

Welcome to the Second Educational Research Symposium organised by the Industrial Liaison Office (ILO) of the Technological and Higher Education Institute of Hong Kong (THEi) and supported by the Centre for Learning and Teaching (CLT).

The main aim of the Symposium is to provide a regular platform for researchers and practitioners in vocational education and training to share and exchange their knowledge and experience. Last year, our Inaugural Symposium whose theme was “Learning and Teaching in Practice”, brought together sixteen presentations and around one hundred and sixty participants. It was a dynamic forum in which we learnt about the diversity of research studies being undertaken within the VTC and discussed issues of common concern to us. Focusing on the strengths of the VTC and relevant interests of various colleagues, the theme of this Second Symposium is Quality Vocational Education. Colleagues from different faculties, disciplines, departments and operational units have contributed papers which come under five themes, namely curriculum and pedagogy, learning challenges and professional concerns in VET, learning and teaching, student motivation and engagement and student development.

Your presence today at this Symposium emphasises an important fact; quality vocational education is at the heart of the VTC community. The presentations will provide us with a rich blend of research topics, perspectives and empirical findings. They will stimulate discussions on implications for quality vocational education and training, as well as generate new research agenda. But beyond all these, we hope that this Symposium will be an important step in cultivating an institutional climate that values research-based scholarship of teaching and learning.

We are honoured that our Executive Director, Mrs Carrie Yau, has taken the time to be with us today to give the Opening Address of the Symposium. We are also privileged to have our Deputy Executive Director, Professor Ronald Chung as our keynote speaker. His keynote speech, entitled “Quality Vocational Education and Training through Technology-enabled Learning and Teaching” will stimulate our thoughts about the use of technology for learning and teaching enhancement as well as identifying potential areas for research.

We wish you all an enjoyable and productive Symposium.

Organising Committee

Educational Research Symposium 2013

Chair: Prof Catherine CHIU, Head of Department of General Education, THEi

Members: Ms Joanna CHENG, Head of Centre for Learning & Teaching, VTC
Dr Christopher LEUNG, Academic Director of the Applied Science Discipline, VTC
Dr YK LEUNG, Director of Industrial Liaison Office, THEi &
Academic Director of the Information Technology Discipline, VTC
Prof Raymond PINE, Dean of Faculty of Management and Hospitality, THEi