

IDO CONNECT

The E-Newsletter of the International Development Office



ADVANCING INTERNATIONALISATION IN THE PANDEMIC AND DIGITAL AGE

- VPET Reform in Mainland China and Implications for the VTC
- Elevating Collaborations in Mainland China
- Fostering Virtual Exchange and Industrial Attachment

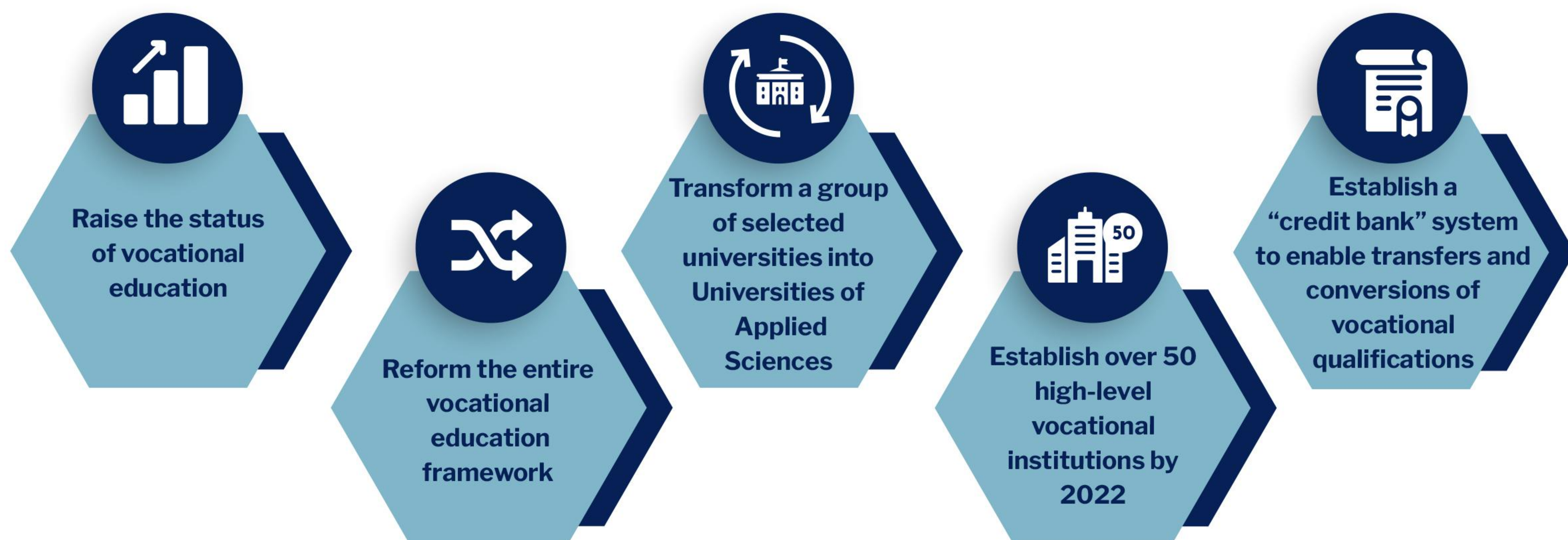


VPET REFORM IN MAINLAND CHINA AND IMPLICATIONS FOR THE VTC

NATIONAL VOCATIONAL EDUCATION REFORM

In recent years, the Central Government has put forward a massive vocational education reform and the “Vocational Education Action Plan for 2020-2023” has been announced, which is part of its comprehensive “Implementation Plan on National Vocational Education Reform” 《國務院關於印發國家職業教育改革實施方案的通知》 emphasising that vocational education and training should be as important as the academic education.

KEY OBJECTIVES OF THE PLAN



An example of Mainland China’s vigorous effort to develop high-quality vocational education is the bold step to establish 27 vocational universities at the undergraduate level since 2019, such that vocation education can reach degree level.

POLICIES ENCOURAGING COLLABORATIONS IN THE GUANGDONG-HONG KONG-MACAO GREATER BAY AREA (GBA)

Both the Mainland and the HKSAR Governments have been supporting Vocational and Professional Education and Training (VPET) development in the GBA by launching initiatives to unleash the strength and potential of Hong Kong youths for career aspirations in the region.

