

# TECHNOLOGICAL AND HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTE OF HONG KONG (THEi) Annual Report 2021/22

## Degree Programmes Provision

The academic programmes offered by THEi are self-financing. In the academic year 2021/22, THEi offered 21 innovative degree programmes across its three Faculties of Design and Environment, Management and Hospitality, and Science and Technology that are developed with significant industry input. All programmes require Work-integrated Learning (WIL) and engage students in active learning pedagogies including a strong focus on project-based learning involving real-world problem solving with and for local industries and professions, aiming to develop students into work-and-future-ready professionals with the skills and knowledge applicable to real world settings and the future job market.

Ten of THEi's Year-1 degree programmes were included under the Study Subsidy Scheme for Designated Professions/Sectors (SSSDP) with subsidy ranging from HK\$44,100 to HK\$76,800 for 435 places in the academic year 2021/22. The ten 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 Civil Engineering
- 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 Accreditations and Reaccreditation

THEi is dedicated to providing quality tertiary education to our students. In the academic year 2021/22, two new programmes, namely Professional Diploma in Landscape Architecture and Professional Diploma Meister in Lift and Escalator Engineering successfully went through the learning programme accreditation (LPA) by the Hong Kong Council for Accreditation of Academic and Vocational Qualifications (HKCAAVQ) and were granted approval at Qualifications Framework (QF) Level 5 in

2021/22. The Professional Diploma Meister in Lift and Escalator Engineering programme welcomed its first cohort of students in June 2022. The Professional Diploma in Landscape Architecture programme will be offered starting from September 2022.

In addition, eight programmes underwent learning programme reaccreditations (Re-LPA) by the HKCAAVQ:

- Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Advertising
- Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Fashion Design
- Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Product Design
- Bachelor of Social Sciences (Honours) in Sports and Recreation Management
- Bachelor of Engineering (Honours) in Civil Engineering
- Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Testing and Certification
- Professional Diploma in Building Services Engineering
- Professional Diploma in Building Information Modelling

Upon approval of the Substantial Change application by the HKCAAVQ in 2020, the Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Health Care programme was re-titled as Bachelor of Science (Honours) Nutrition and Healthcare Management with effect from the academic year 2021/22. Furthermore, the Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Advertising programme will be re-titled as Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Digital Advertising with effect from the academic year 2022/23.

This year, THEi's programmes continued to gain professional recognition and accreditation from various professional bodies and organisations, including Chartered Institution of Building Services Engineers (CIBSE) (United Kingdom), Construction Industry Council (CIC), Hong Kong Institution of Engineers (HKIE), Hong Kong Institute of Surveyors (HKIS), Institute of Hospitality (United Kingdom), International Centre of Excellence in Tourism and Hospitality Education (THE-ICE) (Australia), National Strength and Conditioning Association (NSCA) Education Recognition Program (ERP) (USA), and World Association of Chefs' Societies (Worldchefs).

### **Enhancing Applied Degree Provision**

THEi always aims to prepare work-ready graduates through its vocationally and professionally-oriented degree programmes that are developed with significant industry input and "applied" in nature.

The Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Horticulture, Arboriculture and Landscape Management (HALM) was selected by the Education Bureau (EDB) in June 2021 as one of its four programmes in the Pilot Project on the Development of Applied Degree Programmes launched in December 2020, with a grant of HK\$2M awarded for programme development. Approval on application for Substantial Change was received from the HKCAAVQ in 2022 for the HALM programme to be offered as an applied degree from the academic year 2022/23. As an applied degree programme, the HALM programme would have a stronger "applied" focus and industry involvement where two credit-bearing Work-integrated Learning (WIL) modules (a total of 252 hours) would be included to strengthen work-based learning and project-

based learning. The HALM programme was further enhanced with a more flexible admission arrangement where a Year-2 entry route and a part-time mode for Year-3 entry were added from 2022/23 to promote professional development and lifelong learning.

### **Student Admission**

Despite the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, THEi has continued to attract a robust cohort of new students. In the academic year 2021/22, the Institute welcomed over 925 new students across its academic programmes, including those enrolled in degree, professional diploma, professional certificate, professional diploma meister and collaborative master's programmes. In the aftermath of COVID-19, owing to stabilisation of the local environment and resumption of unrestricted or less restricted cross-border travel, THEi is eagerly anticipating the opportunity to welcome a larger number of talented and motivated students in the coming years.

### **Student Achievements**

During the academic year of 2021/22, THEi students demonstrated remarkable success in various competitions, scholarships and events. Our students performed excellently in major international and local competitions in a wide variety of fields, competing with students from both UGC-funded universities and other self-financed tertiary institutions. Competitions, events and projects in which THEi students have accomplished incredible results include Hong Kong Kam Fan Students Awards 2021, 23rd Hong Kong Jewellery Design Competition coordinated by the Hong Kong Trade Development Council, Hong Kong Institute of Surveyors Outstanding Dissertation Award 2021, Fashion x AI 2022 International Salon organised by AiDLab, Hong Kong Creative PR Competition 2022, 17th Hong Kong Housing Society Award, CLP's Distribution Box Beautification Project, Hong Kong International Culinary Classic at HOFEX, Asia Pacific CHRIE Youth Conference 2022, Best Student Award 2021 by The Hong Kong Institution of Engineers – Structural Division, Celebration of BIM Achievement 2022, Hong Kong ICT Awards 2021 (Silver Award under the “Smart Living (Smart Healthcare)” category), etc. Their outstanding performance was recognised with numerous awards and accolades. We are proud of our students' achievements, and we will continue to support our students in their academic pursuits and help them reach their full potential.

