

China Manned Space delegation exchanges views with technology and higher education sector representatives at luncheon (with photos)

The China Manned Space delegation attended a luncheon hosted by the Innovation, Technology and Industry Bureau today (November 30) to meet and exchange views with representatives from Hong Kong's technology and higher education sectors.

The Secretary for Innovation, Technology and Industry, Professor Sun Dong, said at the luncheon, "The National Manned Space Programme has been breaking new ground and making remarkable achievements in the past some-30 years. Last year, the country launched the recruitment of the fourth batch of astronauts and the recruitment of payload specialists in Hong Kong for the first time, giving Hong Kong citizens the opportunity to participate in the important missions of the National Manned Space Programme. This demonstrated the country's care and support to Hong Kong, and the importance and recognition attached to Hong Kong's technology sector. The Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government has been rendering its full co-operation to the country's recruitment exercise. We are deeply honoured and encouraged that Hong Kong candidates have entered into the final stage of the recruitment process. We hope that the Hong Kong candidates could have the opportunity to realise their space aspirations and contribute to the country. Meanwhile, Hong Kong has a solid foundation in basic scientific research. We will continue to leverage on our strengths to contribute to the country's building of an aerospace power."

The Deputy Director General of the China Manned Space Agency, Mr Lin Xiqiang, also shared the country's achievements and latest developments in aerospace technology with representatives from the technology and higher education sectors at the luncheon.

The luncheon was attended by officials from the HKSAR Government, including Professor Sun; the Permanent Secretary for Innovation, Technology and Industry, Mr Eddie Mak; the Under Secretary for Innovation, Technology and Industry, Ms Lillian Cheong; the Commissioner for Innovation and Technology, Mr Ivan Lee; the Government Chief Information Officer, Mr Tony Wong; and the Commissioner for Efficiency, Miss Patricia So.

Representatives from the Liaison Office of the Central People's Government in the HKSAR, the Office of the Commissioner of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the HKSAR and the Chinese People's Liberation Army Hong Kong Garrison also attended. Other guests included presidents of universities and young researchers, representatives from the University Grants Committee,

the Research Grants Council, research and development centres for innovation and technology, and the InnoHK research laboratories.