The 2020 Work Plan of the Framework Agreement on Hong Kong/Guangdong Co-operation was signed in October 2020 between the Chief Executive of the HKSAR and the Governor of Guangdong Province to encourage the VTC’s development of vocational coaching and internships with the Shenzhen Polytechnic (SZPT) and exchanges among students in the GBA. Soon afterwards, in the Chief Executive’s 2020 Policy Address, a wide spectrum of initiatives in the areas of youth development, employment and entrepreneurship, and vocational training and coaching in the GBA were announced in November 2020. In January 2021, the Ministry of Education (MoE) and the People’s Government of Guangdong Province advocated the co-establishment with the VTC a GBA Unique Characteristics Vocational Training Park.

VTC STRATEGIC COLLABORATION IN THE GBA

To echo with the national strategies in VPET and GBA development, and to further enhance the quality of VPET in Hong Kong, the VTC has adopted GBA collaboration as one of the strategic initiatives with the objectives to:



Develop among students a mindset of working globally



Deepen VPET cooperation among GBA cities



Co-establish a GBA Vocational Training Park

ACTION PLANS



Develop dual award collaborative programmes with Shenzhen Polytechnic to benefit students giving them more career development opportunities in the Mainland and potential articulations globally

Set up the Innovation and Technology Co-creation Centre (Shenzhen) (ITCC (SZ)) to provide synergy with the existing cluster of innovation and technology centres at the VTC and to serve as a starter for the GBA Unique Characteristics Vocational Training Park

Enhance student exchange activities and industrial attachments in the GBA to cultivate applied talents with global perspective and support their career aspirations through enriching their knowledge and exposure to emerging business sectors in the region

Stay tuned for the latest developments and announcements about the VTC Strategic Collaboration in the GBA.

REFERENCES

《中華人民共和國職業教育法》修訂草案首次提請審議 (2021年6月8日)
Revised Draft of Implementation of Vocational Education Law of the People's Republic of China Submitted for Deliberation
<http://www.npc.gov.cn/npc/c30834/202106/9e09389177094aa3a1ca54ad80242a8a.shtml>

《教育部 廣東省人民政府關於推進深圳職業教育高端發展爭創世界一流的實施意見》(2021年1月27日)
Views on Implementation for Driving the Development of World-class Vocational Education in Shenzhen by the Ministry of Education and the People's Government of Guangdong Province
http://www.gd.gov.cn/zwgk/wjk/qbwj/yf/content/post_3185337.html

《行政長官2020年施政報告》(2020年11月25日)
The Chief Executive's 2020 Policy Address
<https://www.policyaddress.gov.hk/2020/eng/policy.html>

《粵港合作框架協議》2020年重點工作 (2020年10月30日)
The 2020 Work Plan of the Framework Agreement on Hong Kong/Guangdong Co-operation
https://gia.info.gov.hk/general/202010/30/P2020103000489_353150_1_1604046306676.pdf

《國務院關於印發國家職業教育改革實施方案的通知》(2019年2月13日)
Implementation Plan on National Vocational Education Reform
http://www.gov.cn/zhengce/content/2019-02/13/content_5365341.htm



ELEVATING COLLABORATIONS IN MAINLAND CHINA

Our ever-expanding partnerships with Mainland allies play a vital role in promoting Vocational and Professional Education and Training (VPET) and nourishing our young generations. The VTC continues to make significant headway in tapping into the Mainland and forging closer ties in regions including the Greater Bay Area (GBA), Sichuan and Zhejiang.

VIRTUAL FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT SIGNING CEREMONY OF VTC & SHENZHEN POLYTECHNIC (SZPT)

The VTC has always committed to empowering students with global competencies and flexibility to take advantage of emerging global opportunities in the GBA. In December 2020, the VTC and the SZPT, our long-standing and valuable partner, successfully held the first e-signing ceremony for a framework agreement to strengthen the collaborations on joint development of programmes, industrial attachment programmes and more.



