

Education Commission Chairman welcomes “The Chief Executive’s 2024 Policy Address”

The following is issued on behalf of the Education Commission:

The Chairman of the Education Commission, Dr David Wong, welcomed the education initiatives announced in "The Chief Executive’s 2024 Policy Address" delivered today (October 16).

Dr Wong said, "As the Chairman of the Education Commission, I support the Government's commitment to enhancing the quality of education. To complement the country's development strategy, the Government strives to develop Hong Kong into an international hub for post-secondary education on all fronts, nurture and attract diversified talent to achieve the goal of building an international hub for high-calibre professionals.

"I support the Education Bureau's ongoing efforts in leveraging Hong Kong's edge of a highly international and diversified post-secondary education sector. Through encouraging local institutions to enhance exchanges and collaboration with institutions from around the world, hosting more international education conferences and exhibitions to promote the 'Study in Hong Kong' brand on a global scale, and setting up the Hong Kong Future Talents Scholarship Scheme for Advanced Studies, our goal is to establish Hong Kong as an international hub for post-secondary education and enhance Hong Kong's competitiveness."

He added, "I am pleased that the Government, to complement the national strategy of invigorating the country through science and education, will promote digital education, review the curriculum of junior secondary Science, and support teachers in utilising artificial intelligence for teaching. These efforts will continue to foster STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts and Mathematics) education in primary and secondary schools, thereby enhancing Hong Kong's edge in innovation and technology. Furthermore, the Government is committed to enhancing the language proficiency of our students and strengthening support to achieve a good mastery of English language, Putonghua and other languages to heighten their global competitiveness and broaden their horizons. Additionally, the Government will remain dedicated to promoting national security and patriotic education on all fronts by incorporating elements of Chinese history and national geography into Mainland study tours to foster students' sense of national identity. To build a high-quality teaching force, the Government will set up the Teacher Professional Development Fund of \$2 billion to provide a steady funding source for teacher training and exchange programmes."

Dr Wong also appreciated the Government's efforts in enhancing students' whole-person development and the well-being of teachers and students. This

includes further promotion of the 4Rs Mental Health Charter, launch of the "Mental Health Literacy" resource packages, strengthening of teacher training and parent education, and extending and enhancing the Three-Tier School-based Emergency Mechanism, promoting the physical and psychological wellness of students, teachers and parents, and enhancing resilience and cultivating positive thinking among them.

"Education is the cornerstone of social advancement. The Education Commission will continue to render advice and work together with the Government to foster the long-term development of Hong Kong's education, with a view to cultivating values and nurturing people with quality education. We aim to enable young people to unleash their potential and gain a global perspective, and become visionary, innovative and creative successors with an affection for the motherland and a sense of responsibility towards society, who shall contribute to the new quality productive forces and high-quality development of our country, shaping a better future," Dr Wong said.