

TECHNOLOGICAL AND HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTE OF HONG KONG (THEi)

Annual Report 2022/23

Degree Programmes Provision

In the academic year 2022/23, the Technological and Higher Education Institute of Hong Kong (hereinafter referred to as THEi or the Institute) offered a suite of 20 innovative self-financing degree programmes across its three Faculties, namely the Faculty of Design and Environment, the Faculty of Management and Hospitality, and the Faculty Science and Technology, that are applied science oriented and developed with significant industry input. All programmes are accredited by the Hong Kong Council for Accreditation of Academic and Vocational Qualifications (HKCAAVQ), and by the relevant professional bodies where appropriate. A key feature of THEi's programmes is the requirement of up to 480 hours of work-integrated learning (WIL) whereby industries are greatly involved in our students' learning experience, allowing them to strengthen their real-world knowledge and networks. THEi students benefit from engaging in authentic project-based learning involving real-world problem solving with and for local industries and professions which contributes to the upskilling of the traditional sectors. Such practical experience in a real world setting keeps our students current with the latest industry trends and enables them to be one step ahead of other degree graduates.

Eight of THEi's Year-1 degree programmes were included under the Study Subsidy Scheme for Designated Professions/Sectors (SSSDP) with subsidy ranging from HK\$44,240 to HK\$77,040 for 225 places in the academic year 2022/23. The eight 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

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

Programme Accreditations, Reaccreditation and Recognition

Three new programmes, namely the Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Cinematic Arts and Technology (a 2-year top-up degree programme), Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Green Engineering and Sustainability, and Professional Diploma Meister (PDM) in Power Electrical Engineering, which is THEi's second PDM programme in part-time delivery mode, successfully went through the learning programme accreditation (LPA) by the HKCAAVQ and were granted approval at Qualifications Framework (QF) Level 5 in the academic year 2022/23. THEi would start offering the three new programmes from the academic year 2023/24.

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

- Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Landscape Architecture
- Professional Diploma in Horticulture, Arboriculture and Landscape Management
- Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Culinary Arts and Management
- Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Nutrition and Healthcare Management

Upon approval of the Substantial Change application by the HKCAAVQ, the Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Hotel Operations Management (HOM) and the Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Public Relations and International Events Management (PRIEM) programmes have been approved to add Chinese (Putonghua) as the medium of instruction (MOI). These two programmes with MOI in Chinese (Putonghua) would run in parallel with the existing English MOI programmes from the academic year 2023/24, offering an additional language mode for delivery.

THEi's programmes continued to gain and maintain professional recognition through accreditation or reaccreditation by various professional bodies and organisations, including Chartered Society of Designers (CSD), UK Society of Sports Therapists (UKSST), National Strength and Conditioning Association (NSCA) Education Recognition Program (ERP) (USA), and Hong Kong Institute of Facility Management (HKIFM).

Enhancing Applied Degree Provision

Under the Pilot Project on the Development of Applied Degree Programmes (PPDADP) launched by the Education Bureau (EDB) in December 2020, the Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Horticulture, Arboriculture and Landscape Management (HALM) programme was developed into and offered as an applied degree from the academic year 2022/23. As an applied degree programme, the HALM programme has a strong applied focus and industry involvement with two credit-bearing WIL modules (total 252 hours), incorporating strengthened work-based learning and project-based learning. In addition to the existing Year-1 and Year-3 admission arrangements, a Year-2 entry route and a part-time mode for Year-3 entry were added to the HALM applied degree programme to further promote professional development and lifelong learning.

To dovetail with the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government's plan to strengthen the promotion of Vocational and Professional Education and Training (VPET) with multi-pronged approach as announced in the Chief Executive's 2022 Policy Address, and in view of the overwhelming support for and the positive experience of the first round of the PPDADP, the EDB launched the second round of the PPDADP in March 2023. THEi's Bachelor of Engineering (Honours) in Building Services Engineering (BSE) programme was selected by the EDB for the second round of the PPDADP in September 2023. Similar to the first round of the PPDADP, the selected programme would receive a one-off grant of up to HK\$2 million on a reimbursement basis to cover part of the reasonable costs incurred in developing the programme. The BSE programme is expected to be launched as an applied degree in the academic year 2024/25 after modifying the programme structure and curriculum of the existing degree programme with stronger industry elements and subject to the satisfactory completion of relevant accreditation.