GREATER BAY AREA STUDENT EXCHANGE ALLIANCE

To extend the scope of exchanges and collaborations between institutions in the GBA, the VTC and the SZPT jointly established a "Greater Bay Area Student Exchange Alliance Secretariat" in 2020. Virtual student exchanges, virtual tours, webinars and student project showcases were organised to enrich students' learning experience without geographical constraints. From April to July 2021, nearly 1,000 students and staff participated in a series of virtual exchange activities under the theme of "Smart City".

SMART CITY STUDENT EXCHANGE SERIES

OPENING CEREMONY AND WEBINAR



The virtual opening ceremony kicked off the Smart City Student Exchange Series on 9 April 2021 with Mr Gary YEUNG, President of Smart City Consortium of Hong Kong and Ms WANG Xue, Minister of Expert Commission of Shenzhen Smart Parking Industry Association as guest speakers, sharing their valuable insights on the smart city development, opportunities and challenges in Hong Kong and Shenzhen.

Students from Engineering, Information Technology and Student Development Disciplines of VTC and School of Management and Artificial Intelligence of SZPT gathered and showcased their learning achievements through virtual project presentations and demonstrations on 26 May 2021. Teachers from both sides also interacted with students and shared their opinions after the project presentations.



CLOSING CEREMONY AND WEBINAR



The Closing Ceremony held on 7 July 2021 marked the successful completion of the Smart City Student Exchange Series in the 2020/21 academic year with the participation of VTC and SZPT outstanding alumni Mr Kevin MA and Ms ZHOU Huanhuan as guest speakers, sharing how Building Information Modelling (BIM) has been widely adopted in smart cities, employment prospects and the latest developments of the industry.

FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT ON INTERNSHIP AND VOCATIONAL COACHING BASE

For developing school-enterprise partnerships and providing more industrial attachment opportunities to VTC students, the VTC, the SZPT and the Shenzhen Special Economic Zone Construction and Development Science and Technology Parks Development Co., Ltd. (SZSTP) signed the Framework Agreement on Establishment of an Internship and Vocational Coaching Base for the Young Students of the GBA in April 2021.

SHENZHEN POLYTECHNIC ONLINE SUMMER CAMP 2021

The Shenzhen Polytechnic Online Summer Camp 2021 themed “A Window to China and Shenzhen” was organised and delivered through a variety of online seminars and lectures. About 260 VTC students from different academic disciplines participated and interacted with 1,000 students from 11 countries. A wide spectrum of topics from Chinese history and culture, economic development as well as Chinese Kung Fu were introduced for students to explore.

SICHUAN-HONG KONG VOCATIONAL EDUCATION COLLABORATION

The VTC has been collaborating with Sichuan for nearly 10 years in a variety of areas, including industrial attachment programmes, credit-bearing exchange programmes, student exchange activities and so on in order to broaden the vision of students, build up their global perspectives and enhance their competitiveness in an ever-changing world.

川港高层会晤暨川港合作会议第二次会议

HIGH-LEVEL MEETING CUM THE SECOND PLENARY SESSION OF THE HONG KONG/SICHUAN CO-OPERATION CONFERENCE

四川·成都 CHENGDU, SICHUAN 2021年9月23日 Sept 23, 2021



Witnessed by the Chief Executive of the HKSAR, Mrs Carrie LAM, and the Secretary of the CPC Sichuan Provincial Committee, Mr PENG Qinghua, a memorandum on “Agreement on Comprehensive Enhancement of Sichuan-Hong Kong Vocational Education Collaboration between the Department of Education of Sichuan Province and the Vocational Training Council of Hong Kong” 《四川省教育廳和香港特別行政區職業訓練局全面深化川港職業教育合作協議》 was signed by the Executive Director of VTC, Mrs Carrie YAU, and Director of the Department of Education of Sichuan Province, Mr ZHOU Jin, at the “High-Level Meeting cum the Second Plenary Session of the Hong Kong/Sichuan Co-operation Conference” (川港高層會晤暨川港合作會議第二次會議) in Chengdu, Sichuan on 23 September 2021 to boost the advancement of vocational education in both regions.

