

香港資優教育學苑
The Hong Kong Academy for Gifted Education
Press Release

【For immediate release】

**Participants Enhanced Motivation Skills from
the Annual Hotung Lecture 2020 cum Biennial Parent Conference**

(Hong Kong – 11 Jan 2020) **Annual Hotung Lecture 2020 (Lecture) cum Biennial Parent Conference (Conference)** held by **The Hong Kong Academy for Gifted Education (HKAGE)** was successfully concluded today and was well received by about 200 educators, professionals, parents and members of the general public.

Motivation of gifted students is the main theme of the Lecture and Conference this year. In the Lecture held this morning, **Professor Heidrun STOEGER of the University of Regensburg in Germany**, a renowned scholar who has conducted in-depth researches on different aspects of gifted students, shared with the audience her research findings about motivation and achievement of gifted students. At the Conference this afternoon, numerous prominent educators, namely **Dr CHAN Lai Kwan of The Chinese University of Hong Kong**, **Dr CHAN Ka Wai of G.T. (Ellen Yeung) College**, **Dr Anna HUI Na Na of City University of Hong Kong**, **Dr Wilbert LAW of The Education University of Hong Kong**, and **Mr CHONG Ming Po, former Committee Member of the Curriculum Development Council Committee on Gifted Education (2017-2019)**, shared their insights about learning motivation, multiple intelligences and talent development of gifted students.

Ir Dr Alan LAM Hiu Fung, Chairman of the HKAGE, welcomed the keynote speaker and the guests, ‘As a non-gifted student, I am so grateful to the Hong Kong education for giving me a value-added training and providing me the chance to achieve and contribute to our society.’ He continued, ‘As one of the major institutions providing gifted education in Hong Kong, I have the confidence that the HKAGE can continuously support our gifted students to learn and to advance like the two MCs (an alumnus and student member of the HKAGE) in today’s Lecture. They have set a great example to demonstrate a nice pathway of the successful outcome of the HKAGE.’

Executive Director of the HKAGE, Professor NG Tai Kai busted the myth that being gifted is equivalent to outperforming or well-achieving, ‘Experiences tell us that it is quite common that gifted children are not able to fully realise their potentials,’ he added, ‘there are many reasons behind and “motivation” is surely one of them.’

Many gifted children face their first failure when they first enter gifted classes, according to **Professor STOEGER’s** observation, resulting in anxiety and demotivation because they have attributed their failure to their talents or something they cannot control. Professor STOEGER has conducted researches on Success Expectancy via Incremental Theory (Growth Mindset) verse Entity Theory (Fixed Mindset) and found that students being praised with their intelligence tended to underperform after they had encountered failures. On the other hand, students being praised with their learning behaviour had less helplessness and performed better after failures. Her researches also show that parents’ and teachers’ mindset will also affect students’ mindset and subsequently their academic achievement.

In the latest development of gifted education, students’ achievement is not limited to academic attainment anymore, whereas psychological well-being has found its way. **Dr CHAN Lai Kwan**, one of the keynote speakers in the Conference, opined that we need to identify and unleash the children’s potentials and interests in order to strengthen their motivation. In addition, the children’s learning style,

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autonomy and self-efficacy, as well as the learning environment including the mindset of parents and teachers are all countable factors which help develop the children's most capable selves.

Another keynote speaker, **Dr CHAN Ka Wai** pinpointed the importance of cultural and moral intelligence in his speech. He recommended *Analects of Confucius* to the audience, in which benevolence as the essence of the human being (以仁為本) can help develop positive values for children. Children with positive values can be more capable in coping with difficulties and reviving from the failing spirits.

The Annual Hotung Lecture and the Biennial Parent Conference are both HKAGE's flagship events which aim to offer a unique and valuable opportunity for participants to learn directly from world-class experts and exchange views with local scholars on nurturing the gifted.

The Hong Kong Academy for Gifted Education, a subvented non-governmental organisation, was established in 2008. It aims at serving the education sector in Hong Kong, offering the latest information, support and appropriate learning opportunities to gifted students, their parents, teachers and other stakeholders engaged in gifted education. Most of its programmes are provided free-of-charge.

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Annex



#1. **Professor STOEGER** shared her research findings on student motivation.



#2. **Dr Alan LAM Hiu Fung**, Chairman of the HKAGE, presented souvenirs to speakers of the Biennial Parent Conference.



#3. **Dr CHAN Lai Kwan** brought out the importance of multi-intelligences and psychological well-being.



#4. **Mr CHONG Ming Po** shared his experience in motivating his gifted child.

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