

# Speech by SITI at Young Academy of Sciences Summit (English only) (with photo)

Following is the speech by the Secretary for Innovation, Technology and Industry, Professor Sun Dong, at the Young Academy of Sciences Summit today (December 13):

Dennis (President of the Hong Kong Academy of Sciences, Professor Dennis Lo), Anderson (President of the Hong Kong Young Academy of Sciences, Professor Anderson Shum), Dr Hu (CEO of Greater Bay Area Homeland Youth Community Foundation, Dr Zhanghong Hu), Mr Kwok (Vice Chairman of Greater Bay Area Homeland Youth Community Foundation Mr Christopher Kwok) distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen,

Good morning! It is my great pleasure to join you all today at the 2nd Young Academy of Sciences Summit, organised by the Hong Kong Young Academy of Sciences (YASHK). A warm welcome to our guests from the Mainland and abroad. This gathering is a testament to the vibrant energy and innovative spirit of our young scientists, who are poised to shape the future of scientific discovery and technological advancement.

As home to five of the world's top 100 universities, Hong Kong possesses robust R&D (research and development) capabilities, advanced technological infrastructure and a diverse talent pool. These strengths, together with our unique advantages enjoyed under the principle of "one country, two systems", provide a solid foundation for Hong Kong to develop into an international innovation and technology (I&T) centre and an international hub for high-calibre talent.

In an era of rapid technological change and complex global challenges, the contributions of our young scientists have never been more important. To this end, YASHK plays a pivotal role in providing a platform for young scientists in Hong Kong to collaborate, share their research, and inspire each other. YASHK's commitment to creating a vibrant community of young scientists dedicated to serving the society by enlightening future I&T talents aligns perfectly with the Government's vision.

Innovation is not just about developing new technologies or making groundbreaking discoveries; it is also about creating a culture that values creativity, encourages risk-taking, and fosters collaboration. While we share the collective power of a community driven by curiosity and creativity, it is also important for us to connect the wisdom of experienced researchers with the boundless potential of the next generation. That is why we are here today.

As with the theme of the next session, how young scientists can contribute to long-term public policy is a topic worth discussing. At the

heart of innovation lies the spirit of questioning, the relentless pursuit of new knowledge and the willingness to challenge the status quo. I am confident that this spirit is vividly embodied by the scientists gathered here today. By fostering mentorship and collaboration, we can ensure that the torch of knowledge is passed on, brighter and more illuminating with each handoff.

Ladies and gentlemen, the future of Hong Kong belongs to the younger generation. The Government will continue to adhere to the principle of "promoting technology with talents, leading industries with technology, and attracting talents with industries", and remain steadfast in its commitment to perfecting the I&T ecosystem and enlarging our talent pool. Taking this opportunity, I would like to express my gratitude to the Hong Kong Academy of Sciences and YASHK for their continuous support in the Government's work.

In closing, I hope that today's discussion will spark fresh ideas and open new avenues. I wish you all a rewarding Summit. Thank you.

