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## **SIX HUNDRED HONG KONG AND SINGAPORE YOUTHS GATHER AT BIENNIAL SEMINAR TO SHARE CREATIVE IDEAS ON TACKLING SOCIAL ISSUES**

*Hong Kong Chief Secretary for Administration, Carrie Lam; Singapore Consul-General, Jacky Foo; Halogen Foundation Co-Founder, Martin Tan; among distinguished guests joining students at Social Innovation-themed Seminar*

Some 600 students from the Hong Kong Vocational Training Council (VTC) and Institute of Technical Education (ITE) will gather at the **5<sup>th</sup> biennial VTC-ITE International Student Seminar 2015** (ISS 2015) to discuss and exchange ideas on innovative ways to alleviate pressing social issues.

2 Jointly organised by ITE, Singapore and VTC, Hong Kong, the Seminar will be held over three days, from **15 to 17 June 2015**, at the **Hong Kong Design Institute** in **Tseung Kwan O, Hong Kong**.

3 Students from both institutions will deliberate on the theme, '**Social Innovation**', and share how they have developed and executed creative solutions to various identified social issues (Please refer to **Annex A** for details). Besides ITE and VTC participants, students from VTC's partner institutions – Shenzhen Polytechnic, China; and the National Institute of Technology, Kumamoto College, Japan – will also participate in the Seminar.

4 Officiating at the Seminar's **Opening Ceremony** on **15 June 2015** are **Guest-of-Honour, Mrs Carrie Lam**, GBS, JP, Chief Secretary for Administration, Hong Kong SAR, and **Special Guest, Mr Jacky Foo**, Singapore's Consul-General in Hong Kong SAR.

## Youths as Agents of Change

5 Inaugurated as a local seminar in 1997, the Seminar went global in 2007 with ITE's collaboration with VTC, one of ITE's most active international partners. This collaboration between ITE and VTC has proven a successful platform for learning and exchange among the youths of both organisations. The Seminar encourages students to see issues from multiple perspectives, and to be advocates and agents of change in the theme under discussion. Not only had past seminars provided opportunities for students to meet and discuss issues and exchange ideas, they had also fostered friendship and understanding among them.

6 To give student participants a deeper insight and broader perspective on Social Innovation, the organisers have invited two guest speakers from Hong Kong and one from Singapore to share their views on three sub-themes. The speakers are: **Mrs Stella Lau Kun Lai-kuen**, JP, Chairperson, Women's Commission of the Hong Kong SAR; **Mr Eric Yim Chi-ming**, Founder and Chief Designer, POSH Office Systems (HK) Limited; and **Mr Martin Tan**, Executive Director, Institute for Societal Leadership, Singapore Management University, and Co-Founder, Halogen Foundation Singapore.

7 Mr Bruce Poh, Director & CEO, ITE said, "The International Student Seminar is a useful platform for students to discuss and exchange ideas on current issues that impact our community. They can explore transnational and trans-disciplinary approaches in creating, developing and integrating concepts and practices for social challenges in both countries. Such international engagement of youths in both countries is invaluable in enriching their perspectives and educational journey."

## Invitation to Media

8 Members of the media are cordially invited to cover the VTC-ITE International Student Seminar 2015 and attend the **Opening Ceremony on Monday 15 June 2015 in Hong Kong** (Please refer to **Annex B** for the programme). Interviews with participants and spokespersons can be arranged upon request.

|                   |  |
|-------------------|--|
| <b>Event Name</b> | VTC-ITE International Student Seminar 2015 |
|-------------------|--|

|                        |   |
|------------------------|---|
|                        | (Opening Ceremony)  |
| <b>Date</b>            | Monday, 15 June 2015  |
| <b>Guest-of-Honour</b> | <b>The Honourable Mrs Carrie Lam</b> , GBS, JP<br>Chief Secretary for Administration, Hong Kong SAR   |
| <b>Special Guest</b>   | <b>Mr Jacky Foo</b><br>Consul-General of Singapore in Hong Kong   |
| <b>Time</b>            | 9am – 11am ( <b>Media Arrival: 8.45am</b> )   |
| <b>Venue</b>           | Hong Kong Design Institute<br>3 King Ling Road, Tseung Kwan O, N.T., Hong Kong<br>(Please refer to location map at <u><a href="#">Annex C</a></u> ) |

