

Chinese National Engineering Research Centre for Steel Construction (Hong Kong Branch)

Newsletter – May 2018 Issue (Supplement)

In June 2017, 24 HKSAR-based academicians from the Chinese Academy of Science and the Chinese Academy of Engineering wrote a letter to President Xi Jinping, expressing their strong intentions to make contributions to the motherland and enthusiasm to boost scientific and technological innovation. President Xi, also General Secretary of the Communist Party of China Central Committee and Chairman of the Central Military Commission, made an important instruction and ordered timely actions to be taken. He called for enhanced cooperation in science and technology between the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) and the Mainland, vowing support for the region to become an international centre of innovative technologies and for HKSAR scientists to contribute to national strength building in this regard.

For which, the HKSAR Government joint force with the Liaison Office of the Central People's Government in the HKSAR, and organized a Forum on Mainland-Hong Kong Cooperation in Innovation and Technology on 15 May 2018. The Chief Executive, Mrs. Carrie Lam, highlighted that the forum was meant to brief research experts at the earliest opportunity on the newly announced guidelines of the Central Government in support of the development of innovation and technology in Hong Kong and Macau. Vice Minister of Science and Technology, Professor Huang Wei, announced details of the new policy at the forum.

Video of Forum on Mainland-HK Cooperation in Innovation and Technology (The Chief Executive, Mrs. Carrie Lam's speech):

<http://isdhk-webcast-004.dedicatedserver.hk/vod/?id=8270&video=avc/news/pc2018/150518.mp4>

Prof. Huang Wei believes that President Xi has always been concerned about the development of Hong Kong. This measure is a major breakthrough. The Central Committee will continue to support the patriotic scientists to develop scientific research. He also pointed out that Hong Kong has a strong science and technology base and possesses a large number of high-quality scientific and technological talents. It supports Hong Kong's role as an international science and technology center and the respective scientific and technological advantages of the Mainland and Hong Kong. It is a due meaning of "one country, two systems".



The Chief Executive, Mrs. Carrie Lam, attended the Forum on Mainland-Hong Kong Cooperation in Innovation and Technology at the Central Government Offices in Tamar today (May 15). Mrs. Lam (centre) is pictured with the Secretary for Innovation and Technology, Mr. Nicholas W Yang (first right); the Vice Minister of Science and Technology, Professor Huang Wei (second left); the Deputy Director of the Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office of the State Council, Mr. Huang Liuquan (second right); and the Deputy Director of the Liaison Office of the Central People's Government in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, Mr. Tan Tieniu (first left).

For many years, the HKSAR Government attaches great importance to development of Innovation and Technology. The Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST) and the HKSAR Government established the "Hong Kong Science and Technology Cooperation Commission" as early as 2004, which is responsible for formulating and coordinating scientific and technological exchanges and cooperation between the two places. Since 2005, a total of 16 Partner State Key Laboratories have been established in various universities in Hong Kong with approval from the State Ministry of Science and Technology. In order to further develop technological collaboration between Hong Kong and China, the then Vice-Premier of the State Council, Mr Li Keqiang, announced establishment of Hong Kong Branches of Chinese National Engineering Research Centres (CNERC) during his visit to Hong Kong in 2011. From 2012 to date, 6 Hong Kong Branches of CNERCs were established. In October 2015 with approval from the MOST, the CNERC for Steel Construction (Hong Kong Branch) is the only designated CNERC to promote research and development as well as engineering applications in construction in Hong Kong.

Professor Kwok-fai Chung, Associate Head of Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering at the Hong Kong Polytechnic University and Director of the CNERC for Steel Construction (Hong Kong Branch), received numerous media interviews on 16 May 2018 in respond to President Xi's important instruction in this regard. Prof. Chung is grateful for the country's support. He thinks it is beneficial to the Hong Kong scientific and technological community to formulate long-term scientific research plans to attract the world's best scientific researchers to Hong Kong and promote the establishment of international innovation and technology center. It will also facilitate Hong Kong's participation in the development of the "Belt and Road Initiative" and the development of Guangdong, Hong Kong, and Macau in the Greater

Bay Area, as well as to promote the export of Chinese steel. Prof. Chung pointed out that under the new policy, national scientific research funds can be transmitted to Hong Kong, which definitely speed up the research progress of related projects. In the past, funds could not be transmitted to Hong Kong that the researchers who applied funding support from Mainland China had to carry out their research projects in the Mainland while their base is in Hong Kong, and a lot of time was wasted in traveling across the 2 places, thus slowing down the progress of the research. He believes that the instruction of President Xi is an overall support to Hong Kong's scientific and technological community, and hopes that there will be a lot of room for development in the coming years. Many scientific and technological personnel in Hong Kong hope to adopt this new arrangement and integrate with scientific research in the Mainland.



Ta Kung Wen Wei Media: <http://v.wenweipo.com/video/17920>

Hong Kong Commercial Daily: <http://www.hkcd.com.hk/pdf/201805/0517/HA02517CGAB.pdf>

The Hong Kong Polytechnic University has two Hong Kong Partner State Key Laboratories, and two Hong Kong Branch of Chinese National Engineering Research Centres.

Hong Kong Partner State Key Laboratories:

- Partner State Key Laboratory of Chirosciences (Director: Professor Wong Kwok Yin)
- Partner State Key Laboratory of Ultra-precision Machining Technology (Director: Professor Benny C. F. Cheung)

Hong Kong Branch of Chinese National Engineering Research Centres:

- Hong Kong Branch of National Engineering Research Centre for Steel Construction (Director: Professor Chung Kwok Fai)
- Hong Kong Branch of National Rail Transit Electrification and Automation Engineering Technology Research Centre (Director: Professor Ni Yiqing)