

Press Release

The Federation for Continuing Education in Tertiary Institutions (FCE) celebrates its 15th anniversary in 2009. A Roundtable event featuring local and overseas speakers was held at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre on 19 November 2009 (Thursday). Over 180 persons attended.

The theme of the Roundtable was “Challenges for Post-Secondary Education – Threats, Opportunities and Trends”. Invited to the Roundtable were scholars and educators, heads of post secondary institutions, government officials, representatives of relevant statutory bodies and other stakeholders. Secretary of Education, Mr Michael Suen Ming- Yeung, delivered the keynote speech which recognized the contributions made by the FCE in the last 15 years. Examples quoted include the launch of Project Yi Jin, the development of the sub-degree sector, the drawing up of a new set of common descriptors for Associate Degrees and Higher Diplomas and meeting the challenges brought about by the introduction of the new 3-3-4 academic structure. Also given special mention in Mr. Suen’s speech were the difficulties that members of the FCE will face in 2011, when there will be no secondary five graduates, and in 2012, when there will be a double cohort comprising the last cohort of secondary seven students under the old structure and the first cohort of secondary six students under the new.

The gathering also witnessed the launching of a new logo for the FCE by the Secretary of Education and Dr. Charles Wong, Chairman of the FCE. The logo, of a design completely different from the old, takes the shape of a growing tree, which is to signal dynamic advancement, collaboration and networking. The overall layout also reflects the characteristic of the FCE: a coalition of 14 institutions with a commitment to further the development of continuing education and lifelong learning in Hong Kong.’

Background information:

The topics covered in the Roundtable and the speakers:

Dr. Molly Lee, Coordinator of the Asia-Pacific Programme of Educational Programme for Development and Programme Specialist in Higher and Distance Education, UNESCO Asia and the Pacific Regional Bureau for Education, Bangkok - **“World Trends, New Dynamics and UNESCO World Conference in Higher Education”**;

Press Release

Dr. Chui L. Tsang, President of Santa Monica College, USA - **“Community Colleges as Affordable Higher Education for All”** in the US;

Professor Cheng Yin Cheong, Vice-president (Research & Development) of the Hong Kong Institute of Education - **“Challenges and Opportunities of the Continuing/Self-Financing Education Sectors in HK”** and

Mr. Michael V. Stone, Secretary-General of the University Grants Committee - **“The UGC Higher Education Review – A General Introduction”**.

The speakers formed themselves into a panel afterwards and answered questions. By special arrangement, the newly appointed Deputy Secretary for Education, Ms. Michelle Li, was one of panelists.

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