The agreement promotes youth exchanges, training and internship programmes between Hong Kong and Sichuan. With a view to enhancing the joint cultivation of high-end innovation and technology talents, a number of areas are explored, including student developments, teacher exchanges, academic research, etc. The VTC will continue to deepen the co-operation between the Hong Kong and Sichuan sister schools as well as support the joint provision of education services. A wide range of activities and enhanced credit-bearing exchange programmes will be offered to VTC students to acquire professional knowledge as well as skills from the Sichuan schools and industries in the coming years.

ZHEJIANG-HONG KONG VOCATIONAL EDUCATION ALLIANCE

The Zhejiang-Hong Kong Vocational Education Alliance Inauguration Ceremony cum the First Zhejiang-Hong Kong Vocational Education Seminar (浙港職業教育聯盟成立大會暨首屆浙港職業教育研討會) was successfully held on 29 September 2021. The Executive Director of VTC, Mrs Carrie YAU, and the Deputy Executive Director of VTC, Mr Edmond YU, delivered respectively an opening speech and a keynote speech in VPET. The Alliance aims to foster a closer vocational education partnership between Zhejiang and Hong Kong. It will coordinate vocational education institutions, industry enterprises, research institutions and other member units of the two places to carry out multi-front collaborations, for instance, student exchange programmes, skills competitions and more. The Alliance will also facilitate high-level development of vocational education in both Zhejiang and Hong Kong.





FOSTERING VIRTUAL EXCHANGE AND INDUSTRIAL ATTACHMENT

The outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic brought a halt to studying abroad and cross-border exchange activities. In light of this, virtual student exchange (VSE) and virtual industrial attachment (VIA) programmes were initiated to enrich students' learning experience and international exposure.

VIRTUAL STUDENT EXCHANGE



2100+ student participants in the 2020/21 academic year



To sustain cross-cultural student-to-student interaction and nurture our next generations, VTC VSE programmes were developed and launched with reference to the Erasmus+ Virtual Exchange model but at the same time incorporating VTC characteristics, having a high level of teacher facilitation in student projects to ensure specific learning outcomes were achieved. To encourage and facilitate the implementation of VSE, IDO supported the formulation of the VSE strategy, framework and operation plans, as well as pushed forward the expansion of funding support to provide coverage to VSE activities. A total of 13 briefing sessions across 9 Academic Disciplines/ Operational Units were also held to update and promote VSE to colleagues. Fruitful results and experiences were gained from over 20 VSE programmes held in the 2020/21 academic year, which laid the foundation for the VSE programmes to improve and mature in the new academic year.