9 For further information on the VTC-ITE International Student Seminar and/or arrangements for interviews, please contact:

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The **Institute of Technical Education (ITE)** is a post-secondary education institution established in 1992 under the Ministry of Education. As a principal provider of career and technical education, and a key developer of national occupational skills certification and standards, ITE's Mission is to create opportunities for students and adult learners to acquire skills, knowledge and values for employability and lifelong learning. ITE's Vision is to be *A Trailblazer in Career and Technical Education*. Our Values are Integrity, Teamwork, Excellence and Care. ITE comprises the ITE Headquarters and three ITE Colleges – College Central, College East and College West. For more information, visit [www.ite.edu.sg](http://www.ite.edu.sg).

**Seminar Theme: “Social Innovation”**

**Sub-Themes and Speakers:**

Day 1 (15 June, 11am)

Sub-theme 1: Connecting YOUth with Family

**Mrs Stella Lau Kun Lai-kuen, JP**

Chairperson, Women’s Commission of the Hong Kong SAR

Day 2 (16 June, 9am)

Sub-theme 2: Connecting YOUth with Community

**Mr Eric Yim Chi-ming**

Founder and Chief Designer, POSH Office Systems (HK) Limited

Day 2 (16 June, 11am)

Sub-theme 3: Connecting YOUth with the World

**Mr Martin Tan**

Executive Director, Institute for Societal Leadership, Singapore Management University, and Co-Founder, Halogen Foundation Singapore

**Selected ITE Student Projects:**

| <b>Sub-Theme</b> | <b>Project Title</b>      | <b>Description</b>   |
|------------------|---------------------------|--|
| Family           | FAMILY...I Love You cards | The project focuses on fostering in-depth communication among family members. A Facebook (FB) page was set up to promote the writing of an encouragement card to every family member and posting it on the FB page every week. The project team promoted the idea to the youths at ITE, the Orchard Road shopping district and Community Clubs to encourage commitment to write simple notes to family members, to also take a picture of the family and to share them on the FB page. |
|                  | Terrarium Family          | The project encourages family bonding and interaction through a shared activity that can be done in the comfort of their homes. It also has an underlying objective of creating awareness about the social responsibility of recycling as a  |

|           |                                  |   |
|-----------|----------------------------------|---|
|           |                                  | family.   |
|           | <i>Sayang-sayang Marah-marah</i> | The project focuses on strengthening the bond between parents and child by promoting the awareness of skills in communication. Through a card game designed by the team, both parents and youths can better understand the repercussions/results of their words and behaviour, and how they can resolve misunderstandings.                        |
| Community | Fight Depression                 | The project raises awareness about the alarming increase of suicides and its repercussions. A variety of platforms are engaged to help raise awareness of emotional/mental wellbeing, as well as stories of how one could overcome depression through the use of Wattpad, Pinterest, Padlet, video #iteccfightdepressioncampaign.                 |
|           | #GlamGramps                      | The project acknowledges the elderly for their importance in society and the world. A campaign to encourage youths and senior citizens to “exchange” skills and swap clothes was launched.  |
|           | #RevealedSilence                 | The project team had worked on raising awareness of the harmful effects of cyber-bullying and steps that such victims can take to break out of such challenging situations. The project also focuses on the use of social media platforms (e.g. videos on Youtube) to prevent the occurrence of cyber-bullying in Singapore and around the world. |
| World     | Kampung Spirit                   | A project to engage senior citizens in the neighbourhood for healthy lifestyle. The Singaporean “kampung” spirit was rekindled to enthuse senior citizens to cultivate plants within their neighbourhood.   |
|           | Everyone’s In                    | The project team had organised a programme to provide disabled youths with exposure to various skills, namely, event management, communication skills and basic performing arts, to develop their self-confidence and self-   |

|  |                                    |  |
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|  |                                    | esteem. A video on the programme is also shown to encourage better integration of disabled youths with the general public.   |
|  | Unplug! Move, Think, Show, Connect | The project team devised a board game to encourage people to proactively unplug themselves from their electronic gadgets, be it their mobile phones, tablets and computers, and to interact more attentively and personally with family and friends. |

