

# TECHNOLOGICAL AND HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTE OF HONG KONG (THEi)

## Annual Report 2019/20

### Degree Programmes Provision

The academic programmes offered by THEi are self-financing. In the academic year 2019/20, THEi offered 21 degree programmes through its three Faculties, namely the Faculty of Design and Environment, the Faculty of Management and Hospitality, and the Faculty of Science and Technology.

12 of THEi's Year-1 degree programmes were included under the Study Subsidy Scheme for Designated Professions/Sectors (SSSDP) with subsidy ranging from HK\$41,700 to HK\$72,800 for 691 places in the academic year 2019/20. The 12 programmes are:

- Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Product Design
- Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Fashion Design
- Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Landscape Architecture
- Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Culinary Arts and Management
- Bachelor of Engineering (Honours) in Building Services Engineering
- Bachelor of Engineering (Honours) in Civil Engineering
- Bachelor of Engineering (Hons) in Environmental Engineering and Management
- Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Horticulture, Arboriculture and Landscape Management
- Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Surveying
- Bachelor of Social Sciences (Honours) in Sports and Recreation Management
- Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Multimedia Technology and Innovation
- Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Information and Communications Technology

As for the other degree programmes not included in SSSDP, they were covered under the Non-means-tested Subsidy Scheme (NMTSS).

### Programme Accreditation and Recognition

THEi achieved significant milestones in programme development and accreditations in 2019/20. Three new programmes, namely Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Chinese Medicinal Pharmacy, Bachelor of Engineering (Honours) in Aircraft Engineering, and Professional Diploma in Building Information Modelling were accredited by the Hong Kong Council for Accreditation of Academic and Vocational Qualifications (HKCAAVQ) for offer from 2019/20.

Five of the Institute's programmes, namely the Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Horticulture, Arboriculture and Landscape Management, Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Public Relations and International Events Management, Bachelor of Engineering (Honours) in Building Services Engineering, Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Food Science and Safety, and Professional Diploma in Horticulture, Arboriculture and Landscape Management, successfully went through Learning Programme Reaccreditations (Re-LPA) by the HKCAAVQ. Through the Re-LPA exercise, the following degree programmes were re-titled with effect from the academic year 2020/21:

- Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Horticulture and Landscape re-titled as the Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Horticulture, Arboriculture and Landscape Management;
- Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Public Relations and Management re-titled as the Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Public Relations and International Events Management; and
- Professional Diploma in Horticulture and Landscape Management re-titled as the Professional Diploma in Horticulture, Arboriculture and Landscape Management.

The professional positioning of THEi's programmes has continued to be advanced through professional accreditations. Particularly, in 2019, the new programme, Bachelor of Engineering (Honours) in Aircraft Engineering, was accredited by the Civil Aviation Department (CAD) regarding the HKAR-66 Cat. B1.1 qualification under HKAR-147 Approval of Maintenance Training Organisation.

### **Student Admission**

THEi has always been dedicated to offering programmes that are designed to meet the specific needs of various industries. We believe that our programmes could equip our students with the knowledge, skills, and practical experience needed to succeed in their chosen professions. In the academic year 2019/20, THEi had the pleasure of welcoming over 1,100 new local and non-local students for its degree and non-degree programmes. We are delighted to see such strong interest in our institution and programmes.

### **Student Achievements**

Throughout the academic year 2019/20, THEi students excelled in a wide range of competitions and events, showcasing their impressive skills and abilities in various fields related to their study disciplines. Notably, our students achieved remarkable success in major local and international competitions and received a great number of scholarships, including Kam Fan Student Awards 2019, Merino Wool Award in the 9th Hong Kong Young Knitwear Designers' Contest, Merino Students Award in the Xinao Knit for Next Knitwear Designer Competition 2019, CreateSmart Young Design Talent Special Award in the DFA Hong Kong Young Design Talent Award 2019, Hong Kong Fashion Designer Association (HKFDA) Young Talent Award 2019, 19th Footwear Design Competition Hong Kong 2019, 21st Hong Kong Jewellery Design Competition, Hong Kong Institute of Surveyors (HKIS) Outstanding Final Year Dissertation Awards 2019 (Planning and Development Division), Chartered Institute of Building (Hong Kong) Outstanding Student Awards 2019/20, IKA Culinary Olympics 2020 (Junior National Team category), WorldSkills Competition Hong Kong (Cooking) and 46th WorldSkills Competition 2021,

