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Over 200 Deputy Principals Gather at HKIED to attend the 2013 Forum cum HKADP Inauguration Ceremony

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Nearly 250 representatives from sponsoring bodies, the management of primary and secondary schools, academics and Education Bureau officials gathered at The Hong Kong Institute of Education (HKIED) today (16 May) for the **2013 Deputy Principals' Forum cum Inauguration Ceremony of the Hong Kong Association of Deputy Principals**. The forum was co-organised by the School Partnership and Field Experience Office (SPFEO) of HKIED and the Hong Kong Association of Deputy Principals (HKADP), and supported by The Chinese University of Hong Kong.

In recent years, deputy principals have faced tough challenges and schools have dealt with leadership inheritance issues. The forum aimed to provide a platform for sponsoring bodies and school managements to share their views on and experiences in these areas.

Officiating at the Ceremony were **Mr Eddie Ng Hak-kim**, Secretary for Education, and **Professor Cheng Yin-cheong**, Acting President of HKIED. In delivering his welcome speech, Professor Cheng said that we are in "an era which strives for a knowledge-based economy and cultural strength. Since Hong Kong started its education reform in 2000, schools have been simultaneously facing delightful opportunities and unprecedented challenges. Deputy principals are on the frontline of education but also work backstage to help principals; they are key figures in a school's development. It is inevitable that they experience some stress when dealing with new issues created by education reform and also complex issues at work".

Professor Cheng assured the audience that the role of the deputy principal is indispensable. He hoped that the professional development of deputy and assistant principals would be promoted through the event and would result in more outstanding leadership and management successors for schools in Hong Kong. "How a deputy principal grasps his or her role and identifies the professional career path during his or her practice in curriculum reform and school development is a vital point worth probing", he added.

Professor John Lee Chi-kin, the Institute's Vice President (Academic) and Director of the SPFEO, delivered a keynote speech on "Deputy Principals' Leadership Role during the Curriculum Reform and School Development." He said that teaching methods are becoming more diversified. The interaction between teachers and students has increased and deputy principals are always leading both curriculum reform and teaching, he stressed.

Professor Lee believed that deputy principals should develop a professional learning community between teachers, to help them learn through practice and thus advance their ability to self-reflect.

During the forum, HKADP Chairman **Dr Wong Ching-yung** and Executive Committee (Academic) member **Dr Thomas Leung Kin-man** presented the results of a survey on "Factors Affecting the Career Decisions of Deputy and Assistant Principals in Hong Kong", conducted by the HKADP during March this year. The survey, which collected around 700 completed questionnaires, is believed to be the largest research project of its kind in the world.

The SPFEO of HKIED has been committed to supporting the development of deputy principals. Following the success of the First Vice Principals' Forum in 2011, the HKADP was established last October to provide an exchange platform for deputy and assistant principals of secondary, primary and special needs schools, thereby promoting professional inter-school communication.

[Attachment: Results of the HKADP survey \(Chinese version only\)](#)



HKIED's Acting President Professor Cheng Yin-cheong says that deputy principals are key figures in a school's development.



Mr Eddie Ng Hak-kim, Secretary for Education officiates at the ceremony.



Professor John Lee Chi-kin, the Institute's Vice President (Academic) and Director of the SPFEO, believes that deputy principals should develop a professional learning community between teachers, to help them learn through practice and thus advance their ability to self-reflect.



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Professor Alvin Leung Seung-ming, Dean of Education Faculty at The Chinese University of Hong Kong delivers keynote address at the forum.



(From the left)
Dr Thomas Leung Kin-man, Executive Committee (Academic) of HKADP,
Mr Tang Yiu-nam, Project Manager of the Centre for Small Class Teaching at HKIED,
HKADP Chairman Dr Wong Ching-yung, and
Dr Cheng Chi-keung, Assistant Professor of the Department of Curriculum and Instruction at HKIED

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