By incorporating more extensive "applied" elements into our programmes, integrated with active and innovative teaching and learning pedagogies with staunch support and inputs from industries in our curriculum, our students and graduates are able to stay ahead of their counterparts.

Collaborative Master's Degree Programmes

The Faculty of Design and Environment in partnership with the University of Gloucestershire (UoG), United Kingdom (UK) received the EDB's approval in November 2021 to deliver the Master of Arts in Landscape Architecture (MALA) programme in Hong Kong at THEi under the UoG's franchise system. This provides professionals and practitioners in the relevant fields and the graduates of THEi's Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Landscape Architecture and the part-time Professional Diploma in Landscape Architecture (PDLA) programme, which was newly launched in the academic year 2022/23, a pathway to pursue postgraduate education and acquire professional qualification and licensure. The UoG's MALA programme is accredited by the UK Landscape Institute (LI). The first cohort commenced in the academic year 2022/23 with classes delivered at THEi's Chai Wan campus.

With the addition of the MALA and PDLA programmes, THEi is now offering a full suite of programmes in the Landscape Architecture discipline at different academic levels to meet the education needs of different individuals who are interested in pursuing an education in landscape architecture and establish a long-term career in the profession of landscape architecture .

Student Admission

Like all higher education institutions in Hong Kong, THEi had its fair share of challenges in student recruitment in the academic year 2022/23 due to various external factors. Despite gradual revival of the local economic activities and improving unemployment rate, uncertainties and threats brought about by the persistent COVID-19 pandemic, especially the emergence of more infectious variants, dampened the growth pace of the Hong Kong and world economy from time to time which played a part in affecting student admission. Furthermore, the number of secondary school leavers continued to drop in 2022.

Despite the various challenges posed by the external environment, with the Institute's earnest efforts in the undertaking of targeted recruitment drives, THEi managed to enrol about 830 new local and non-local students in the academic year 2022/23 across its academic programmes, including those enrolled in the degree, professional diploma, professional certificate, professional diploma meister and collaborative master's programmes offered by the three Faculties.

Student Achievements

THEi students continued to achieve excellent results and won well-deserved awards and accolades in numerous competitions, scholarships and events. They performed outstandingly in various major international and local competitions in a wide spectrum of fields, competing with students from both UGC-funded universities and other self-financed tertiary institutions. Some of the competitions, events, projects and scholarship/bursary schemes in which THEi students have had incredible accomplishments are the WorldSkills Competition 2022 (Medallion for Excellence in Fashion Technology), Hong Kong 4As Kam Fan Student Awards 2022, 21st Asia Pacific ICT Alliance Awards (Research and Development, and Retails and Distribution categories) held in Pakistan, "Thread of Creativity" fashion competition organised by the Asian New Generation Creativity Design Association, Construction Industry Council (CIC) Building Information Modelling (BIM) Competition 2023, Fashion Forward GBA 2022 「大灣區—時尚躍進 2022」 by Fashion Farm Foundation, Hong Kong Move On (HKMO) – NFT x School Mural Art Project, fashion show during the opening ceremony of the Art Hong Kong Expo 2023, Distinction Award 2022 by CPA Australia, Institution of Engineering and Technology (IET) Awards Prize 2022, Best Student Award 2022 from the Hong Kong Institution of Engineers (HKIE) Structural Division, HKIE Building Services Division Outstanding Student Award 2023, Service Solution Design Competition 2023 organised by the Mahidol University in Thailand, MonsoonSim Enterprise Resource Management Competition (MERMC) Hong Kong 2023, Best Progress Award from HKSAR Government Scholarship Fund (GSF) 2022/23, 18th Hong Kong Housing Society Award, Rugby Union Scholarships 2022/23, Hong Kong Rugby Football Union Charitable Trust Fund – Educational Scholarship in AY2022/23, Cricket Hong Kong Scholarship AY2022/23, HSBC Overseas Scholarship, 2022/23 Agricultural Products/Marine Fish Scholarship from Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department of Hong Kong, ASHARE Hong Kong Chapter Student Scholarship 2022/23, Alistair Harvey Foundation Scholarship for Master's Degree Programme Study, Alistair Harvey Foundation Scholarship for Academic Exchange 2023/24, etc. We are proud of our students' great achievements and dedication. We will continue to support our students in developing and showcasing their talents academically and non-academically, nurturing them into versatile, skilful and multitalented individuals.