### **Graduate Employment**

THEi graduates continued to achieve great success in their chosen fields. The Graduate Employment Survey to study the graduate employment situation for full-time programmes of THEi of 2021 was conducted in January 2022. Based on the overall response rate of 78.7%, the findings of the survey indicated that the overall employment rate was 95%, which was an increase of 5% in comparison to the previous year. About 87% (vs. 84% in 2020) of the employed graduates are working in the jobs which are relevant to the THEi programmes which they had studied. 91% (vs. 89% in 2020) of the employed

graduates agreed that the discipline/industry-specific knowledge learnt from the programmes at THEi is helpful to them in performing in their present jobs.

### **Employers' Views on THEi Graduates 2019/20**

To evaluate and monitor the quality of THEi programmes, an independent external party was commissioned in January 2022 to conduct a survey to obtain employers' perceptions on the performance of THEi's fifth cohort of graduates (i.e., graduates of 2019/20) who have given their consent. Employers expressed great satisfaction with the performance of our graduates, thus further demonstrating the high quality of education and training provided by THEi.

### **THEi Work-Study Degree Programmes Scheme (formerly Earn and Learn Degree Programmes Scheme)**

The Earn and Learn Degree Programmes offered by THEi was re-titled as THEi Work-Study Degree (工讀學士學位) Programmes in July 2022 to better reflect the distinctive features of degree programmes delivered in a dual-track approach, which involves a blending of work-integrated learning, work-based projects and academic study.

THEi continued to offer the Work-Study Degree Programmes in the academic year 2021/22. In September 2021, a total of 14 employers, including some key industry partners such as ATAL Engineering, FSE Engineering and Hong Kong Aircraft Engineering Company Limited (HAECO), participated the Work-Study Degree Programmes scheme and nominated 22 staff in total to join the scheme and study at THEi for two years in the Bachelor of Engineering (Honours) in Building Services Engineering and Bachelor of Engineering (Honours) in Aircraft Engineering. Furthermore, 18 training places were offered by the partnering companies to students of the Bachelor of Science (Honours) in the Chinese Medicinal Pharmacy programme. The training is well-designed that students are given a structured workplace training for 6-12 months, and regular and timely job rotation to expand their knowledge and skills in the field.

The third cohort of 23 students admitted under the scheme in the academic year 2020/21 completed their 2-year study and successfully graduated in August 2022. Job advancements with salary increments were reported by over 80% of the respondent graduates.

### **Partnership Engagement**

THEi continued to expand and maintain a wide-ranging network of institutional and professional partnerships across the globe and with Mainland China including the Greater Bay Area (GBA). During the academic year 2021/22, THEi signed Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) with a total of 18 new local, Mainland and international institutions and industry partners, including Microsoft Hong Kong

Limited, Sports Federation & Olympic Committee of Hong Kong, China (through working with its Hong Kong Athletes Career and Education Programme committee “HKACEP”), Guangzhou Civil Aviation College, Schneider Electric IT Hong Kong Limited, SGS Hong Kong Limited, Imperial Bird’s Nest International Co. Ltd and At-Sunrice GlobalChef Academy. These partnerships provided our students with valuable opportunities for industrial attachments, training, and employment prospects, as well as articulation opportunities for Year-3 entry, collaborative projects of different nature for students, and research collaboration opportunities with academic staff.

### **Campus Development**

During academic year 2021/22, THEi made significant strides in campus development by introducing new facilities, namely THEi NFT Lab and Food Innovation Centre, and improved facilities such as Future Technology Learning Centre and Hydroponic Research Centre, to enhance the learning experience for its students. Additionally, we are glad to announce that the Tsing Yi campus has achieved the Final Gold rating of BEAM Plus Existing Buildings Version 2.0 (Comprehensive Scheme A), which symbolises the campus’s commitment to sustainable building practices in Hong Kong.

### **Applied Research and Consultancy**

THEi continued to excel in applied research, with active participation from both academic staff and students. In the 2022 round of the Research Grants Council (RGC) funding exercise, THEi obtained Faculty Development Scheme (FDS) and Inter-Institutional Development Scheme (IIDS) awards from the RGC, amounting to a total of HK\$5.85M. Furthermore, THEi received HK\$6.8M worth of cash and in-kind sponsorships from the private sector, and the same amount of research matching grant from the University Grants Committee’s Research Matching Grant Scheme in the academic year 2021/22 to support applied research projects and student research activities.

We are proud to announce the establishment of the Centre for Interdisciplinary Research on Food By-Products Utilization (CIFU) on 1 March 2022. CIFU is a project fully funded by the RGC, with a focus on food by-products research. The centre aims to develop new technologies and products through the revitalisation and conversion of food by-products. A virtual opening ceremony was held on 1 March 2022 to unveil CIFU. The ceremony was officiated by Mr WONG Kam Sing (the former Secretary of Environment of the HKSAR Government), Mr Tony TAI, JP (Chairman of the VTC) and the President of THEi. Following the opening, an online Research Symposium was organised on 29 March 2022 in which the CIFU team shared their inspirations and latest findings with the audience.

In addition to the research conducted by our academic staff, we are pleased to share that Student Applied Research Presentations for the academic year 2021/22 (SARP2022) was hosted virtually on the THEi website with great success. Many final year students across the three Faculties took part in the event this year, where a total of 74 abstracts, 62 research posters and 24 video presentations were received, showcasing the excellent work of our students in the field of applied research. The presentations were available for public viewing from 1 August 2022 and attracted around 1,700 visits during the period of 1

to 10 August 2022 with visitors coming from local businesses, and local and overseas education institutions. Concurrently, a competition was held inviting visitors to vote for the Best Poster Awards and Best Video Presentation Award. Nearly 800 people, including THEi staff and students, and visitors from the industry, and other local, Mainland and overseas institutions casted their votes online for their favourite posters or videos. 11 awards were given out to students from the three Faculties.