

## 17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS



## Research & Innovation

### Establishment of Translational Research Institutes in Mainland China

In pursuit of impactful research, PolyU has established translational research institutes focused on technology and innovation in major Mainland cities where their industrial and societal needs can be addressed by the University's research strengths and expertise. Each research institute will secure a significant amount of funding from the host city to support a stable team of researchers who will engage in applied research and knowledge transfer activities to foster the city's development.

Research institutes have so far been established in Hangzhou, Jinjiang, Wenzhou, and Wuxi, while Memoranda of Understanding have been signed with Guangming (Shenzhen), Hefei, Nanjing, Ningbo, and Wuhan. These institutes will greatly enhance the impact of PolyU research in terms of its contribution to the Nation's science and technology development and the provision of resources needed for PolyU to reach new heights.



### Interactive Social Robots for the Elderly

After having jointly developed five NEC Social Robots that provide companionship for the elderly and support them in their daily activities, the School of Nursing and NEC Hong Kong have signed a Memorandum of Understanding of future collaboration. The team will also use the robots to conduct a series of research studies as part of the project "Social Robots for Old Adults and Caregivers". The first study will investigate whether older people accept and enjoy interacting with these robots at home, as well as the impact of the robots on loneliness, cognition, medication taking, and mental and social well-being.

Artificial intelligence technologies, including facial recognition, image recognition, and speaker verification, are used to enable meaningful human-machine interactions. In practice, these social robots can understand Cantonese so that they can follow verbal instructions given by the local elderly users, such as being asked to switch on the television, play music, or make telephone calls. They can also remind the elderly to take their medication and have meals on time.

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## Teaching & Learning

### Advancing Social Work Education with Global Online Learning

In an effort to enhance and promote the quality of social work education and the professional standards of social work practitioners worldwide, the Department of Applied Social Sciences has collaborated with the International Association of Schools of Social Work (IASSW) to operate a global online learning platform on IASSW Global Standards for Social Work Education and Training. This collaboration not only signifies a commitment to making a significant impact in the field of social work education, but also showcases the dedication of both parties towards nurturing future generations of social workers globally.



### Recognising and Supporting Sustainable Development Student Research

PolyU and the China Petrochemical Corporation (Sinopec) have signed a collaborative agreement to recognise excellent student theses that focus on topics related to clean energy and sustainable environment, as well as to explore further collaborative opportunities and platforms. Bearing the theme “Cleaner Energy Better Life”, Sinopec has **donated around HK\$600,000** this academic year to encourage students to practise creative thinking and come up with innovative solutions and technologies that can help the industry and the environment to attain sustainability. Cash awards were given to support outstanding undergraduate and postgraduate student research that is aligned with sustainable development such as in areas including clean energy, renewable energy, and green city.

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## Outreach & Engagement



### Aiding Children with Cancer in Preparing for Radiotherapy Treatment

The professional-led voluntary service team “Friends”, involving a group of PolyU radiography students, staff, and graduates, has been collaborating with the Children’s Cancer Foundation to serve paediatric cancer patients, survivors, and their families. As sedation during radiotherapy can be avoided by addressing patient anxiety, the Radiotherapy



Education Workshop was hosted for paediatric patients and caregivers to familiarise them with the radiotherapy course of treatment through virtual environment for radiation therapy training games.

In addition, the team created the Hybrid Interactive Virtual Environment (HiVE) for Clinical Education and Training, which **received a Silver Medal at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Asia Exhibition of Innovations and Inventions Hong Kong**. This innovative platform not only enhances hands-on clinical service and patient care through providing ground-breaking virtually immersive radiotherapy rehearsals tailored specifically for children with cancer, but it also equips students with the most advanced training tools, helping to ensure minimal patient anxiety and maximal therapeutic success rates.

Over 85% of child participants successfully avoided needing any form of anaesthesia throughout their entire treatment course, while all caregivers found the workshop exceptionally helpful in strengthening knowledge, patient care, and emotional support. HiVE represents a melting pot of innovative technology and healthcare solutions, forging a unique composite of unparalleled clinical education and compassionate, patient-centred service for our next generation.

### Introduction of Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) Certification Scheme

PolyU and the Sing Tao News Corporation have signed a Memorandum of Understanding to launch an ESG certification scheme to assess the sustainable performance of companies, recognise those which have made outstanding ESG contributions, and provide advice for businesses to improve their performance in related areas. Under the Memorandum, the PolyU Centre for Economic Sustainability and Entrepreneurial Finance will provide academic expertise while Sing Tao will leverage its media resources to further promote ESG. Together, they will roll out a series of activities including seminars and training sessions to promote ESG awareness and practices in Hong Kong.

## Governance & Operations

### Participation and Leadership in Local and International Sustainability Networks

To conceptualise and achieve collective actions on climate change and sustainable development, local higher education institutions have come together in the Hong Kong Sustainable Campus Consortium where they share insights and discuss best practices on sustainability-related issues. This year, under PolyU’s convensorship, group decarbonisation strategies have been agreed by all member universities, who are to align goals and pathways towards sustainability and incorporate these unified strategies into the tasks and activities of the Consortium’s working groups. Consequently, sustainable development practices and application can be promoted and members can be engaged and empowered more effectively.

Similarly, to facilitate a climate of open dialogues among thought leaders on ideas, resources, and practices of varied scope and scale which aim to guide global discussion and development of university social responsibility, PolyU co-founded the University Social Responsibility Network in 2015 and chairs its Executive Committee. In order to help the world achieve justice, inclusivity, peace, and sustainability, the University works with 20 member institutions worldwide to address global economic, social, cultural, and environmental challenges, as well as to organise the International University Social Responsibility Summit and host regular webinars and global student engagement events.

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