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We are a new institution and adopt a fresh approach to tertiary education, one that is not constrained by tired old traditions and practices.

The 'i' in our name and logo signifies this approach, which is to offer education that is innovative in that it contains programmes and elements not available elsewhere, and impactful in that it has a very strong relevance for society. And we treat students as individuals, seeing them as partners in a learning process, not numbers that make up enrolment targets.

We seek help from industry and academia in coming up with the degree programmes. The result is an education that has a fine balance of theory and practice, and analytical and hands-on skills: one that produces mastery in doing but guided by conceptualisation.

We are a member institution of the Vocational Training Council and will carry on its great tradition of offering programmes that are vocational in nature and developed with a great deal of help from industry. We will therefore be producing graduates whose knowledge, skills and attitudes are valued by employers and society alike, and who will thus enjoy high employment rates.

Our programmes have gone through the accreditation process of the Hong Kong Council for Accreditation of Academic and Vocational Qualifications. The staff members who teach them have real-life work experience and skills, which will be enhanced by their conduct of applied research, consultancy work, and involvement with issues of social concern for the community. This conference is a supreme example of this involvement.

I wish the conference every success and look forward to seeing you in THEi.