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**Executive Development Programme for Hainan Senior Government Officials**

The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST) is organising an Executive Development Programme for Hainan Senior Government Officials from June 20 to July 4. This is the first of a series of six programmes tailor-made for senior officials from Hainan Province.

According to an agreement signed between HKUST and the Hainan Association for International Exchange of Personnel, the University will operate six programmes in three years to train 180 senior policy-making officials. There will be about 30 participants in each programme.

The programme will expose Hainan's senior officials to Hong Kong's political, economic and legal systems. Through lectures, panel discussions, interviews, and field visits, the officials will learn about Hong Kong's decision making process, the organisation and function of the Hong Kong Government, and the workings of market economy. Participants will include city and county mayors, party secretaries, leaders of the Provincial People's Congress Standing Committee and heads of government departments.

Teaching in the programme will be professors and lecturers from HKUST and local experts in various fields. "In order to ensure the Programme's quality and effectiveness, we attach special importance to follow-up work. Some time after each programme, the organisers and teachers from the University will go to Hainan Province to visit the students, and to study and assess the actual effect of the programme on their work. Based on the feedback we gather, we will plan future programmes in more productive ways," says Programme Organiser Prof Hsi-sheng Ch'i, Dean of Humanities and Social Science.

"South China is one of the main concerns of our University. Hainan Province, being part of South China, has not drawn enough attention from Hong Kong so far. Situated south of the inland provinces including Guangxi, Yunnan, Guizhou, and Sichuan, Hainan Province could act as a coastal outlet for these provinces. Thus, the development of Hainan Province could promote the development of the entire South West Region of China."

"In order to investigate areas of needs which HKUST can fulfill, the University has formed a special faculty group to educate themselves on developments in the Province."

Vice-Chancellor Prof Chia-Wei Woo said, "HKUST's mandate is to contribute to the economic and social development of Hong Kong and her region. We see Hong Kong's region as including Guangdong Province, which is taking off rapidly, and Hainan Province, which has great potential. The Executive Programme will be among HKUST's services to the region."

He added, "In addition, using environmental protection as a main theme, my colleagues at HKUST wish to contribute to Hainan's industrial development, urban planning, tropical agriculture, marine products, social studies, economic management, and education. Through our work, we hope to learn along with our friends in Hainan, and increase our mutual understanding as well as actual cooperative experience. This way, HKUST will be able to prepare paths in Hainan for Hong Kong's industrial and commercial sectors, and for Hong Kong in general. Our work will hopefully be of benefits to Hong Kong people, when they become ready to develop their interests there in a big way."

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