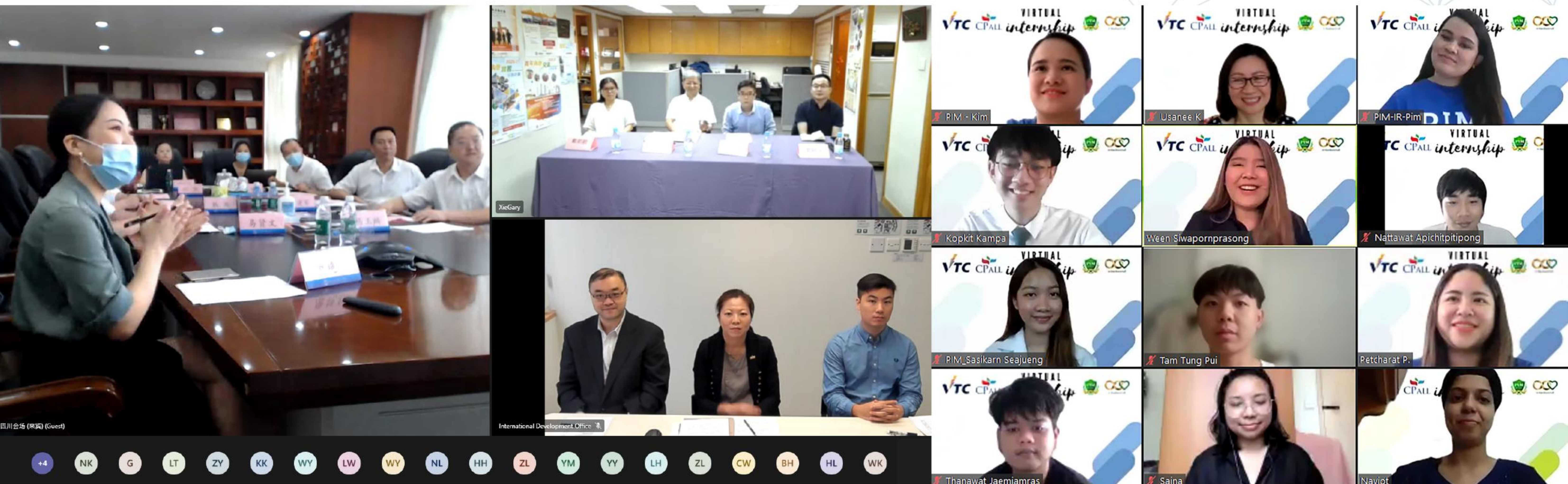
Welcome to
Hong Kong

The attraction you won't be
missed!



VIRTUAL INDUSTRIAL ATTACHMENT

In response to the challenges brought forward by the pandemic, the IDO pioneered trade-specific virtual non-local industrial attachment (IA) programmes in this summer. For example, the Sichuan and Thailand IA Programmes, which were held with promising results and positive feedback in previous years, were carried out in virtual mode this year. Students were assigned to work on company-based cases, deliver presentations and received feedback on their work from their mentors via an online channel. In addition to work-related exposure, some of them were given the opportunities to attend online lectures, take part in virtual company tours, and participate in a buddy scheme with their co-workers as well. All of these have better equipped students to extend their international social networks and prepare them for the future workplace without boundaries.



Navjot KAUR | IVE | Higher Diploma in Law and Administration

“This internship has given me the opportunity during the pandemic to experience the non-local IA programme from the VTC. I learnt more about myself, my skills and knowledge to work with the PIM and CP ALL mentors and students. On the first day we had a task to introduce ourselves, we were told to give a representation of an animal where I chose the white falcon since it stands out and has the resilience to face obstacles. Also, we had the chance to learn about 7-Eleven and PIM international programmes. I hope I will have the chance to go to Thailand and have hands-on experience with other VTC students as well.”

“During the internship, every single day was special, memorable and impactful. Exchanging cultures, learning about the differences, and working together with international students towards a common goal were extremely life-changing. Also, many online seminars were held which Thai professionals would share their valuable industry knowledge, and we got to network with students from Japan and Thailand. The experience was unique, and exceeded my expectations.”



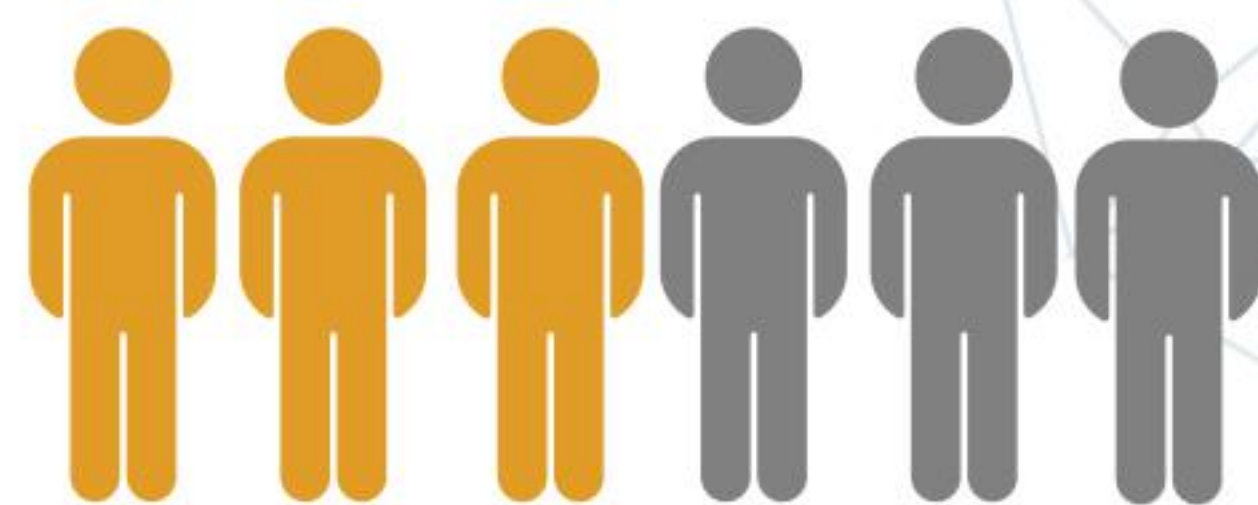
Saina TAMANG | HKDI SHAPE | Higher Diploma in Fashion Design
BA (Hons) in International Fashion Business (Nottingham Trent University)



