

S for IT calls on Parliamentary Vice-Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology of Japan (with photos)

The Secretary for Innovation and Technology, Mr Nicholas W Yang, called on the Parliamentary Vice-Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology of Japan, Mr Takaki Shirasuka, in Tokyo this afternoon (October 31) to boost links between Hong Kong and Japan on the innovation and technology front.

The meeting enabled the two sides to have a good exchange on the promotion of science as well as innovation and technology. Mr Yang said that innovation and technology is high on the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government's agenda. Since the setting up of the Innovation and Technology Bureau in late 2015, the HKSAR Government has launched initiatives on various fronts with heavy investment to enhance the local innovation and technology ecosystem.

Mr Yang added that Hong Kong is vigorously building up technology clusters on healthcare technologies and artificial intelligence and robotics technologies. With the provision of financial and other support, the Government aims to attract world-class scientific research institutions to join forces with local universities and research institutions in conducting more applied research and development (R&D) projects. Japanese scientific and research institutions are welcome to establish a presence in Hong Kong. Mr Yang said he looked forward to more collaboration between the two places and learning from the good practices and experiences of Japan, in particular in healthy ageing and smart city development.

Earlier in the afternoon, Mr Yang was joined by the Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Hong Kong Science and Technology Parks Corporation, Dr Sunny Chai; the Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Hong Kong Cyberport Management Company Limited, Dr George Lam; and the Chief Executive Officer of the Hong Kong Cyberport Management Company Limited, Mr Peter Yan, on company visits to learn more about the companies' smart city initiatives.

The first company visit was made at Fujitsu, where Mr Yang and his party gained a deeper understanding on how the company integrates information and communications technology into daily lives to solve challenges, including its elderly care solutions using proprietary sound analysis to support home living and the AI-IoT Intelligent Dashboard using artificial intelligence and the Internet of Things to optimise production line operation.

At a meeting with the Fujitsu Corporate Vice Chairman, Mr Nobuhiko Sasaki, Mr Yang gave an update on the exciting innovation and technology

developments in Hong Kong amid the Central Government's support for Hong Kong to develop into an international innovation and technology hub. Mr Yang said the HKSAR Government has made a significant move of promoting R&D activities in Hong Kong by introducing a super tax deduction for R&D expenditure incurred in Hong Kong. The first HK\$2 million of qualifying R&D expenditure will be eligible for a 300 per cent tax deduction, while expenditure above that will enjoy a 200 per cent deduction and with no cap. Mr Yang encouraged Japanese companies to make good use of the super tax deduction for R&D expenditure and opportunities available in Hong Kong.

Mr Yang and his party also visited the Toyota Mirai Showroom to learn more about Toyota's latest developments in smart mobility. A presentation on the Mirai hydrogen-powered fuel cell vehicle and autonomous driving technology was given.

Tomorrow (November 1), Mr Yang will attend the opening session of "Think Global, Think Hong Kong" in Tokyo.

