



黃金耀博士 Dr. Jimmy Wong
(香港新一代文化協會科學創意中心總監)
Centre Director of HKNGCA Science Innovation Centre

一顆「星星」的誕生

2005年11月2日，當我還是一位中學老師時，那天早上，學校的工友拿著一疊當天的報紙進入教員室派發給老師，我看見這天報章的頭條後，開心到目瞪口呆，報章上印上十個大字：「天上有顆星—命名陳易希」！這是我們香港人的光榮，亦是我們「新一代」多年來的努力成果。一星期後，11月9日，我和「新一代」領導層首次踏足「科學創意中心」的前身—「西貢郊野學習館」。那時的學習館是一座被棄置和破舊的建築物，但在我眼中這正是一個培育香港少年科學家的好搖籃！這兩件事情促使我放棄十多年的教師生涯，決心在「科學創意中心」為香港摘更多的「星」。

2007年是「科創中心」重要的一年，隨著2006年九月正式成立後，得到很多師生和家長全力支持和參與，「科創中心」的各項活動都踏上軌道，更值得鼓舞的是，本港學生在本中心舉辦及承辦的科學比賽中大放異彩，吸引了大批傳媒的正面和廣泛報導，大大提高了科研及創新的風氣。

The birth of a "star"

I can still remember the morning of 2nd November 2005, at that time I was still a secondary school teacher. The school janitor came into the staff room with a pile of that morning newspapers, distributing them to the teachers. I was so jubilant and dumb-struck when I saw the news headline which read "There is a star in the sky, named Chan Yik-hei"! This is an honour for Hong Kong and also the result of many years of hard work by New Generation. A week later on 9th November, I set foot for the first on the Sai Kung Field Studies Centre, the former address of HKNGCA Science Innovation Centre. At that time this was a disused and derelict building, but to me I had a vision to turn this into a 'cradle' in nurturing our future Hong Kong young scientists! It is these two events that brought me to make the decision to resign from my teaching post which I had held for over 10 years, and to take up the reign at the Science Innovation Centre to search for more "stars" for Hong Kong.

2007 is an important year for our Centre, after its launch in September 2006, we received very positive and tremendous responds from students, teachers and parents. Most of our activities are on the right track, especially pleased to mention is that our students have performed with flying colours in all the science competitions organized and led by our Centre. In our annual "Hong Kong Youth Science and Technology Invention Competition" which is in its 9th year, both the quantity and quality of the projects reached record high with many top winners from this event represented Hong Kong in this summer "22nd China Adolescent Science and Technology Contest" in Yunnan. Many top prizes were also captured by our Hong Kong students in this national contest.

The highlight of this year came in May, when I had the honour to be the Hong Kong Fair Director of the "58th Intel International Science & Engineering Fair" in New Mexico USA, where I led 5 outstanding young scientists from Hong Kong to compete in the world's largest pre-college science competition. Among them was Tom Chan Ka-kin, with his revolutionary invention "Miracle Bioplastics

「香港青少年科技創新大賽」已踏入第9屆，由於本中心廣泛推廣此賽事，因此今屆的參賽人數及作品質素均是歷來之冠，當中不少得獎學生更被挑選為香港代表隊，參加「第22屆全國青少年科技創新大賽」，同樣取得佳績，足證本港學生的科研成績已在全國名列前茅。

最值得高興的是今年5月，本人很榮幸成為今屆香港代表隊的領隊，帶領5位傑出少年科學家遠赴美國參加「第58屆Intel國際科學與工程大獎賽」，這項比賽是全球最大規模的中學生科學競賽。本港學生於是項賽事中再創佳績，當中陳嘉鍵同學以「神奇纖維塑膠」的創新技術同時奪得大賽一等獎及「最優秀項目大獎」，這是香港學生在這個被譽為科學屆的「奧林匹克」得到最好的成績！與此同時，陳嘉鍵繼陳易希之後成為第二位香港「星之子」，國際天文學聯盟於2007年11月公佈，把小行星「23165」命名為「陳嘉鍵星」(kakinchan)。能夠親眼目睹一顆「星星」的誕生是我的榮耀，亦是對我的尋「星」夢邁向一大步。

嘉鍵、易希和所有在不同的國際科學比賽中得獎的同學，證明了香港學生的科學水平已「超英趕美」，令人鼓舞！早前行政長官曾蔭權在北京向國務院總理溫家寶述職時，溫總理說他經常思考如何提高香港的競爭力，他提出四方面給曾特首參考，其中一項是《科技創新》。香港要不斷提高競爭力，就必須在創新、科技及設計方面得著全面發展，以確保經濟能持續增長。

要成功和有效地培育科技創新人才並非簡單，不是一些補習學校開辦的「速成班」就可以製造出來的，而是需要政府、社會、學校和家長的通力合作。「科創中心」正是一條橋樑，將這重要伙伴連接起來。很多小朋友第一次踏足「科創中心」都會氣來氣喘地問我，為什麼中心要設在這裡，這條西貢「康健路」又彎又斜，真是難行！我常回答他們：「一位成功科學家的路，都不是一條平坦和易行的路！」

from Cellulose Waste", he was awarded both the First Place Grand Award and the much coveted Best of Category Award. This is the highest honour ever achieved by a Hong Kong student in this often been regarded as the "Olympic Games" for young scientists! To put the icing on the cake, Tom like Yik-hei became the second student in Hong Kong to have a minor planet named after him. In November 2007 the International Astronomical Union re-named the planet "23165" as "kakinchan" in recognition to his achievement and contribution to science. To witness the birth of this "star" is a great honour for me and is a tremendous boost in my "star-chasing" dream.

Tom, Yik-hei and all the students who have excelled in various international science competitions, have proven that Hong Kong students are among the best in the world in terms of scientific achievements. Recently when our Chief Executive Mr. Donald Tsang reported to our Prime Minister Mr. Wen Jaibao on his work, Premier Wen suggested 4 directions in with Mr. Tsang can consider which will strengthen Hong Kong competitiveness, one of which "technological innovation". If Hong Kong wants to enhance its competitiveness and to have sustainable long-term economic growth, it has to put extra effort in innovation, technology and design.

Nurturing innovative and creative people is no simple task, one cannot just run "crash courses" in a tutorial school to produce such bright people. Our government, schools, families and societies as a whole must work hand-in-hand together to achieve this goal. Our Science Innovation Centre is just such the link in joining these parties together. Many children when they first set foot to our Centre, they would often come up to me almost breathless and ask the question, "why is the centre built here on top of this steep and winding Hong Kin Road in Sai Kung, which is so difficult to reach!" I would then give them this reply, "the road to be a successful scientist is never flat and easy to walk!"