CONNECTING TO THE WORLD THROUGH WEBINARS



7 webinars



Almost **1000** participants

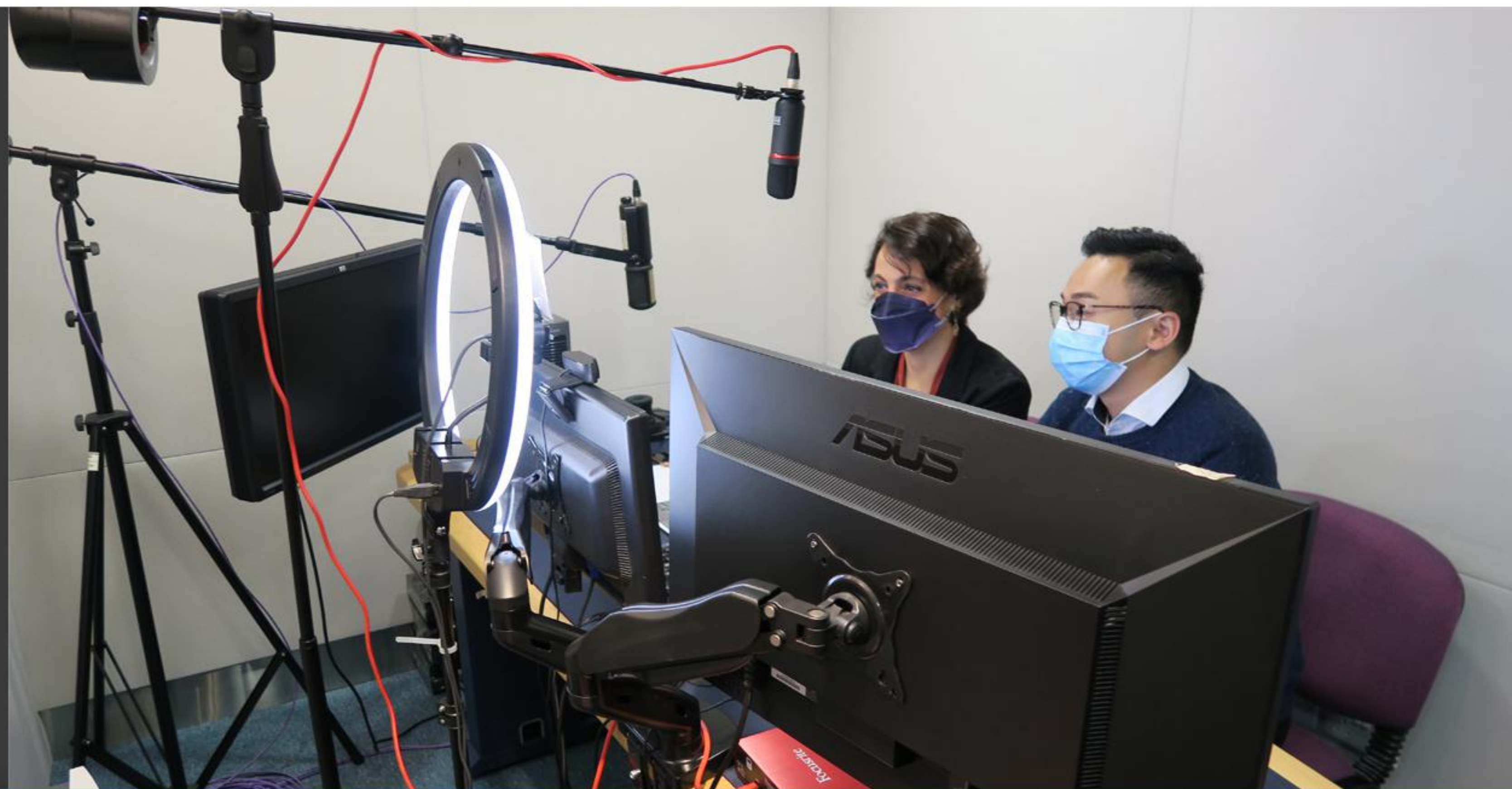
Under the “New Normal”, the IDO continued to facilitate professional knowledge exchange at the international level by launching a wide array of webinars in the 2020/21 academic year. The two main focuses of this year were the development of Vocational and Professional Education and Training (VPET) and the opportunities and challenges in the Greater Bay Area (GBA). VTC students and staff were able to grasp up-to-date knowledge from distinguished scholars and professionals on particular aspects of VPET in Australia, Singapore, Switzerland and Thailand, as well as the benefits of internship and coaching participation, opportunities for the development of Hong Kong and start-ups in the GBA. The webinars also provided our VTC Globalites with an excellent learning opportunity to serve as emcees to practice their presentation skills.