Hong Kong Institution of Engineers (HKIE) Outstanding Paper Award for Young Engineers/Researchers 2020, BOSMES Research Prize 2020, etc. They competed with students from both UGC-funded universities and other self-financed tertiary institutions, sweeping numerous awards and recognition for their outstanding performance. We are incredibly proud of our students' hard work, dedication, and talents, which are evident in these achievements. We look forward to continuing to support our students in their pursuit of excellence and success.

### **Graduate Employment**

THEi is proud to report that based on the results of the employment survey of the graduates of THEi full-time programmes from 2019 as at January 2020, we are able to maintain the impressive employment rate of 95%. 90% of the graduates agreed that the discipline/industry-specific knowledge they learnt from the programme was helpful in their current job, and 86% of the graduates considered that their present job was relevant to their learning programme. Work-integrated Learning (WIL) played a vital role in enhancing the work-readiness of our graduates. 88% (vs. 87% in the Graduate Employment Survey 2018) of the employed graduates who had participated in WIL reported that they could apply the knowledge or practical skills learnt from WIL to their present jobs. 93% (vs. 94% in the Graduate Employment Survey 2018) of the employed graduates considered that the WIL had been helpful to their personal development. 30% (vs. 26% in the Graduate Employment Survey 2018) reported that they received the job offer directly from the employer who had offered the WIL to them during their study at THEi.

### **Employers' Views on THEi Graduates 2017/18**

To evaluate and monitor the quality of THEi programmes, an independent external party was commissioned to conduct a survey to obtain employers' perceptions on the performance of THEi's third cohort of graduates, namely those of the academic year 2017/18 who have given their consent. The employers and industry practitioners have expressed overall satisfaction with the performance of THEi graduates, with the highest ratings given to their work attitude, teamwork spirit, sense of responsibility and ability to learn/adapt new skills among to different core competencies.

### **THEi Earn and Learn Degree Programmes Scheme**

THEi Earn and Learn (E&L) Degree Programmes scheme was introduced in the academic year 2018/19 to benefit students at the degree level and to address the higher-level skills shortages in Hong Kong. The scheme, being developed in partnership with industry partners, offers an alternative articulation pathway and advancement opportunity for Higher Diploma graduates and working adults to pursue a Bachelor's Degree qualification where they can acquire professional knowledge through studying at THEi and accumulate work experience while earning an income at workplace. The degree programmes are delivered in a dual-track approach involving a mix of work-integrated learning, work-based project and

academic study at THEi. Students normally have 1-2 days study at THEi and 4-day work at workplace per week. The normal study period of the programmes is two years.

Following the launching of two pilot E&L degree programmes, namely Bachelor of Engineering (Honours) in Building Services Engineering and Bachelor of Engineering (Honours) in Civil Engineering, in September 2018, two more E&L degree programmes, namely, Bachelor of Engineering (Honours) in Aircraft Engineering and Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Chinese Medicinal Pharmacy, were launched in the first and second semester of the academic year 2019/20 respectively.

In 2019/20, seven employers from the building services and aircraft engineering industries nominated 16 staff in total to join the scheme and study at THEi for two years. The students received tuition fee subsidies from their employers and the Government. For the Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Chinese Medicinal Pharmacy programme, six employers from the Chinese medicine industry participated in the scheme and provided 12 training places in total to Year-3 students of the programme. The students who joined the scheme were provided part-time jobs with salary while receiving structured workplace training with job rotation for 12 months.

Positive feedback on the scheme was received from the partnering employers and trainees. The Institute will explore the feasibility to scale up the scheme to engage more employers and expand the scheme to other degree programmes in the coming academic years.

