

SITI continues visit to Canada (with photos)

The Secretary for Innovation, Technology and Industry, Professor Sun Dong, arrived in Ottawa to continue his visit to Canada on November 5 (Ottawa time).

Professor Sun attended the Seminar on Life Science and Global Health, themed "Innovation · Inclusion · Impact" and organised by the Hong Kong-Canada Business Association (Ottawa Chapter) and Invest Hong Kong, at the Parliament Building. In his keynote speech, Professor Sun said while Canada has long been recognised as a powerhouse in the field of life and health science, Hong Kong is also emerging as an international innovation and technology (I&T) centre. The Hong Kong Special Administrative Government strives to support the development of life and health technology as one of the technology industries with an edge and of strategic importance.

Professor Sun outlined a number of significant advantages that Hong Kong enjoys in developing life and health technology. Hong Kong's flagship research and development initiative, InnoHK, has built collaboration with more than 30 world-renowned universities and research institutes from 12 economies, including Canada, and set up a total of 29 research laboratories with 16 of them focusing on healthcare-related technologies. A \$6 billion subsidy programme to support local universities to set up life and health technology research institutes and a \$3 billion Frontier Technology Research Support Scheme to accelerate cross-disciplinary researches are in place.

"Adequate sites and sophisticated infrastructure are equally important for long-term I&T development. We will set up the InnoLife Healthtech Hub in the Hetao Hong Kong Park (the Loop) to attract top-notch research teams and talent from around the world. We will allocate another HK\$2 billion to support the InnoHK research clusters to establish presence in the Loop, and HK\$200 million to support start-ups in the Loop engaging in life and health technology in the form of incubation and acceleration programmes." Professor Sun added that new I&T land will be available in San Tin Technopole to support I&T industry development, creating synergy with the nearby Shenzhen I&T Zone.

Professor Sun continued that having the distinctive advantages of enjoying strong support of the motherland and being closely connected to the world under "one country, two systems", Hong Kong is the best platform to connect I&T talent and companies from the Mainland and around the world. He strongly believes that apart from life and health technology, there is a lot of room for bilateral collaboration between Hong Kong and Canada in fields such as green technology, renewable energy, environmental protection and sustainability.

Professor Sun also met with Canada-Hong Kong Parliamentary Friendship Group Member and Senator of Canada, Mr Woo Yuen-pau; the Group Chair and

Member of Parliament of Canada, Mr Greg McLean; and Member of Parliament of Canada Mr Chandra Arya, at the Parliament Building. They had a brief exchange of views on areas of common interest, such as enhancing further collaboration on science, innovation and research between Hong Kong and Canada, as well as people and cultural exchanges between the two places.

Professor Sun also called on the Chinese Ambassador to Canada, Mr Wang Di, to brief him on the progress of building Hong Kong into an international I&T centre, as well as the city's continuous efforts in integrating into national I&T development. Professor Sun said that Hong Kong spares no effort in developing new quality productive forces tailored to local conditions, including optimising the strategy and institutional set-up for the development of new industrialisation, and increasing investment for I&T industries.

Professor Sun will proceed to visit Waterloo on November 6 (Toronto time).