ON VPET DEVELOPMENT



Development of Applied Learning Education Model in the Singapore University Landscape

Prof FOO Yong Lim, Assistant Provost (Applied Learning) of the Singapore Institute of Technology (SIT)



Dual VET – A Success Factor for the Swiss Economy

Mrs Katia STAMPFLI-FERRAZ, Deputy Consul-General of Consulate General of Switzerland in Hong Kong



Skilling for Our Future – Empowering Human Capital and Skills Development by Thailand 4.0: Opportunities in Thailand’s Eastern Economic Corridor (EEC)

Dr Luxmon ATTAPICH, Deputy Secretary-General of EEC Office of Thailand
Dr Wanwiwat KETSAWA, Deputy Director of Corporate Strategy Division of EEC Office of Thailand



How COVID-19 Impacts Academic Planning and Development of VET Institutions - The TAFE Experience

Mr Craig ROBERTSON, Chief Executive Officer of Technical and Further Education (TAFE) Directors Australia

ON GBA DEVELOPMENT



Seize the Development Opportunities in the Greater Bay Area through the Participation of Internship and Coaching in Mainland

(Co-organised with the Business Discipline)

Mr Truhon LEONG, Founder of J. D. Eden Consulting Limited



Opportunities and Challenges for the Development of Hong Kong's Construction Industry in the Greater Bay Area

Dr PANG Yat Bond, Derrick, JP,
Chief Executive Officer of Asia Allied
Infrastructure Holdings Limited



Entrepreneurship in the Greater Bay Area: Optimising Opportunities for Hong Kong Start-ups

Ms Alice TSANG, Assistant Principal
Economist (Greater China) of Hong Kong
Trade Development Council

PARTICIPANTS' FEEDBACK:

“

The presentation really helps me understand why the Dual VET system is so successful in Switzerland.

”

“

The speaker has expounded clearly on the success factors for VET and establishment of SIT in Singapore. The plans and prospects for furthering VET were also impressive.

”

“

The presentation provided an overview of Thai's approaches to human capital and skills development, supported by infographics, informative and very easy to understand.

”

“

It is good to have the elite student to be the facilitator, he has done a great job.

”



Visit our website (<https://ido.vtc.edu.hk/>) or click on the photos above (if you are viewing this online) to learn more about the webinars.



PROMOTING CULTURAL DIVERSITY AND UNDERSTANDING

To promote the rich culture and traditions of various countries within the VTC family, the IDO has organised a rich collection of events in the 2020/21 academic year to offer students and staff cross-cultural exposure and experiences.

EUROPEAN UNION GREETING CARD CONTEST 2020



EAST MEETS WEST

This VTC-wide design contest was jointly organised by the European Union Office to Hong Kong and Macao and the VTC with the theme of "East Meets West". It aimed to promote understanding of the rich and diverse Christmas cultural traditions in various European Union countries, and to celebrate Hong Kong's Lunar New Year traditions. The contest was well received with an overwhelming response of over

160 entries from nearly 120 VTC full-time students from 14 campuses. Mr Thomas GNOCCHI, Head of European Union Office to Hong Kong and Macao, accompanied by Mrs Carrie YAU, Executive Director of VTC, presided over the Award Ceremony. The winners' art pieces became the official greeting cards of the European Union Office and appeared on its social media platforms as holiday greetings.

