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Press Release

HKNE Online Forum “Fighting the Epidemic Through Technology” Experts share how innovative products have been developed During the fight against the virus

Two experts joined an online discussion forum hosted by the Hong Kong News-Expo on 20 Feb to share their knowledge on how technology has contributed to the development of new products in the fight against the epidemic and how technology has helped people to cope with the difficulties they have faced in their daily life under the coronavirus.

The forum speakers were Mr. Albert Wong Hak-keung, Chief Executive Officer of the Hong Kong Science and Technology Parks, and Professor Gary Chan, Department of Computer Science and Engineering and Director of the Entrepreneurship Centre at the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology.

Mr Wong said the epidemic and the need for social distancing have greatly affected how people carried out their daily routines.

During this time, Mr Wong said, research specialists have unleashed their creativity and designed new products to alleviate hardship under the fight virus measures while virtual meetings E-commerce and online transactions are becoming more and more popular. New products coming into the market include compact robots for delivering food and biodegradable lunch boxes.

The industry has also looked after the needs of the elderly by developing various platforms to help them and has cooperated with non-governmental organisations in providing personal services to this vulnerable group of residents, Mr Wong said.

Professor Chan said the epidemic has boosted collaboration between the academics and the industry on the invention of products to fight the virus. For example, by using a novel geo-fencing technology, a smart phone is paired with an electronic wristband to monitor the locations of people under compulsory home quarantine. Other innovations include smart fever screening system and ultrathin polymer nanofilm.

In view of the global competition and the development of innovative technology, both speakers opined that multi-disciplinary research and development will be the trend of tertiary education as all disciplines, whether it's financial technology, biomedical technology or artificial intelligence, are inter-related. They believed that

science and technology should move forward in keeping with humanities, ethics and moral education for the healthy advancement of society.

Mr. Wong and Professor Chan cautioned the general public about information obtained from the internet. They said people should analyse such information with common sense, and should take into account the views given by authoritative sources and academics, and thoroughly consider from various perspectives whether the information meets their personal needs to avoid being misled or deceived.

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Photo Caption:

Photo 1: Mr. Wong shares the challenges of the industry during the epidemic.

Photo 2: Professor Chan introduces the anti-epidemic products by the academics and the industry.

Photo 3: At the “Fight the Epidemic Through Technology” forum (From left: Host Ms. May Chan Suk-mei, Mr. Albert Wong Hak-keung and Professor Gary Chan)