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CUHK Large Scale Career Development Programme Boosts Exchanges with China

Around 200 students from The Chinese University of Hong Kong will visit China this summer with the purpose of gaining classroom and workplace experience there under the first China Career Development Award Programme. The Programme, which is set up by the Office of Student Affairs and the Office of Academic Links of the University, is the most organized and largest in scale training/ internship programme in China for students of local tertiary institutions.

"The Chinese University of Hong Kong has always placed great importance on cultural and academic exchanges between Hong Kong and China. It has been devoted to the training of people useful to the development of both places," said Professor Arthur K C Li, Vice-Chancellor, The Chinese University of Hong Kong at the award presentation ceremony today.

"Following this tradition, the University is going to launch its China Career Development Award Programme this summer," Professor Li added.

The award presentation ceremony was attended by Mr Weng Xin Qiao, Head, Education, Science and Technology Department, Xinhua News Agency (Hong Kong Branch), Mr Paul Cheng, Chairman, Appointments Board, The Chinese University of Hong Kong as well as donors and representatives from sponsoring companies. The 200 students were selected from a sizable number of highly qualified candidates.

The programme aims to promote manpower training and cultural exchange between the mainland and Hong Kong.

The projected cost per student in the programme is about HK\$10,000. As this is an award programme, each student will only be required to pay HK\$1,500. The University will be responsible for the students' accommodation, medical insurance, personal accident and personal liability insurance as well as providing a comprehensive back-up network.

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The programme comprises two parts. The first part is a four-week training course "Knowing Contemporary China", which is modeled on the training programme provided to Hong Kong civil servants. University professors, Government officials, and many other Chinese experts will give lectures on socio-political and economic systems of the mainland. Participants will also be able to visit various places such as court houses, factories, farm lands and homes of their teachers to enhance their understanding of the mainland.

The second part is a six-week internship programme. Students will be assigned to branch offices of Hong Kong based companies in Beijing, Guangzhou or Shenzhen and some of them will be posted in various cultural and commercial organisations in Beijing.

"The University hopes to establish partnerships with the commercial and industrial firms and to help students to acquire hands-on experience and knowledge of business operations in the mainland. This will be a valuable personal experience and a great advantage to participants when they later seek jobs," said Professor Kwok Siu-tong, University Dean of Students of the University.

To prepare the participants, a two-day pre-trip counselling programme will be held on 14 and 15 June. The students will leave for Beijing on 7 July while those who go to Guangzhou and Shenzhen will depart as determined by their sponsoring companies.