Graduate Employment

The findings of the Graduate Employment Survey conducted in January 2023 to study the graduate employment situation for full-time programmes of THEi of 2022 indicated that the overall employment rate was 95% (i.e., same as that for 2021), based on the overall response rate of 77.9%. The statistic about the relevance of job is similar to the numbers from the previous year. Overall, 84% of the employed graduates considered that their present jobs were relevant to their learning programmes, while 86% of

the graduates agreed that the discipline/industry-specific knowledge learnt from the programmes was helpful to them in performing their present jobs. Such data continues to indicate that THEi's graduates are work-ready, equipped with current and relevant skills and capabilities.

THEi is committed to constant drive to evolve and adapt to the latest trends and changes in the industries and professions, so that our graduates as well-rounded individuals are well prepared to serve the workforce needs of Hong Kong.

Employers' Views on THEi Graduates 2020/21

In an ongoing effort to evaluate and monitor the quality of THEi programmes, an independent external party was commissioned in August 2022 to conduct a survey to obtain employers' perceptions on the performance of THEi's sixth cohort of graduates (i.e., graduates of 2020/21) who had given their consent. According to the feedback from the participating employers, the performance of our graduates was found to be highly satisfactory. The overall score given by the employers has improved slightly in comparison with the score attained in the previous year's survey. Of the various core competencies measured, all for which our graduates attained remarkable scores, our graduates had exceptional performance on team spirit, work attitude, ability to learn and adapt new skills, and sense of responsibility. This is a testimonial demonstrating that THEi's programmes integrate practical applications with theoretical knowledge to ensure our students can effectively apply what they have learned in real life, maximising success in their careers.

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

Under the Work-Study Degree Programmes scheme of THEi, a total of four programmes as listed below were offered in different modes of delivery in the academic year 2022/23:

- Bachelor of Engineering (Honours) in Building Services Engineering (BSE)
- Bachelor of Engineering (Honours) in Civil Engineering (CE)
- Bachelor of Engineering (Honours) in Aircraft Engineering (AE)
- Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Chinese Medicinal Pharmacy (CMP)

The HALM applied degree programme was excluded from this Scheme from the academic year 2022/23 onwards as it has been included in the PPDADP steered by the EDB.

In the academic year 2022/23, a total of 11 students in the BSE and AE programmes were recruited from 9 key industry partners who participated in this Scheme, including ATAL Engineering Group, Build King, FSE Engineering and Hong Kong Aircraft Engineering Company Limited (HAECO). Moreover, 26 training places were offered by the partnering companies to students of the CMP programme. The training was well-designed where students were given a structured workplace training for 6 to 12 months, and regular and timely job-rotations were arranged for students to expand the knowledge and skill sets for their professions.

The fourth cohort of 21 students admitted under this Scheme in the academic year 2021/22 completed their 2-year study and successfully graduated in August 2023. Positive feedback on the programmes were reported by over 70% of the respondent graduates.

Looking ahead, it was announced in the Chief Executive's 2022 Policy Address that the SSSDP will be expanded in phases starting from the academic year 2023/24 as the HKSAR Government launches various initiatives to promote VPET as a pathway parallel to conventional academic education, providing diversified learning and employment opportunities for young people. Specifically, top-up degree programmes will be included under the SSSDP for the first time starting from the academic year 2023/24. As a result, THEi's BSE and CE programmes with senior-year (Year-3) entry will be included for the first time in the SSSDP from 2023/24. In addition, a new On-the-job Training Allowance Pilot Scheme was also introduced by the Development Bureau (DEVB) in July 2023 where these two degree programmes would be covered under the Pilot Scheme. Against this backdrop, we trust that the two programmes would be more appealing to students because of an attractive increase in Government study subsidy as evidenced by the total of 258 applications received from eligible applicants of these two programmes for 2023/24 admission.

