<u>SCST congratulates Bonnie Pang on</u> winning Silver Award in Japan International MANGA Award (with photo)</u>

The Secretary for Culture, Sports and Tourism, Mr Kevin Yeung, today (December 28) congratulated Hong Kong comics and illustration artist Bonnie Pang on receiving the Silver Award at the 17th Japan International MANGA Award with her work, "Chronos Express".

Mr Yeung said, "Pang's 'Chronos Express' with its focus on learning for self-development has captured people's hearts. We are thrilled to note that her work stood out from many others and is well recognised by international counterparts. The award once again proves the strong competence of Hong Kong's creative talent."

Bonnie Pang was one of the 15 comics artists selected in the 2nd Hong Kong Comics Support Programme which was sponsored by Create Hong Kong. Besides winning the gold award and best comic story award in the programme, her work was also recommended by the Hong Kong Comics and Animation Federation to participate in the Japan International MANGA Award. The programme aims at supporting and nurturing Hong Kong comics artists and comics start-ups.

Ms Pang said, "'Chronos Express' is a self-development journey on accepting losses. I hope that every reader will gain something after reading it. I thank the judges for the recognition and the support of Hong Kong Comics Support Programme, making it possible for local comics artists to showcase their talent and enabling more Hong Kong works to appear on the international stage."

The Japan International MANGA Award, founded in 2007, is one of the most honorable awards in the international comics sector. It commends outstanding comics and facilitates exchanges among countries through comics. A total of 587 works, the highest number of entries ever, from 82 countries and regions all over the world competed for the award this year. Twelve Hong Kong comics artists have been awarded in the previous 16 editions of the Japan International MANGA Award.

