



## PRESS RELEASE

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### **Three-Day “Masterminds, Masterclasses 2.0” organised by the Council of the Hong Kong Laureate Forum (the HKLF) Attracted Well Over 400 Online and Offline Participants**

Held in a hybrid format, the three-day (9-11 November) “**Masterminds, Masterclasses 2.0**” (MM2.0) event, organised by the Council of the Hong Kong Laureate Forum (the HKLF), concluded today. The event had attracted well over 400 fellow scientists, young scientists and students who are keen on science.

The event gathered over 20 renowned scientists and experts in the field from different parts of the world as speakers for seminars and trending topic session or as guest hosts for the sharing sessions.

Officiated by **Prof Sun Dong**, JP, Secretary for Innovation, Technology and Industry, the first day of the event was kicked off by the Grand Launching Ceremony. It was followed by a panel discussion where **Dr Sunny Chai Ngai Chiu**, BBS, JP, Chairman, Hong Kong Science and Technology Parks Corporation, **Prof Chan Wai-ye**, Vice-President (Strategic Developments), The Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK), Principal **Wan Ka Kit**, Executive Committee Member, Hong Kong Association of Heads of Secondary Schools, and **Prof Wong Wing-tak**, Deputy President and Provost & Chair Professor of Chemical Technology, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University shared their views on how government initiatives would impact on generating interest among the youngsters of today to pursue science as a future career. **Prof Xiaoming Yuan**, Head and Professor, Department of Mathematics of The University of Hong Kong (HKU) and **Prof Tong Yang**, Chair Professor of Mathematics, City University of Hong Kong then showed us the importance and application of Mathematics at the seminar with the aim to ignite young generation’s interest in science, in particular Mathematical Sciences.

The seminar in Astronomy began the second day event followed by a round-table dialogue. **Prof Roger Blandford**, 2020 Shaw Laureate in Astronomy joined us through online platform to present his insights on “Extreme Astrophysics”. **Prof Ming-chung Chu**, Choh-Ming Li Professor of Physics, CUHK shared his research of dying stars in his presentation coined “The Broken Heart of a Dying Star”. **Prof Luk Kam-biu**, IAS Paul C W Chu Professor and Chair Professor of Physics, The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST) brought us the magic show of neutrino oscillation. Following the seminar, **Dr Jane Dai**, Assistant Professor, Department of Physics, HKU and Prof Chu hosted the round-table dialogue where they exchanged views, research ideas and experience with participants. The newly added programme this year, trending topic session was held in the afternoon on the second day of event. **Dr Timothy Carlton Bonebrake**, Associate Professor, School of Biological Sciences, HKU, **Mr Shun Chi-ming**, Former Director of the Hong Kong Observatory, **Prof Amos Tai**, Associate Professor & Director, Earth System Science Programme, CUHK and **Prof Chris Budd**, Professor of Applied Mathematics, Department of Mathematical Sciences, University of Bath, UK who joined us through online platform, shared their respective work and concerns on Climate Emergency with participants. Indeed, the topic is also currently being hotly debated at COP 27 in Egypt!

The last day of **MM2.0** concluded by a series of programmes including the seminar hosted by renowned scientists who shared with us the burning issues in their sphere of research in Life Science and Medicine. **Prof Gero Miesenböck**, 2020 Shaw Laureate in Life Science and Medicine gave a talk on his research on brain cells, whereas **Prof Alice Wong**, Associate Vice-President (Research), Interim Director, School of Biological Sciences, Faculty of Science, HKU showed us the new findings on the metastasis of cancer cells. **Prof Zhang Jianhua**, Associate Vice-President (Global Research Collaboration), Chair Professor, Department of Biology, Hong Kong Baptist University delivered his presentation on “China’s Food Security and its Sustainable Use of Water Resources”. It is definitely a burning issue given the recent serious drought in parts of China. **Dr Stephanie Ma**, Associate Professor, School of Biomedical Sciences, HKU and Prof Wong had a direct dialogue session with a group of youngsters afterwards. Another highlight of MM2.0 was the newly added programmes specifically designed for local secondary students. **Prof Dennis Lo**, Director of the Li Ka Shing Institute of Health Sciences, CUHK and **Dr Carmen Wong**, Associate Professor, Department of Pathology, HKU shared with local secondary students their academic and research journey, experience and personal take on this interesting, yet arduous path. Three winning teams from the Hong Kong Student Science Project Competition presented their projects to **Prof Steven A Balbus**, 2013 Shaw Laureate in Astronomy. Members of the winning teams and audience both benefited from the exchange of ideas and knowledge in the session.

Professor Timothy W Tong, BBS, JP, Chairman of the HKLF, said, “I would like to thank our renowned ‘Masterminds’ including our speakers and guest hosts from Hong Kong and different parts of the world in taking their precious time out to join us in this three-day programme. Without them, our Masterminds, Masterclasses 2.0 would not be a success.”

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



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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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