Partnerships and Connections

THEi continued to extend and maintain a network of institutional and professional partnerships and related activities locally, internationally and with the Mainland, including the Greater Bay Area (GBA). In 2022/23, Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) were signed with a number of local, Mainland and international institutions and industry partners, including Shunde District, Zhengzhou University of Aeronautics, Zhengzhou University of Light Industry, Guangdong Polytechnic of Science and Technology, Guangdong Industry Polytechnic, etc. in the Mainland, as well as Mahidol University (Thailand), The St Regis Osaka (Japan), Feng Chia University (Taiwan), Dadvance Agarwood Solutions Sdn. Bhd. (Malaysia), Rotterdam University of Applied Sciences (The Netherlands) (third contract renewal), FH Wien der WKW – University of Applied Sciences for Management and Communication (Austria) (second contract renewal), Lions Clubs International District 303 Hong Kong & Macao, China, Hydrofarm Technology Limited, Analogue Holdings Limited (ATAL), Wu Zhi Qiao (Bridge to China) Charitable Foundation (third contract renewal), etc., to provide a wide range of exciting and valuable opportunities for our students, including scholarships, internship, industrial attachments, training and job opportunities, student exchanges, as well as entrepreneurial experiences. The extensive partnerships and connections that we have established also brought articulation opportunities for Year-3 entry, collaborative projects of different nature for students, and collaboration opportunities on research projects for academic staff and students.

Some of the key outcomes of the partnership engagement and connection establishment efforts of THEi are highlighted below:

- Under the collaboration with Microsoft Hong Kong Limited, THEi has become a Microsoft Certification Exam Centre in which THEi staff and students could obtain industry recognised Microsoft certifications in various scopes of technology free of charge for the first time. It strengthened the digital application skills such as cloud computing and applications of smart

platforms among students and staff members of THEi. Students of THEi were provided with the Microsoft Learn online platform, as well as other Microsoft resources, to master professional knowledge and skills, while staff members were empowered by Microsoft Learn for Educators (MSLE) Program by exploring digital skills training resources and integrating them into their teaching materials and curriculum. Furthermore, Microsoft provided AI and related tools to support THEi's academic research and development projects by providing researchers with regular technological knowledge and tools update so as to lift the efficiency of research.

- THEi's CE and BSE programmes joined hands with leading industrial players Hilti (HK) Limited (Hilti), ATAL Engineering Group, Aurecon Group Pty Ltd and Chun Wo Development Holding Limited in organising a 9-month programme named "BIM with HILTI 2022". This was the second "BIM with HILTI" programme in collaboration with Hilti and other key industry players. The first was held in 2021 and it received the Silver Award under BIM initiatives of the HKIBIM Award 2021 organised by the Hong Kong Institute of Building Information Modelling, one of the most prestigious awards in Architecture, Engineering and Construction Sectors. The programme aimed to help young engineers-to-be leverage the knowledge and skills of BIM to improve their ability to integrate traditional methods with BIM in future projects and enhance collaboration among stakeholders to increase productivity. Through the use of Hilti's new software, students from the two degree programmes of THEi learned and applied BIM on actual works. After working with the engineers on the programme, students were able to develop more application possibility. Additionally, students had the opportunity to work at the companies above as interns to apply their knowledges in real practices in the relevant industry.
- The Hong Kong Jockey Club invited the Sports Therapy students and academic staff of the Bachelor of Social Sciences (Honours) in Sports and Recreation Management (SRM) programme of THEi to deliver a sports massage workshop, "JC School Football Development Scheme - Family Football Clinic", covering topics such as the common sports injuries and sports massage techniques, to young footballers and their parents. Encouraging and positive feedback was received from the participants who found the workshop interesting and insightful. THEi students and staff were pleased that the workshop helped the participating parents in building up the harmonious relationship with their children.
- Since 2021, THEi has been collaborating with the Volleyball Association of Hong Kong, China (VBAHK) to provide training venues, fitness room facilities and training support as part of their professional learning, for the Hong Kong Junior and Youth Volleyball Teams on a regular basis. This year, THEi's Sports Coaching and Sports Therapy students and staff of the SRM programme provided onsite strength and conditioning and sports therapy services for the volleyball athletes at THEi's Chai Wan campus twice per week from April to August 2023. The VBAHK was impressed by the students and staff's professional services and support which helped the young athletes in pursuing excellence and achieving better results in the competitions at an international level.
- The Sports Therapy students and staff of the SRM programme of THEi were invited by the Hong Kong Table Tennis Association to deliver a variety of onsite professional sports treatment, sports