HIGH TABLE DINNER 2020

GATEWAY TO GLOBAL OPPORTUNITIES

The High Table Dinner and Appointment Ceremony for VTC Globalites was organised at the International Culinary Institute (ICI). Themed "Gateway to Global Opportunities", it enabled VTC students to expand their global vision and to learn dining etiquette, and at the same time allowed those from the ICI to apply what they had learnt into practice. The Consul-General of Finland in Hong Kong and Macao, Ms Johanna KARANKO, delivered a dinner talk on

"Finland's success factors of being the world's happiest country and the opportunities for the young people" which received an overwhelming response from students. The newly appointed VTC Globalites got the chance to network and mingle with each other, and three of them even showcased their talents on stage with singing, flute and piano performances, offering guests a memorable evening.



JAPAN CULTURAL DAY 2021



EARNING IN-DEPTH UNDERSTANDING ON JAPANESE TRADITIONS

As one of the signature events of IVE (Kwun Tong)'s 45th Anniversary, VTC students, staff and guests participated in the Japan Cultural Day festivity and enjoyed a fun-filled afternoon together. With tremendous support from the Consulate-General of Japan in Hong Kong, a wide range of Japanese arts and

performances were lined up to introduce Japanese culture to VTC students and staff, which included Tsutefude (Japanese contemporary calligraphy), Pastel Nagomi Art (Japanese art healing), Hiragana and Kanji (Japanese language) and Japanese herbarium artwork making.



Visit our website (<https://ido.vtc.edu.hk/>) or click on the photos above (if you are viewing this online) to learn more about the events.



LINKING THE WORLD FOR A BETTER FUTURE

In order to maintain close ties with our international partners and to strive for collaboration opportunities, the IDO continued to engage with Consulates-General and officially recognised bodies in Hong Kong, including those from Austria, the European Union Office, Finland, Germany, Japan, Poland, Singapore, Spain, Switzerland, Thailand and Vietnam, etc., which paved the way for some fruitful collaborations such as the European Union Greeting Card Contest, the Japan Cultural Day, and the webinars on Singapore, Switzerland and Thailand.



In the International HealthTech Forum 2021, the IDO was honoured to have the support from our international partners who contributed to connecting the VTC with distinguished overseas experts, sharing valuable insights around the theme of “Technological and Innovative Development of Healthcare”. Our international partners also gathered at the forum to learn and discuss the latest HealthTech innovation trend for the betterment of our future. VTC Globalites who supported the event were also given an invaluable learning opportunity when they helped receive and communicate with international guests in a professional manner.



CULTIVATING GLOBAL AMBASSADORS



As a new experiential learning scheme, the VTC Globalites programme, revamped from the preceding International Student Ambassador (ISA) Scheme, aimed to enable students to gain a wider international perspective, broaden their horizons, achieve personal growth and make friends from different walks of life. Throughout the year, the Globalites had the opportunity to attend training on cultural diversity and equality, dining etiquette, public speaking and communications. They also actively engaged with non-local and exchange students through a series of social events, and some acted as emcees or student ambassadors in various VTC corporate events. These experiences have surely allowed them to gain knowledge and better understanding of the world.



KOO Yui Sun, Zach | IVE | Higher Diploma in Tourism and MICE

“The VTC Globalites programme has offered me the opportunity to make more friends from different places. I learnt a lot from them and we exchanged our perspectives about various things in life. It helps me to be well-equipped to apply all skills acquired in the future.”

“Acting as a VTC Globalite and assisting in the International HealthTech Forum 2021 was a valuable experience. I needed to speak English throughout the day and I received many positive feedbacks. I will not be afraid and will stop thinking too much when I need to speak English in the future.”



NG Yuen Yung, Bonnie | THEi | BSc (Hons) in Health Care



★★★ Your Internationalisation Partner ★★★



**Vocational Training Council
International Development Office**



ido@vtc.edu.hk



(852) 2836 1705



ido.vtc.edu.hk



studyhongkong.vtc

