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## World Academic Leader Envisioned

The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST) today releases its *Strategic Plan 2005-2020, Building on Excellence*, a blueprint for the University's development over the next 15 years to become a world academic leader.

Among the Plan's key proposals, HKUST will focus on a range of carefully selected high-impact research areas, establish the Hong Kong Institute for Advanced Study and open a School of Innovation and Technology Management.

HKUST President, Prof Paul Chu, comments: "As we look towards the future, the Strategic Plan offers a vision of how HKUST will extend its reputation, and focuses our commitment so that we can attain that next level of achievement.

"The successes of the past give us a springboard for the future. The Strategic Plan will ensure that we build on our impressive foundations to make HKUST a world-leader among universities, and an institution that remains ever faithful to its mission to enhance the social and economic development of Hong Kong and the region."



President Chu unveils the university's Strategic Plan

Five high-impact research disciplines are detailed in the Plan, specifically chosen for their scientific importance and value to social and economic development. They are: nano-science and nano-technology; biosciences and biotechnology; electronics, wireless and information technology; sustainable development and; management education and research.

In tandem with the needs of its public and private sector partners, the Hong Kong Institute for Advanced Study will drive major interdisciplinary advances. One of the world's leading centers of intellectual inquiry, the Plan envisages that the Institute's achievements, star faculty and exceptional graduates will also focus attention on Hong Kong's scholastic capabilities.

The School of Innovation and Technology Management will help train the next generation of technologists and entrepreneurs. With a novel curriculum, including an undergraduate degree in innovation and technology management and cutting-edge postgraduate research opportunities, the School will develop skilled graduates for careers across business, engineering and technology-related fields.

HKUST will work to extend its impact on higher education in the Mainland. An independent graduate school and a research and development facility will be established in Southern China. These will both contribute further to social and economic development, nationally and regionally.

The Plan specifically provides for an evolution in undergraduate education. Flexible, multidisciplinary programs that offer unique research opportunities and core human-skills training will prepare HKUST students even more thoroughly for their role as tomorrow's leaders.

Infrastructures on campus will grow to support the transition to global-leader status and increasing student numbers. The Hong Kong Jockey Club Enterprise Center is already under construction, and other facilities will become key University assets, among them a major new academic building, cultural complex, student center and halls of residence.