

## SPARK: Thought leadership panel discussion

Session Title: **Promoting 21<sup>st</sup> Century skills in the future workforce**  
Date & Time: 19 January 2019, Saturday, 10.15 -11.45  
Venue: JC Cube Auditorium, Tai Kwun

### Summary / Description:

There is sometimes a perception among employers and governments that young people are not equipped with the creativity, critical thinking or communication skills that are essential for the workplace. Is this perception fair or accurate? And how do young people respond to this criticism?

A panel of experts will seek to unpack this complex issue which is experienced by many economies around the world. The session will examine what different stakeholders – governments, parents, career counsellors, schools, universities and young people themselves – can do to ensure the future workforce has the right skills for a prosperous and sustainable future.

### Panel Speakers



#### **Professor Douglas Brodie, Executive Dean of Humanities and Social Sciences at the University of Strathclyde**

Professor Brodie is an authority on Labour Law and Delict. His main research interests are in the area of employment contract and the history of Labour Law and in the area of Delict, the analysis of negligence.

Prior to Strathclyde, he was Professor of Employment Law at the University of Edinburgh, and served as Dean from 2007 to 2011 and was Head of the School of Arts and Humanities at the University of Stirling from 2011 to 2014.

He has published widely and amongst his publications are: A History of British Labour Law (2003), The Employment Contract (2005), The Contract of Employment (2008) and Enterprise Liability and the Common Law (2010).

Professor Brodie is Visiting Professor at more than 2 other universities and regularly represents the University Internationally, recently giving a presentation in China on Critical Issues in Internationalisation.

*Professor Brodie will discuss the following:*

	<p>Scotland's Curriculum for Excellence (CfE) - Scotland's Curriculum for Excellence (CfE) was introduced in 2010-2011 following an extensive period of consultation that included a national debate in 2002 on the state school system. The Curriculum's stated purpose is to create: successful learners; confident individuals; responsible citizens; and effective contributors for the 21st Century. The curriculum includes four contexts for learning that encapsulate the holistic role education should play in developing our young people. In addition to subject-specific content knowledge, it promotes interdisciplinary learning; it takes account of the ethos and life of the school and provides pupils with opportunities for personal achievement. CfE ensures that we consider the young person in all the teaching we deliver: it must be enjoyable and challenging, providing sufficient breadth and depth in terms of subject knowledge, provides a coherent and relevant curriculum for each pupil and offers an opportunity to personalise learning and choice.</p>
	<p><b>Dr Lay Lian ONG, Principal, Hong Kong Design Institute &amp; Hong Kong Institute of Vocational Education (Lee Wai Lee)</b></p> <p>Dr. Ong has extensive experience in Vocational and Professional Education and Training specifically on educational leadership and management. She is committed to promoting skills excellence and nurturing students' creative thinking, cultural sensitivity and global perspective.</p> <p>As Principal of Hong Kong Design Institute since September 2017, Dr. Ong has contributed to growing the already vast network of overseas and Mainland partnership with higher educational institutes, museums and art and design institutions to maximize exposure and develop collaborative opportunities for her staff and students. Students have won awards when encouraged to take part in open competitions, and recent exhibitions such as Ronan &amp; Erwan Bouroullec -Urban Daydreaming and Tim Yip:Blue-Art, Costumes and Memory, are well attended by over 20,000 local students and</p>

overseas visitors within 6 weeks since the opening and widely reported in the local and international media.

Prior to her current position, she has taken up a number of senior roles in the VTC, including playing a key role in formulating VTC's strategic plan, and on secondment to The Education Bureau where her work has contributed to the Task Force on Promotion of Vocational Education in Hong Kong.

*Dr Ong will discuss the following:*

In today's dynamic and interconnected world, it is imperative to respond to the evolving employability trends that have far-reaching impact and implications on vocational and professional education and training. The digitalization of everything changes the way we behave, interact and do business. At Hong Kong Design Institute (HKDI), we embrace change and put focus on developing students' ability to adapt, to self-learn and to be able to apply the thinking process in preparing the students today with the skills of tomorrow.

HKDI adopts an ever-evolving and integrated curriculum approach in teaching and learning. Design can no longer be a study discipline on its own. Students are trained not only on specialized skills, but also problem solving skills that enable them to apply through multi-disciplinary and cross-cultural context. Hence, the ability to identify problems, be emphatic with problem owners, and find design solutions to improve the wellbeing of the community at large. We believe that both the attitude and skills will go a long way for future design professionals.



