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Press Release

Environment and Conservation Fund Hong Kong Environmental Protection Young Pioneers: Virtual Reality Creation Project Launching Ceremony

The launching ceremony of “Hong Kong Environmental Protection Young Pioneers: Virtual Reality Creation Project” was held on December 18, 2023 (Monday). The Project is funded by the Environment and Conservation Fund and administered by the Faculty of Education at The University of Hong Kong (HKU), with Bubble Creation, Hong Kong Discovery and Aldrich Bay Government Primary School as co-organisers. In the ceremony, Professor Peng Gong, Vice-President and Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Academic Development) of HKU, Professor Rui Yang, Dean of the Faculty of Education, HKU and Mr Chui Ka Cheung, Principal of Aldrich Bay Government Primary School gave speeches to encourage the participants to learn and promote environmental conservation through digital technology. Project leader, Dr Xiao Hu from the Faculty of Education, HKU, also welcomed all participants. Other attendees included Mr Peter Lee, Founder of the Earth Rescue Team, Ms Cindy Cui, Chairman of the Chunshan Education Foundation and Mr Water Ko, Project Officer of the Sumsze Farm.

“Hong Kong Environmental Protection Young Pioneers: Virtual Reality Creation Project” is an innovative project that makes use of Maker Education, collaborating university together with primary schools, leading primary school students to participate thoroughly from creating to using VR content. It utilises the Learning Analytics enabled Virtual Reality (LAVR) content creation platform, developed by the Culture Computing and Multimodal Information Research Lab of the Faculty of Education, HKU, to assist primary school students in using and creating Virtual Reality (VR) content. It aims to cultivate and raise students' awareness of conserving nature environment and protecting the ecosystem through eco-tours and workshops. The Project also draws students' attention to the natural conservation consequences brought by global climate change, learning about the importance of Hong Kong's plants and afforestation. As a result, it cultivates and enhances students' interest and awareness of nature conservation, fostering their digital literacy, creativity, communication and presentation skills. The programme includes the following six parts:

1. Webinars
2. Guided Eco-Tours
3. School Workshops
4. VR Creation Workshop (Teacher Training)
5. VR Content-Creating Workshop (Students)
6. Exhibition and VR Touch Day

A workshop was offered to participants of the launching ceremony to gain experience in using the LAVR platform. The participants could capture the 360° panorama and add descriptions on it. They could also view the 360° panorama that they just captured through a VR headset.

For media enquiries, please contact Ms Trista Lee of the “Hong Kong Environmental Protection Young Pioneers: Virtual Reality Creation Project” (E-mail: leecwt@hku.hk) or Ms Cheryl Cheung, Senior Manager (Development and Communications), Faculty of Education, HKU (Tel.: 3917 4270 / E-mail: chercheung@hku.hk).

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