massage and injuries prevention services to the participating athletes of its table tennis tournament 「2023 擂台賽系列賽」 in May 2023. THEi students and staff were pleased to received high praises from the organiser for their fine services and assistance.

- The Department of Design of the Faculty of Design and Environment of THEi collaborated with Hongkong Post, the Intangible Cultural Heritage Office, and designer to produce a series of works on the making technique of cheongsams in Hong Kong as part of Hongkong Post’s project of launching the special stamps and associated philatelic products, which were released for sale on 22 September 2022, on the theme of “Intangible Cultural Heritage – Hong Kong Cheongsam Making Technique” to showcase the outstanding historical and cultural value of this craftsmanship. THEi’s Department of Design, detailed the production process of cheongsams on the project website of the Hongkong Post to promote the unique culture of Chinese cheongsams to the public.
- To enhance connection and engagement with the community through art and innovation for a greener and sustainable future, CLP Group partnered with students from the Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Digital Advertising programme of THEi and local artists in its Distribution Box Beautification Project in 2022 to decorate and bring a touch of contemporary art depicting local landmarks, culture and elements of environmentalism for selected distribution boxes across 14 districts in Kowloon, New Territories and the Outlying Islands. Melding art with technology, the students also used Instagram filters to create an additional dimension of interactivity – increasing creativity through cutting-edge technology. The public could simply scan a QR code on each CLP distribution box to access a limited-time activation on Instagram. The project encouraged young people to explore their communities and use their creativity to produce distribution box designs that captured the rich local culture. It also enhanced their understanding of energy and conservation and encouraged them to embrace low-carbon lifestyles.
- THEi’s CMP programme team cooperated with Sheng Kung Hui Bishop Ho Ming Wah Secondary School, Chinese Medicine and Culture Research Center, Luzhiyuan Farm 66 and SmarTone Hong Kong to set up the 5G Hydroponic Traditional Chinese Medicine Cultivation Park which was officially open on 14 February 2023. The Park allowed the monitoring of the growth of Chinese herbal medicines in real time and the collecting and analysing of data by 5G technology. The Chinese medicines obtained from the Park would be passed to THEi for efficacy analysis to improve planting methods and medical efficacy, thereby promoting the professional development of Chinese medicine. The multi-party cooperation project encouraged closer working relationships among secondary school students, industry partners and THEi’s teachers and students in learning about new and current technology, inspiring our students to strive for excellence in research, and attaining higher achievements for a better community.

Following the great success of the first and second professional development symposiums, the third professional development symposium of the School of General Education and Languages was held on 27 June 2023. This year, the symposium ran in hybrid mode under the theme of “The Power of AI in Education and the Workplace: Navigating the Future Together” and attracted almost 220 participants from around the world. The symposium served as a platform for THEi academics to engage in

meaningful conversations with educators from across secondary and post-secondary institutions as well as representatives from various industries. The symposium also offered an opportunity to hear students' views on how AI technology can be used in education and why students need to become not just proficient but ethical and critical users of AI. This year's symposium featured 14 informative talks delivered onsite and virtually, covering a wide range of topics related to the current and future state of AI in education and the workplace and its ethical and societal implications. Three renowned keynote speakers also shared their research and views on how developments in AI are impacting education, work, and society. The symposium's thought-provoking discussions and presentations underscored the significance of AI in today's world and emphasised the need for educators and students to embrace AI's potential while also being mindful of its ethical implications.

