, said, "I love stargazing which brings me so close to the stars far away. The starry sky is peaceful and dazzling. Every time I look at the stars in the sky, I feel the vastness of the universe and forget the pressure of my studies.

"In the HKAGE's Cosmos - An Investigative Study programme, I was required to conduct small-scale astronomical research, an uncommon learning experience compared to regular school assignments. During the dialogue session with experts

like Professor CHU and Dr WONG, I learned from their experiences and insights in physics and astronomy. I hope the Academy and the HKLF will launch more science programmes that combine theories with practice and provide more opportunities for professional dialogue and exchange. I hope I can work in physics- or astronomy-related fields in the future."

Gaining Inspiration for New Inventions

YIU Yeuk Wan, a Secondary 4 student, said, "Since I was young, I have always found the night sky fascinating. From a summer astronomy camp taken in my primary school years and the physics lessons in secondary school, I realised that our universe was really big and mysterious. So, I want to learn more about its mysteries. The most unforgettable part of the HKAGE astronomy course was going stargazing in Sai Kung with one-on-one guidance from the instructors while collecting data for our final projects. I still remember how we were briefed by the instructors while taking astronomy photos with professional equipment. I was really excited to have the privilege to meet Professor CHU and Dr WONG, who taught me a lot about astronomy and science. Their sharing was interesting and inspiring. As a science enthusiast, I want to gain more science knowledge and be inspired by activities to be co-organised by the Academy and the HKLF for innovative ideas."

Joining Hands in STEAM Education

In view of the demand for STEAM education among gifted students, the Academy and the HKLF signed a collaborative framework agreement (CFA) in April to establish a strategic partnership in promoting STEAM education to enhance the interest of gifted students in science and technology for the cultivation of local research talents.

Mrs DO PANG Wai Yee, Secretary-General of the HKLF, said, "One of the missions of the HKLF is to promote the understanding and interests of the young generation in Hong Kong in various disciplines in science and technology. I am thrilled to be involved in the dialogue session today with three gifted students who are passionate about astronomy. Their enthusiasm and endless quest for scientific exploration invigorates me. With the signing of the CFA to consolidate the strategic partnership between the HKAGE and the HKLF, we would co-organise different types of scientific activities in congruence with our stated mission."

Dr Jimmy WONG, Executive Director of the Academy, said, "The HKAGE has signed a CFA with the HKLF to become strategic partners. The dialogue session, which is the first-ever collaboration between the HKAGE and the HKLF, offered an opportunity for our gifted students to chitchat with Professor CHU Ming Chung in a relaxed setting and learn more about astronomy, physics, and science from a physicist face-to-face. Hopefully, this will further inspire and motivate their cosmic and scientific exploration. The HKAGE and the HKLF will co-organise more activities, programmes, seminars, and even competitions in the future with a view to identifying and nurturing more scientists and research talents in Hong Kong."

Professor CHU Ming Chung responded, "It was a great pleasure to have the opportunity to dialogue with these gifted students who are passionate about astronomy. Their enthusiasm for science is truly inspiring. I hope the Academy and the HKLF will continue to organise more science-related activities and offer more opportunities for gifted students. This will help to cultivate future scientists and researchers in Hong Kong."

[Photo link](#)



The Academy and the HKLF co-organised a science dialogue session at CUHK



Secondary 5 gifted student **PUN Yuet**



Secondary 5 gifted student **FONG Ka Wai**



Secondary 4 gifted student YIU Yeuk Wan



Professor CHU Ming Chung from the Department of Physics at CUHK



Mrs DO PANG Wai Yee, Secretary-General of the HKLF



Dr Jimmy WONG, Executive Director of the HKAGE



The gifted students and guests visit the physics laboratories at CUHK	Group photo after the dialogue session

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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 the understanding and interests of the young generation in Hong Kong and around the world in various disciplines of 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 a 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 for the inaugural Forum.

For media enquiries, please contact:

Mr Kelvin CHAU

Tel: (852) 2905 6506

Email: kelvinchau@hklaureateforum.org

About Hong Kong Academy for Gifted Education

The HKAGE, a subvented non-governmental organisation of the Education Bureau, The Government of the HKSAR, was established in 2008. It aims at serving the education sector in Hong Kong, offering high quality information, support and appropriate learning opportunities to gifted students, their parents, teachers and other stakeholders engaged in gifted education. Most of its programmes are provided free-of-charge.

For media enquiries:

Ms Janice LEE

Senior Officer (PR & Language), the HKAGE

Tel: (852) 3940 0143

Email: janicelee@hkage.org.hk