## **John Tsang, Founder, Esperanza**

Born and raised in Hong Kong, John emigrated to the United States when he was a Form II student at La Salle College. He continued his education at Stuyvesant High School in New York City, and studied architecture at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He went on to complete master degrees in Bilingual Education at Boston State College and in Public Administration at the Harvard Kennedy School of Government. He worked in the Boston Public Schools as a teacher and in curriculum development.

John returned to work as an Administrative Officer in the Hong Kong Government in 1982. He took up a number of posts relating to commerce and finance. After reunification, he was appointed as Commissioner of Customs and Excise, Secretary for Planning and Lands, Secretary for Commerce, Innovation and Technology, Director of the Chief Executive's Office and in 2007, Financial Secretary where he served until 2017. He ran for the post of Chief Executive and lost.

John is currently Chairman of Benefit Vantage Limited, a Hong Kong firm that offers a mobile seamless authentication solution. He is also the Vice Chairman of Ion Pacific, a financial institution that specializes in technology investments. In addition, he is the founder of a nonprofit organization called Esperanza.

John is married with two grown children and three grand-children.

*John will discuss the following:*

Faced with the advent of a new world order and an increasingly complex life and work environment in the 21st Century, students today need to acquire skills that are not being provided in the current system. This requires a revamp of the existing education structure, a vestige of the industrial era, from the contents of the curriculum to the interior design of the classroom. I shall explore with the audience the different components of this necessary

	<p>fundamental change that would help prepare our students to properly manage their future and succeed.</p>
	<p><b>Albert Wong, Chief Executive Officer, Hong Kong Science and Technology Parks Corporation</b></p> <p>Albert Wong joined HKSTP in 2016 and was appointed as CEO in August in the same year.</p> <p>Albert holds an Engineering Degree from the University of Hong Kong, and an MBA from the Chinese University of Hong Kong. Albert has over thirty years of commercial experience with various multinationals, including Schlumberger, Caterpillar, Emerson Electric and General Electric. Before joining the HKSTP, Albert was the CEO of ATAL Engineering in Hong Kong. Prior to that, Albert held various senior management positions with GE in the US headquarters, Asia-Pacific and China. Albert's last positions at GE were China CEO of GE Oil &amp; Gas; Asia CEO of GE Industrial Solutions.</p> <p>Albert is committed to building an ecosystem in Hong Kong to drive development in Technology, Innovation and Entrepreneurship. He firmly believes that the future of Hong Kong rides on the success of this ecosystem.</p> <p><i>Albert will discuss the following:</i></p> <p>It is an exciting time for Hong Kong, as digital transformation, AI and big data start to affect nearly every sector of the Hong Kong economy. Thus, it is crucial for Hong Kong's future that the Innovation &amp; Technology (I&amp;T) sector itself evolves to become a central pillar of the economy, and having I&amp;T as the core to who we are and what we do.</p> <p>Nurturing the right talent and start-ups - those with the courage to disrupt and will to persevere - will be key. There is also the need to capitalise on our core tech capabilities and invest resources accordingly. Along with this,</p>

	<p>we should continue to expand and strengthen the I&amp;T ecosystem, creating the opportunities for more talent to come forward. Co-creation of training, policies, growth programmes and opportunities will require the contribution of every stakeholder working together - Government, industry and academia.</p>
	<p><b>Moderator and Lead: Samuel Chan, Study UK Alumni Awards winner, Founder, Britannia Study Links</b></p> <p>With an entrepreneurial spirit spreading across online, print and broadcast media, Samuel is an award-winning educational consultant and celebrated columnist.</p> <p>As a leader in the field of education, he was honoured with the British Council's Study UK Alumni Award and his most prestigious achievement to date includes the founding of Hong Kong's premier educational brands - Britannia StudyLink, Anglo Belgravia and Ascent Prep.</p> <p>In addition to streamlining the UK independent school application process for Hong Kong families and spearheading the first official UKiset-accredited educational centre in Hong Kong, Samuel has led his company, Britannia, to becoming one of Asia's leading brands with diverse clients and distinguished institutions ranging from Radley College to HSBC Bank and Hong Kong Telecom.</p>