

HKAES President's Report 2015-2016

It has been a busy first year of my presidency of the Academy and I have pleasure in reporting the followings:-

1) New Fellows:

At the 22nd Annual General Meeting held on 14th December 2015, three new Fellows were elected, bringing the register of HKAES Fellows to 66. They are:

1. Prof. Chan, F Tony
2. Dr Liao, York
3. Dr Poon, L T Otto

At the AGM, a new Council (2015-2016) was also elected with Dr Andrew Chan as the new President.

2) Four Council Meetings were held during the session:

83rd Council Meeting on 27th January 2016

84th Council Meeting on 27th April 2016

85th Council Meeting on 28th July 2016

86th Council Meeting on 26th October 2016

3) Three Academy Dinners were held during the session:

Academy Dinner

1st Academy Dinner on 27th April 2016

Guest of Honour

Prof. Tsui Lap-Chee, The President
of the Academy of Sciences of
Hong Kong

2nd Academy Dinner on 28th July 2016

Mrs Fanny LAW FAN Chiu -fun,
Chairman of the Hong Kong Science
& Technology Park Corporation

3rd Academy Dinner on 26th October 2016

Dr Frank TONG Fuk-kay, CEO of the
Hong Kong Applied Science and
Technology Research Institute

Each of the Academy Dinners was held after the Council Meetings and well-attended by over 20 HKAES Fellows who were engaged in an active dialogue with the Guest of Honour.

4) The Eleventh Guanghua Engineering Science and Technology Award

It was reported last year that HKAES was invited by the Chinese Academy of Engineering (CAE) to be the organization in Hong Kong SAR for the nomination of candidates for the captioned award. A Nomination Committee was then formed with Chairman: Dr. Andrew Chan, Members: Ir James Chiu, Prof. C F Lee, Prof. Victor Li, Prof. Otto Lin, Prof. Y W Mai, Prof. C P Wong and Prof. W S Wong, Secretary: Prof. J M Ko.

Nine universities/organizations were invited to submit their nomination by 5th October 2015. Finally, five candidates including Prof. Chan Ching Chuen, Prof. Chen Guanghao, Prof. Tao Xiaoming, Prof. Teng Jinguang and Prof. Yung Kai Ling were selected for nominating to CAE for the "Engineering Award". Another three candidates including Prof. Jia Jiaya, Dr. Wang Zuankai and Prof. Yue Patrick were selected for nominating to CAE for the "Youth Award" on 28th October 2015.

The final result was announced in May 2016. Prof C C Chan and Prof. Patrick Yue were winners of the Guanghua Award (Engineering) and the Guanghua Award (Youth) respectively. Dr Andrew Chan and Prof. J M Ko were invited by the Council of the Award to attend the Award Presentation Ceremony held on 1st June 2016 in Beijing on behalf of HKAES. The two HKAES representatives were well-received by the host CAE. In the meeting with the President of CAE, it was agreed that HKAES will continue to serve as the sole nomination organization in HKSAR for the Guanghua Award in the years to come.

5) Regular Breakfast Meeting with ASHK and HKIS

A breakfast meeting between HKAES, ASHK (The Academy of Sciences of Hong Kong) and HKIS (Hong Kong Institution of Science) was held on 25 February 2016 to discuss issues related to the common interest and the potential collaboration among the three parties. Dr Andrew Chan, Prof. Joseph Lee and Prof. J M Ko attended the meeting on behalf of HKAES. The following two points were agreed:

- 1) The three organizations agreed to work together for the benefit of Hong Kong. In order to better communicate in the long run, there will be regular breakfast meetings, say 3 to 4 in a year.
- 2) It was noted that HKAES and ASHK have their own focus, therefore CAE will be taken as the counterpart of HKAES and CAS (Chinese Academy of Sciences) will be that of ASHK.

In addition, HKAES agreed to appoint two representatives to sit on the Committee on Science and Technology Education of ASHK, chaired by Prof. Tony Chan. The two HKAES representatives are Prof. W S Wong and Dr Alex Chan.

Starting from the second breakfast meeting, the senior executives of the Federation of Hong Kong Industries (FHKI) was invited to join the breakfast meeting. FHKI was also considered to be very enthusiastic in promoting innovation and technology in Hong Kong and the Pearl River Delta (PRD).

6) CAE-HKAES Collaborative Project on Policy Research

A paper "A Summary Recommendation of the CAE-HKAES Joint Summit 2015" prepared by Prof. Joseph Lee was presented to the 83rd Council Meeting for members' comment. The paper was developed based on the record of the last session of the Joint Summit – Panel Discussion on "Recommendation for Future". As the paper was considered to be jointly issued by CAE and HKAES. The revised version of the paper was sent to CAE for comment and input.

