



Opening Ceremony of Science and
Art: Chinese Calligraphy Exhibition by Renowned Academicians and Scholars cum
Academician Forum: Calligraphy and Science –
From Skill to Art
on Tuesday, 25 March 2014
Speech by Secretary for Education

Mr (Herman) Hu, Professor (Way) Kuo, distinguished academicians and scholars, ladies and gentlemen,

It gives me great pleasure to join you all here at today's event comprising an Exhibition and an Academicians Forum on the theme of Chinese Calligraphy and Science. First of all, I'd like to pay tribute to all the renowned academicians whose admirable calligraphy artworks are showcased in the exhibition, as well as those who will share with us their insights on the relationship between art and science. They are leading scholars in their field of study, yet they have one thing in common – all of them aspire for the aesthetics of art.

Science and art rarely come hand in hand. Some may describe science as "absolute rationality, which leads nothing to imagination, and no spaces to be filled in". Others say art is "the quality, production, expression, or realm, according to aesthetic principles, of what is beautiful, appealing, or of more than ordinary significance." But in fact the similarities between how artists and scientists work far outweigh their stereotypical differences. Artists and scientists both tend to be open-minded and inquisitive and are obsessive in the pursuit of excellence. They work with perseverance, accomplishing their goals with extraordinary creativity and innovation. They make natural partners. Artists and Scientists are the ones who help bring humanity front and centre, make us care, and create answers that resonate with our values.

Art and science are complementary with each other. This is also true for the discipline of humanities and science. That is why, with the implementation of new academic structure, we have revamped the senior secondary curriculum, which breaks the barrier of traditional streaming of arts and science subjects. We encourage students to choose diversified subjects across the science and arts genera to suit their interest, aptitudes and abilities. Through broader and richer curricula, students can acquire a wide spectrum of learning experiences of moral and civil education, community services, physical and aesthetic

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education, etc. The new curriculum can also foster a broader scope of views and life-long learning abilities for students.

CityU shares the same ambition and value with the Government. Over the past three decades, it has been providing quality professional education, emphasizing the integration of teaching and research, and most importantly, the whole-person development of students. With the commencement of the new four-year undergraduate programme, it has introduced a wide range of new courses with a view to providing a broad-based, transdisciplinary education for our younger generation. It has strived to create a holistic learning environment and promoted the development of both an international outlook and a familiarity with Chinese culture. Today's exhibition and forum provide a very good platform for students to learn and explore how different streams of discipline and knowledge can interact and integrate with each other.

I hope that, through participating in this exhibition and forum, students and the public could experience the genuineness of science and the beauty of art, as well as the integration of science and art. Lastly, I take the opportunity to extend my warmest congratulation on the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of CityU. I wish the University every success in its future endeavours.

Thank you.