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HKUST Supports Role Differentiation and Institutional Collaboration

The Reference Group on Institutional Integration of the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST) today expressed the University's strong support for the goal of nurturing excellence in the higher education sector through role differentiation and closer voluntary collaborations between institutions in Hong Kong.

The Reference Group emphasized that HKUST, with its firmly established culture and excellence in research, has a distinct role to play in achieving that goal, and should be appropriately supported in its efforts to do so.

The position of the Reference Group was conveyed to Prof John Niland, Convener of the Institutional Integration Working Party (IIWP), and Mr Michael Stone, Secretary-General, of the University Grants Committee (UGC), during their second visit to HKUST. Prof Niland and Mr Stone also met members of the University Senate.

"The Sutherland report on higher education envisions that a small number of institutions capable of competing at the highest international levels will be created in Hong Kong through the focusing of public and private sector support. HKUST is fully committed to contributing to the achievement of that goal, and will continue to work closely with the UGC, the Government and other parties in doing so," said Dr John Chan, Chairman of the HKUST Reference Group and the University Council.

The Reference Group is of the view that, with sufficient resources and clearly defined roles of different universities, voluntary institutional collaborations can be effectively developed to enhance advancement of knowledge and resource sharing.

The HKUST Reference Group submitted a report to the IIWP in October, in which it was reiterated that it would be inappropriate to enter merger discussions before the Government provides a clear and formal response to the four critical issues raised by the HKUST Task Force, namely the objectives of a merger, the resource implications, the institutional standards to be attained in research, and organizational culture.