

Opening Remarks at The Regional Co-operation on Culture and Heritage Roundtable Forum

29 March 2023

Lee Ping Yuen Chamber, Lee Quo Wei Academic Building, Yuen Campus, HSUHK

Mr Danny Yung, Ms Hang Chansophea, Mr Yoganthiran Manikam, Mr Douglas So, Ms Melanie Kwok, Mr Brian Wong, Colleagues, Students, Alumni, Honourable Guests,

Welcome to the Regional Co-operation on Culture and Heritage Roundtable Forum.

As a concluding highlight of our University's 43rd Founding Anniversary Celebrations, today's Forum aims to foster regional cooperation on art, culture and heritage among ASEAN members and Hong Kong, alongside the City's strategic direction to further develop Hong Kong as an international centre for cultural exchange.

On behalf of the University, I would like to extend our sincere gratitude to all distinguished speakers who will share their wisdom and insight with us.

Art and culture go beyond political and linguistic boundaries while strengthening social cohesion. With growing hope and excitement in the long-awaited post-pandemic era, we look forward to forging more opportunities for cross-cultural exchange and cooperation. In the past several decades, HK's art and cultural exchange were mainly with the West. In the coming years I think our focus could be oriented more to the ASEAN region as one of the world's fastest growing areas as well as many common cultural traits. I am sure our speakers today, with their multi-dimensional point of views, will further inspire us on how art, culture and heritage could foster mutual development, how we can promote social and economic growth via art, culture and heritage, and how to propagate resilience, innovations and sustainability in the region and beyond.

Over the years, The Hang Seng University of Hong Kong has championed international and regional art, cultural and heritage exchange. We have been offering a number of unique degree programmes, such as BA in Asian Studies, BA in Art and Design, BA in Cultural and Creative Industries, MA in Cultural Heritage Management, and more. Our School of Translation & Foreign Languages also offers a wide range of Asian languages and cultures. Additionally, our soon-to-be-completed Creative

Humanities Hub will combine the essence of traditional culture and modern technology to nurture students' creative thinking, with a humanised spirit mastering digital technologies. Today's Forum is yet another step in the right direction towards our University's commitment to cultural diversity and inclusion.

Living in the metropolitan Hong Kong city neighbouring the ASEAN region, there is no doubt that more exchanges will bring us closer together and will further highlight the importance of our cultures, heritage and shared humanity. I am confident that our Roundtable today will not only result in engaging discussions, but meaningful, sustainable initiatives as well.

Thank you.