THEi will continue its steadfast efforts in promoting industry-academic collaborations to support teaching and learning.

THEi Innov8 Enterprise Start-up Programme

After being placed on a hiatus due to the pandemic in the academic year 2021/22, the THEi Innov8 Enterprise Start-up Programme was revived in 2022/23. To support THEi's students and graduates in pursuing their entrepreneurial aspirations, the Institute has been remodelling and reviving the Programme and resumed the provision of seed capital and free services which include mentorship, business networking support, training workshops, co-working office space and workshop facilities to the newly admitted start-up teams from the last semester of 2022/23.

On an ongoing basis, THEi seeks for support from the industry to co-develop and co-contribute to the start-up funds, providing invaluable opportunities to our students and graduates in converting their incubation and entrepreneurial projects into reality. In 2023, we are honoured and excited that Lions Clubs International District 303 Hong Kong & Macao, China (Lions Clubs) offered a cash donation of HK\$1.3 million to THEi to support our students and graduates in nurturing and turning their entrepreneurial ideas and design projects into viable businesses via the Innov8 Enterprise Start-up Programme from Semester 2 of the academic year 2022/23 to 2025/26. This donation marked Lions Clubs' first time in supporting enterprising start-up initiatives in higher education. The donation would be put to good use in organising start-up competitions and provision of bursaries, seed funds, education and training to the admitted teams. In addition, the Innov8 Enterprise Start-up Centre at THEi's Chai Wan campus has been renamed as THEi - Lions Clubs Innov8 Enterprise Start-up Centre from 11 April 2023 for a duration of four years, in recognition of and as a token of appreciation for the meaningful contribution of Lions Clubs to THEi's start-up programme.

Campus Development

During the academic year 2022/23, new or enhanced state-of-the-art science-related facilities have been introduced to our award-winning campus and innovative education hub, such as the THEi-Hydrofarm Technology Hydroponic Research Centre (THRC), and Horticulture, Arboriculture and Landscape

Management workshops, providing a comprehensive, dynamic and engaging learning environment for students.

The HALM programme received a HK\$5 million donation from the Wu Jieh Yee Charitable Foundation in October 2022 to support the Arboricultural Research Base for Learning and Exploration (ARBLE) Project of THEi. The donation would fund the establishment of an indoor education centre, the Wu Jieh Yee Arboriculture Education and Research Centre, in THEi's Chai Wan campus and the setting up of a Green Scholarship to recognise THEi students' outstanding performance in pursuing green-related degree programmes, paving the way to become green professionals. Tentatively to be established by March 2025, the education centre would be equipped with advanced tree climbing facilities, AR/VR learning devices and safety equipment to provide an all-weather training venue for students and in-service practitioners. The HALM programme has successfully applied for the University Grants Committee (UGC)'s grant under the Research Matching Grant Scheme (RMGS) to leverage the ARBLE project to conduct research on areas of urban greening development and tree management. The Project ARBLE would benefit students and industry practitioners, enhancing their professional knowledge and skills in arboriculture and facilitating knowledge exchange.

Applied Research and Consultancy

With our students in mind, THEi supports research activities which inform teaching to equip students and graduates with cutting-edge knowledge to meet the challenges of the workplace. THEi academic staff actively participated in the 2023 round of the Research Grants Council (RGC) funding exercise as well as the applications for various external competitive research grants. Altogether, in the academic year 2022/23, THEi successfully secured grants from RGC's Faculty Development Scheme (FDS) and Inter-Institutional Development Scheme (IIDS), as well as research grants from other external competitive research funding schemes or bodies, amounting to a total of HK\$5.85 million.

