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HKUST School of Engineering Announces Inauguration of New Engineering Commons



President, Vice-Presidents, Dean of Engineering, SENG Department Heads offer a toast at the opening ceremony of the Engineering Commons. [\[Download Photo\]](#)

The School of Engineering (SENG) of the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology today inaugurated its state-of-the-art Engineering Commons, a student-centered space to promote total learning experience.

Dean of Engineering Prof Khaled Ben Letaief said, "The opening of the Engineering Commons marks an important milestone for the School of Engineering in our continuous effort to nurture and empower our students. This custom-designed space will not only serve as a hub for student advising, collaborative learning and knowledge exchange, but also as a platform to inspire creative ideas as well as showcase the School's latest inventions and technologies."

Officiating at the opening ceremony, President Prof Tony F Chan said, "Our School of Engineering is always known for its high quality and innovative education and research. This ultra-modern Engineering Commons is no exception. It has added a sophisticated and total learning experience platform to engage its students and faculty members. This is a focal facility worthy of a world-class university."

Located at the entrance to SENG, the Engineering Commons is a new landmark and identity for the School and also the home for engineering students. It comprises three distinct areas. At the center is an open area surrounded by a panoramic display as well as a cyber-physical interactive platform jointly developed by HKUST School of Engineering faculty and students. In addition to providing up-to-date information to members of the School, the platform also enables the development of real-time applications such as e-polling and instant display of poll results as well as greetings via a special app developed by SENG students.

On one side is the Center for Engineering Education Innovation, which is set up to enhance the academic development of students and faculty by drawing on the latest findings in engineering education research. A dedicated team of professional advisors is based fulltime in the Center to provide guidance and support for students and organize a variety of student activities to stimulate students' interest towards engineering. Students can rearrange the furniture in this area to accommodate project planning sessions or secure a quiet place to work. There is also a training room in which the furniture and computation equipment are set up to complement the shift in teaching pedagogy toward collaborative efforts.

On the other side is an area which demonstrates exhibits featuring the latest inventions and achievements of the faculty. The area is equipped with flexible glass partition panels, which students can use as a notepad to write down any ideas generated from discussion.

Prof Hong K Lo, Associate Dean of Engineering, said, "With the announcement of the Engineering Commons, the Center for Industry Engagement and Internship (IEI) and the Center for Engineering Education and Innovation (E2I) with a dedicated team of professional advisors, the School of Engineering has firmly put in place the physical, external/industrial and advisory infrastructure that support our commitment to a total learning experience."

