Press Releases

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Fun Learning for IT Talent

The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST) is launching two new courses designed to provide gifted secondary school students with real-life learning and university-level training in information technology (IT).

HKUST is the first institution to provide IT programs under the Education and Manpower Bureau's Support Measures for the Exceptionally Gifted Students Scheme. The programs will benefit approximately 100 students talented in IT, science or mathematics who are currently studying within the Form Four to Form Seven age-range.

First day of class: students are learning to design applications that make mobile phones much more fun to use

"Both programs will nurture student interest and creativity to help them employ IT knowledge. They will assist the students to solve problems relevant to daily life and introduce them to some widely used IT applications. The courses will demonstrate how much more IT has to do with daily life than they could believe possible!" said Prof Lionel Ni, Head of the Department of Computer Science.

The **Information Technology Enrichment Project Course** , which began today (2 April 2005), offers exciting group projects including mobile phone programming, image processing to predict the impact of tsunamis, decryption of First World War secrets and the development of an e-mail security scheme. Under the supervision of a faculty member, each group of students will meet every month and work together on a selected project that applies IT to daily life in a fun and educational manner. On completion of the five-month course, a round-up summer camp will be held during which the groups will give presentations on their achievements and exchange experiences.

Prof Lionel Ni

The **Basic Programming Enrichment Course**, which will take place from July to August, also features IT-related learning. Equivalent to an introductory programming course for first-year non-computer science majors, the course covers the basics of programming using C++ and is designed for science-stream students. Participants will be awarded three HKUST academic credits upon successful completion.

The IT enrichment courses are the latest of HKUST's major initiatives that cater to the diverse needs and aptitudes of gifted secondary school students. The University provides similar enrichment courses in physics, mathematics and marine sciences, as well as computer courses to secondary students through one of its many renowned online education programs.