Additionally, since the launch of the UGC's RMGS, THEi has actively solicited private donations to support staff and student applied research activities and projects, and used those donations to apply for grants under the RMGS. In 2022/23, THEi's faculty members solicited HK\$6.53 million worth of cash and in-kind private donations, and received the same amount of research matching grant from the RMGS.

Since the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, THEi had been holding the annual THEi Student Applied Research Presentations (SARP) online on THEi website. This year, the SARP for the academic year 2022/23 (SARP2023) was hosted in physical exhibitions at THEi's Chai Wan and Tsing Yi campuses, as well as on the THEi website. The 85 abstracts, 55 research posters and 8 video presentations received from students across the three Faculties were proudly showcased at the event. THEi staff and students, and visitors from the industry and other local, Mainland and overseas institutions casted their votes online or at the physical exhibitions held on THEi campuses for the Best Poster Awards and Best Video Presentation Award.

In response to the call from the Hong Kong Community and Construction Association (HKCCA) on improving the general public's environmental awareness and understanding of the concerns on food waste issues, a research team led by an assistant professor of THEi's Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Culinary Arts and Management (CAM) programme and comprised two THEi graduates of the Bachelor

of Science (Honours) in Food Science and Safety and CAM programmes respectively, received the second runner-up award in the “Food Waste Movement 2022 – Entrepreneurial Project Proposal Competition” in June 2023. The research team looked at how to reduce the amount of food by-products dumped into landfills by transforming food by-products from licensed food factories into pet snacks. Food waste refers to organic waste generated in food processing, while food residues such as okara produced during food processing are called “food by-products”. Their proposal stood out among the submissions made by the 783 research teams, and won HK\$100,000 to start up a company under the name “U-treats Limited (柏寶有限公司)”. The start-up aimed to save food by-products that are not discarded as food waste, and ultimately reduce producing food waste. As the food processing industry generates a great amount of food by-products, the concept of entrepreneurship is applied to food waste collection and upcycling under the food waste management strategies. By engaging the industrial partners, the team collected the food by-products such as bone-in and oily corners and carried out the processing. The fat, bone and meat would be separated to make the corresponding products, and then air-dried/freeze-dried to produce the final pet products such as pet snacks or treats. This is indeed an extraordinary contribution to the environment and society.

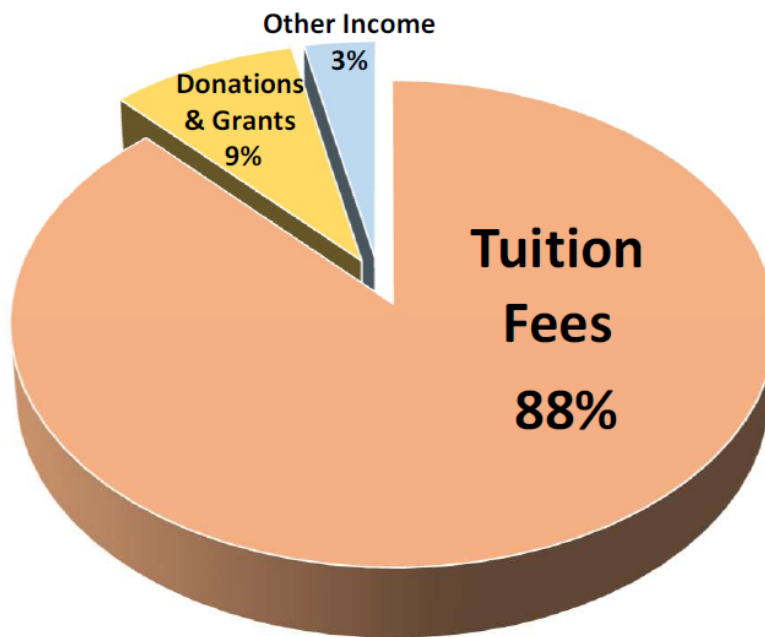
Quality Enhancement Support Scheme (QESS) Project

The institution-wide 30-month project, “Formation and Development of a Work Integrated Learning Hub for Diverse Programmes of THEi” received financial support in terms of funding of HK\$5.87 million from the EDB’s Self-financing Post-secondary Education Fund under the Quality Enhancement Support Scheme (QESS), and has kicked off in September 2022. The project would deliver an institutional WIL framework and a digital platform as a comprehensive one-stop-shop system for WIL applicable across all of THEi programmes. The efficiency and quality of WIL engagement and learning experiences would be enhanced, and the benefits and outcomes of WIL for all the stakeholders concerned, including WIL collaborators from the industry and professional sectors, students, staff, etc., would be maximised.