### Selected VTC Student Projects:

| Sub-Theme | Project Title  | Description   |
|-----------|--|---|
| Family    | FAMORY   | The main aim of the project is to enhance the relationship between youths and their parents through photo-taking.   |
|           | DreamCatcher – Fulfilling the Goals of Deprived Families | The aim of the project is to give a helping hand to a group of teenagers by leveraging on the resources in the society.   |
|           | Cleaner Garden   | This project aims to raise youth's awareness of our community by letting youngsters see what is happening around them and what is always ignored by them when they just focus on their smart phones in a public space. Also, it wants to remind teenagers to spend less time on smart phones. |
| Community | Put Your Head Up!  | This project aims to raise youth's awareness of our community. Let youngsters see what is happening around them and what is always ignored by them when they just focus on their smart phones in a public space. Also, it wants to remind teenagers to spend less time on the smart phones.   |
|           | Care for the Community Environment                       | To understand our own living environment, and improve it in specific areas.   |
|           | Can Our Happiness Truly                                  | The project aims to increase the awareness of   |

|       |                          |   |
|-------|--------------------------|---|
|       | Share in the Smartphone? | public that without smartphones, people can also gain happiness through interacting with others. It uses an interactive way to let Singapore students and public understand how technology is affecting our life, especially communications among people. It also draws attention to this social problem.   |
| World | Voluntravel Beyond       | A project on Cycling and VolunTourism   |
|       | Food Talks               | This is an app with a subscription platform for food delivery service for tourists who visit Hong Kong or foreigners who live in Hong Kong. Each brand or chef who prepares the food will be interviewed and tell their story, values and beliefs behind their yummy cuisine. A conversation among different cultures, caused by the desire for yummy food, becomes possible. |
|       | Give & Gift              | This is a User Experience project which aims to reduce or minimise waste and environmental impact by designing or re-designing a consumer toy and its product packaging.  |

**Opening Ceremony of  
VTC-ITE International Student Seminar 2015**

**Monday, 15 June 2015  
Auditorium, Hong Kong Design Institute,  
3 King Ling Road, Tseung Kwan O, N. T., Hong Kong**

**Programme**

| <b>Time</b> | <b>Activity</b>  |
|-------------|--|
| 8.30 am     | Registration of Guests and Students  |
| 8.45 am     | Arrival of Media   |
| 8.55 am     | Guests and Students to be seated   |
| 9.00 am     | Arrival of Guest-of-Honour<br><b>The Honourable Mrs Carrie Lam, GBS, JP</b><br>Chief Secretary for Administration, Hong Kong SAR   |
| 9.05 am     | Commencement of Opening Ceremony<br><br>Opening Performance by VTC Symphony Orchestra<br><br>Welcome Address by Dr Clement Chen, SBS, JP<br>Chairman, VTC<br><br>Speech by Mr Bob Tan<br>Chairman, ITE<br><br>Speech by Guest-of-Honour<br><br><b>Launch of VTC-ITE International Student Seminar 2015</b> |
| 9.45 am     | Viewing of Student Exhibition Booths   |
| 10.30 am    | Tea Reception  |
| 11.00 am    | End of Opening Ceremony Programme and<br>Commencement of Seminar Sub-Theme 1 session   |



**Location Map**

**Hong Kong Design Institute,  
3 King Ling Road, Tseung Kwan O, N. T., Hong Kong**