### **Innov8 Enterprise Start-up Programme**

To encourage, mentor, nurture and support innovation, creativity and entrepreneurial activities at THEi, the Innov8 Enterprise Start-up Programme was launched in 2018/19, providing seed capital and comprehensive services such as free office space, workshop facilities, mentorship, training and business networking opportunities to the admitted start-up teams to support THEi graduates and students to start their entrepreneur journey. Over the past two years, six start-up teams, namely YMDH Studio (high-end street fashion), Glowsi (social e-commerce platform for solo female traveller), UPCYCO (leather up-cycling), KEEPER (vintage fashion and accessories), Jovial Patisserie (customised bakery), and DOSHA Woodcraft (upcycling wood furniture), have successfully started their business operations with the tremendous support received from the programme. Some teams have been interviewed by the media, providing them great opportunities to introduce their business concept and showcase their products to the public.

### **Partnership Engagement**

THEi has made significant strides in fostering partnerships with a diverse range of organisations to provide our students with valuable opportunities for professional growth. Over the past year, the Institute has expanded its network of industry partners, enabling more of its students to benefit from industrial attachment programmes. Additionally, THEi has forged new ties with academic institutions both in the Mainland China and overseas, facilitating exchange programmes for both staff and students.

In 2019/20, THEi signed Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) with a number of institutions and organisations, such as University of Technology Sydney (Australia) and University of Arizona (USA), further broadening its reach and deepening its engagement with the wider local and international community. We look forward to continuing to strengthen the connection with new and existing partners in the years to come, and to helping our students succeed in an increasingly interconnected and competitive global landscape.

### **Campus Development**

THEi has made significant progress in developing its two campuses to provide its students with state-of-the-art facilities and an optimal learning environment. Its Chai Wan campus celebrated its grand opening on 18 April 2019, marking a major milestone in the Institute's history. Since then, the campus has continued to enhance its facilities to meet the evolving needs of students and faculties.

*Spring*, a training restaurant for the students of the Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Culinary Arts and Management and Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Hotel Operations Management programmes, completed its phase two development in setting up of Membership Club. *Spring* is now in operation providing valuable practical training opportunities for the students and offers catering services to staff on scheduled days.

THEi Greenhouse located on the ground floor of its Chai Wan campus was set up in March 2019 and has been opened to all students and staff since September 2019. Various activities such as thematic flower and plant exhibitions, special-interest tours and training workshops have been organised for THEi students, staff and external guests including secondary school students and teachers since then.

The One-button Studio in the Learning Commons at the Chai Wan campus was established in December 2019 to support the enhancement of students' presentation competency.

At the Tsing Yi campus, THEi has completed the establishment of a few new laboratories including the Civil Engineering Concrete Materials Laboratory, Aircraft Engineering Laboratory and two new Chinese Medicine Laboratories, as well as improvement works and renovations to existing facilities, providing students with cutting-edge resources to support their academic pursuits and further enhancing students' learning experience.

### **Supporting Learning and Teaching**

The Blended Learning scheme started a pilot run in 2019/20. A number of modules have been converted to multimedia and interactive courseware embedded in Moodle for students' learning. The conversion of multimedia and interactive courseware will continue in the coming years to cover a greater number of modules.

### **Applied Research and Consultancy**

In the academic year 2019/20, THEi continued to actively seek external funding for research and successfully obtained HK\$14.7M in grant awards. In addition, the Institute also provided approximately HK\$600K worth of Seed Grants from internal funding to a number of proposals to encourage and promote exploratory research among its staff. THEi is committed to supporting its researchers in their pursuit of excellence and success.

The University Grants Committee (UGC) launched a Research Matching Grant Scheme (RMGS) in August 2019 to encourage financial support for research from the private sector. Since the fourth quarter of 2019, THEi academic staff has actively solicited private donations to support staff and student research activities and projects, and used these donations to apply for the RMGS.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, THEi Student Applied Research Presentations of the academic year 2019/20 (SARP2020) was hosted on the THEi website. The event received 41 abstracts, 31 research posters and 7 video presentations from students across the three Faculties. The presentations were available for public viewing from 1 August 2020. Within ten days of its opening, more than 1,700 people viewed the presentations. Concurrently, a competition was held inviting visitors to vote for the Best Poster Awards and Best Video Presentation Award. Over 300 people, including THEi staff and students, and visitors from other local and overseas institutions casted their votes online for their favourite posters or videos. Nine awards were given out to students from the three faculties.