



## **Press Invitation**

### **HKU study suggests that COVID-19 may widen the digital divide among students and schools – Findings from a Study of Hong Kong Students' Digital Citizenship Development**

A team of researchers from the University of Hong Kong (HKU) and the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology is conducting a five-year longitudinal study to find out how digital citizenship develops from childhood to early adulthood and the different factors that affect such development.

The first wave of data collection was conducted in the 2018-2019 school year, involving a total of 18 primary schools and 14 secondary schools. A total of over 2,000 students and about 360 teachers participated in the study. The research, while showing the competencies that our primary and secondary students could master, has also shown huge interschool and intraschool digital divides in digital competence performance, access to digital devices for learning at home, and the guidance and support provided by parents on issues related to digital technology use.

In this press conference, Professor Nancy Law and Dr Elizabeth Loh will present the research findings, their implications for extensive use of online modes of learning in schools, and recommendations for mitigation strategies.

Members of the media are invited to cover the event. Members of the public are welcome to join the discussion. Details are as follows:

**Date:** April 21, 2020 (Tuesday)  
**Time:** 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm  
**Format:** To be conducted via ZOOM  
**Meeting ID:** 984-5717-1688  
**Meeting Password:** 906285  
**Link:** <https://hku.zoom.us/j/98457171688>  
**Speakers:** Professor Nancy Law, Deputy Director, Centre for Information Technology in Education (CITE), Faculty of Education, HKU;  
Dr Elizabeth Loh, Assistant Dean (Knowledge Exchange), Faculty of Education, HKU  
**Language:** Cantonese

Please visit <https://www.cite.hku.hk> to learn more about CITE. For more details of the Learning and Assessment for Digital Citizenship project, please visit <https://www.ecitizen.hk>.

For media enquiries, please contact Ms Emily Cheung, Senior Manager (Development and Communications), Faculty of Education, HKU (Tel: 3917 4270 / Email: [emchy@hku.hk](mailto:emchy@hku.hk)), or Dr Mona Wong, Project Manager, Digital Citizenship Project, Faculty of Education, HKU (Tel: 3917 7636 / 9126 1878 / Email: [wpsmona@hku.hk](mailto:wpsmona@hku.hk)).

April 16, 2020