A HKAES delegation led by the President visited Beijing from 24 to 26 April 2016. Members of the delegation included Dr Andrew Chan, Ir James Chiu, Prof. J M Ko, Prof. Joseph Lee and Prof. W S Wong. The purpose of the visit was to meet with CAE's President, Prof. Zhou Ji and his senior colleagues to discuss the paper "A Summary

Recommendation of the CAE-HKAES Joint Summit” which was finally endorsed by CAE. In the meeting, we also explored with CAE possible further collaboration after the Joint Summit in 2015. The visit was considered to be very successful and fruitful, leading to the agreement of establishing a collaborative policy research project with CAE on the “Development of Innovation and Technology Industry in Hong Kong and PRD”.

On 14th July, Dr Andrew Chan and Prof. Joseph Lee attended a meeting in Beijing with CAE. The purpose of the meeting was to signify the launch of the CAE-HKAES Collaborative Project on Policy Research.

It is expected that the policy research project would be completed in early 2017 and the research report would be submitted to the State Council of PRC through CAE and to the HKSAR government through HKAES in parallel.

Subsequently, a HKAES Team was formed with Prof. Joseph H W Lee as leader and members including Prof. C C Chan, Prof. P C Ching, Prof. Otto Lin, Dr. Otto Poon, Prof. J G Teng, Prof. W S Wong, Prof. Y S Xu. The two Ex-officio members are Dr Andrew Chan and Prof. J M Ko.

A series of activities have been conducted and work will be carried out in Hong Kong in these few months, which are parts of the policy research studies by the HKAES Team.

7) CAETS Meetings and Conference in London

To maintain our position internationally with The International Council of Academies of Engineering and Technological Sciences (CAETS, coordinating 26 national academies), the President represented the Academy to continue our presence at this year’s council meeting and conference, hosted by the Royal Academy of Engineering in London, September 13th-15th, as Guest and Observer. This was the fourth year that we attended (following Budapest 2013, Beijing, 2014, New Delhi 2015) and it is felt that the level of participation is right, considering our size and limited resources. The companion conference was on the theme of “Engineering a Better World”, featuring a very impressive line-up of international speakers on International Development. It was attended by over 400 delegates and was truly inspiring.

Next year’s council meeting and conference will be hosted by the Spanish Academy in Madrid.

8) InnoTech Expo 2016

HKAES was invited by Our Hong Kong Foundation to be a Strategic Co-organizers together with ASHK and HKIS for the Innotech Expo 2016 (創科博覽 2016) which was an exhibition of the National Achievement in Science and Technology for the period of the Twelve – Five Year Plan. The InnoTech Expo 2016 was held from 24th September to 1st October 2016 at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre.

HKAES was also invited to specifically organized two events. The first one was a forum entitled “Forum – Development of Chinese High-speed Railway (走往世界的中國高鐵)” - Saturday 24 September 2016 (5:00 pm – 6:30 pm) which attracted an audience of over 500. The second one was also a forum entitled “Evening Forum – Hong Kong Top Researchers in Sciences and Technologies (香港科研領航者)” – Monday 26 September 2016 (7:00 pm – 8:30 pm) which attracted an audience of over 400. A number of HKAES Fellows participated in these highly successful events.

The InnoTech Expo 2016 event gave HKAES excellent exposure to the general public. On top of the above events, there was an opportunity to exhibit a profile of HKAES about its founding history, vision, mission and role in the exhibition. The biographies and photos of all Fellows of HKAES were also displayed in the exhibition and included a booklet entitled “Celebrated Scientists in Hong Kong” (香港科研精英錄) given out at the exhibition.

In connection with the Expo, an article entitled “香港科研力量發光發熱” (“It’s time for the strength of Hong Kong’s science and technology research to shine”) was published in the Hong Kong Economic Journal under the name of the HKAES President. The article presents examples of prominent success stories in science and technology development in Hong Kong and argues that there is a good foundation for the strength of Hong Kong’s science and technology to further develop and to shine.

Concluding Remarks

In the past year, considerable efforts have been devoted and we have made encouraging progress in enhancing the position of HKAES in the local community through participating in, and contributing to, a series of events aimed at promoting science and technology development in Hong Kong. This and our own activities represent a step forward in establishing HKAES’ top-level advocacy and advisory position both with the government and the public.

The joint study with CAE on policies which could help catapult Hong Kong toward greater success in innovation and technology is now well underway with many of our Fellows contributing, and we look forward to a report with lasting impact.

The Academy is what our Fellows are. The recognition we deserve and the impact we can make are dependent on the participation and contribution from our Fellows. We have been fortunate to be able to count on the tremendous support from Prof JM Ko, the Honorary Secretary, and his team, and Ir James Chiu, Honorary Treasurer, and his team. As they complete their terms, we should record our special thanks to their selfless dedication throughout the years past. Similar gratitude must also go to other outgoing council members for their contributions.

Dr Andrew Chan Ka Ching
President
Hong Kong Academy of Engineering Sciences
December 2016