

PRESS RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FRIDAY 15TH DECEMBER 2017

2017 UNESCO Hong Kong SDG Debating Tournament

The inaugural ‘SDG Debating Tournament’ will be held on 22nd December 2017 (Friday) in Pui Ching Middle School. This tournament is organised by UNESCO Hong Kong and Bright Future Charitable Foundation, sponsored by Friends of UNESCO HK and ARCH Education, and supported by Woofoo Social Enterprise. There are three groups of competitors: open break for experienced debaters, novice break for inexperienced debaters and beginners’ division for schools without a history of English debating. 54 teams from 37 local, international and minority schools will participate in the tournament. In order to widen participation, we have provided schools with dedicated coaching sessions. We have also been supported by the online platform of CCtalk, which will provide our students another medium to engage with each other and other trainers.

The aim of this tournament is to raise the awareness of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda propagated by the United Nations in September 2015 among secondary school students in Hong Kong. This Agenda includes the 17 Sustainable Development Goals, which will form the basis of the topics for debate during this tournament, and the basis for which the 193 Member States will work together to eliminate poverty, realise equality and fight the adverse impacts of climate change.

We are extremely honoured to have Mr Kevin Yeung JP, the Secretary of Education, as the officiating guest for our award ceremony of the tournament. He will be joined by Mr Lester Garson Huang JP, the Chairman of the Standing Committee on Language Education and Research, Dr Kowk Sang So, the Secretary General of the Hong Kong Examinations and Assessment Authority, Miss Jennifer Ma, Co-Founder and Director of ARCH Education, and distinguished school principals. Our President Dr Darwin Chen SBS, Vice-Presidents Professor Yu Hing Ying MH and Dr Roy Chung GBS, BBS, JP (also Founder and Chairman of the Bright Future Charitable Foundation), who have been instrumental during the organisation of the tournament, will be present, too.

Our Chief Adjudicator is Mr Herman Lam, who has extensive international coaching and adjudicating experiences and most recently served as the Grand Final adjudicator for the prestigious Heart of Europe International Debating Tournament in Czech Republic. Miss Maggie Lam, the ‘Super Scholar’ in 2017 HKDSE, will be the mistress of ceremony for the tournament.

The Grand Final and the award ceremony will begin at 4 pm on 22nd December 2017 (Friday). Please consult our website: <http://debate.unesco.hk/wp/> for further information.

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