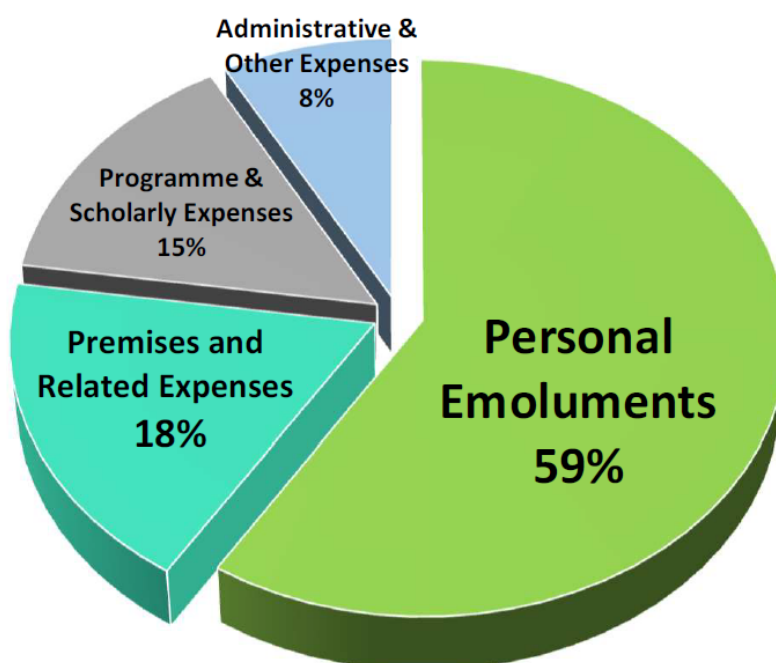
Finance

A summary of the operating income and expenditure of THEi for the financial year 2022-23, i.e., from 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023, is depicted in the charts below.

Income



Expenditure



Revision of Vision and Mission of THEi

To better align THEi's positioning in the coming years, its vision and mission have been revised in early 2023 to the following:

Vision

To be a leading applied sciences and technology institution acknowledged for work-ready graduates, strong industry integration and global orientation, to meet industry needs.

Mission

- To provide a future-proof, high-quality academic, vocational and professional education, appreciate state-of-the-art technologies and conduct impactful research through strong industry collaborations and global outreach.
- To foster an institutional culture that inspires innovation, enables continuous improvement through trust building and teamwork, and responds to change.
- To produce graduates with practical knowledge, skills and intellectual capability.

Paving the Way to Obtaining the University of Applied Sciences (UAS) Status

THEi is excited that as announced in the Chief Executive's 2023 Policy Address, the HKSAR Government will facilitate the establishment of universities of applied sciences (UASs), and strive to raise the status of VPET to attain qualifications at university degree level. This important initiative would require close collaboration between UASs and technical professions in offering programmes with more internship and practical learning opportunities, with the objective of providing an alternative path to success for young people who aspire to pursue a career in the technical professions.

It has all along been the intention of THEi to apply for the UAS or private university status in the near future, even before the announcement in the Chief Executive's 2023 Policy Address. THEi will work closely with the Vocational Training Council (VTC) to push forward with the development.

Programme Area Accreditation (PAA)

THEi has commenced the process of its first Programme Area Accreditation (PAA) application in full speed in the second half of the academic year 2022/23. With the PAA status, THEi will not only be in a stronger position to present itself in applying for the UAS or private university status, but it will also

enable greater flexibility and autonomy in developing and operating learning programmes to meet the evolving needs of the community, industry and students.