



ANNUAL REPORT

2024/25

TECHNOLOGICAL AND HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTE OF HONG KONG (THEi)

Annual Report 2024/25

THEi's Development towards Becoming a University of Applied Sciences (UAS)

Aligning with the Chief Executive's 2024 Policy Address, which placed a specific emphasis on promoting the development of UASs and Vocational and Professional Education and Training (VPET), the Technological and Higher Education Institute of Hong Kong (hereinafter referred to as THEi or the Institute) continued its proactive journey towards realising its strategic goals in academic year (AY) 2024/25, moving towards attaining the university and UAS statuses. Following the passage of the Post Secondary Colleges (Amendment) Bill 2025 by the Legislative Council (LegCo) of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) in June 2025, THEi has been in closed communication and collaboration with the Education Bureau (EDB) and the Hong Kong Council for Accreditation of Academic and Vocational Qualifications (HKCAAVQ), working at full speed towards its registration under the amended Post Secondary Colleges Ordinance (Cap. 320). Upon receiving registration approval from the Secretary for Education via the EDB in due course, the Institute would initiate the Institutional Review (IR) exercises with the HKCAAVQ for the private university and UAS statuses, aiming to achieve these titles by the end of 2026.

Following the official admission as an Associate Member of the Alliance of UAS (UAS Alliance) in September 2024, the Institute collaborated with the Federation of Hong Kong Industries (FHKI), with the UAS Alliance serving as the supporting organisation, to successfully organise the “‘The Belt and Road’” Leadership Forum on Applied Science and Vocational Education” on 5 June 2025, bringing together academics, senior executives from global businesses and government representatives from the Belt and Road (B&R) countries and regions to exchange valuable insights on talent development. Graced by Mr Gary LAU, FHKI's Deputy Chairman and the Committee Chairman of FHKI's Belt and Road Committee, as the guest of honour of the Forum, and featured keynote talks by distinguished guests from Hebei University of Technology (China), Universiti Malaya (Malaysia), University of Bayreuth (Germany), and the European Association for the Applied Sciences in Higher Education (EURASHE), the Forum provided a platform for professionals, industry experts, potential investors and other stakeholders to explore how the education sector could drive economic growth through advancements in applied science and vocational education.

Furthermore, the Vice President (Academic) (VP(A)) and Vice President (Operation and Enterprise) (VP(OE)) participated in a delegation visit to Guangzhou and Shenzhen, China, organised by the UAS Alliance on 24–25 June 2025. Led by Dr SZE Chun-fai, Jeff, JP, the Under Secretary for Education, the

delegation engaged with officials from the Department of Education of Guangdong Province to strengthen vocational education collaboration across the Greater Bay Area (GBA), focusing on talent development and industry-academia-research synergy. Campus visits to two major undergraduate vocational universities in Guangdong province, namely Guangdong Industry Polytechnic University and Shenzhen Polytechnic University, provided insights into their advancements in vocational education and industry partnerships. During the visit, the VP(A) of THEi shared the Institute's latest initiatives in applied-science programmes development, facilities enhancement, and accomplishments in VPET and applied research, reinforcing the Institute's dedication to nurturing talent in the field of applied sciences and promoting social development. THEi would continue to collaborate with the UAS Alliance to advance the development of applied-science education in the region.

Programmes Provision

In AY2024/25, THEi offered a total of 31 programmes across its six Academic Departments, namely the Department of Construction, Environment and Engineering, Department of Design and Architecture, Department of Digital Innovation and Technology, Department of Food and Health Sciences, Department of Hospitality and Business Management, and Department of Sport and Recreation. All programmes are accredited by the HKCAAVQ and, where appropriate, by relevant professional bodies, and are developed with an applied-science orientation and significant industry input to address the region's dynamic workforce and talent needs.

Nine of THEi's Year-1 bachelor's degree programmes were included under the Study Subsidy Scheme for Designated Professions/Sectors (SSSDP) with subsidies ranging from HK\$45,810 to HK\$87,770 for 160 places in AY2024/25. The nine programmes are:

- Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Fashion Design
- Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Product Design
- Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Landscape Architecture
- Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Culinary Arts and Management
- Bachelor of Engineering (Honours) in Civil Engineering
- Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Horticulture, Arboriculture and Landscape Management
- Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Surveying
- Bachelor of Social Sciences (Honours) in Sports and Recreation Management
- Bachelor of Engineering (Honours) in Building Services Engineering

Besides, nine top-up degree (TUD) programmes of THEi had been allocated 449 SSSDP-TUD subsidised places by the EDB under SSSDP for Undergraduate Programmes in AY2024/25. The nine TUDs are:

- Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Culinary Arts and Management – Year-3 Entry
- Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Fashion Design – Year-3 Entry

- Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Landscape Architecture – Year-3 Entry
- Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Product Design – Year-3 Entry
- Bachelor of Engineering (Honours) in Building Services Engineering – Year-3 Entry
- Bachelor of Engineering (Honours) in Civil Engineering – Year-3 Entry
- Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Horticulture, Arboriculture and Landscape Management – Year-2 and Year-3 Entries
- Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Surveying – Year-3 Entry
- Bachelor of Social Sciences (Honours) in Sports and Recreation Management – Year-3 Entry

As for the other undergraduate degree programmes not included in SSSDP, they were covered under the Non-means-tested Subsidy Scheme (NMTSS).

To further enhance the applied degree characteristics of the programmes, all undergraduate students are required to complete up to 720 hours of Work-Integrated Learning (WIL), which provides opportunities for students to apply the knowledge and skills acquired during their campus-based learning in real-world settings. In addition, project-based learning focused on real-world problem-solving in collaboration with local industries and professions was also offered to students, thereby enhancing students' personal and professional development while advancing industry practices through the innovative ideas they contribute to the workplace.

Acknowledging the need to incorporate artificial intelligence (AI), fast-evolving technologies, and other digital elements into its academic offerings, THEi has proactively undertaken initiatives to integrate these components into its applied science-oriented programmes. The Institute would continue to monitor industry trends and market demands to enhance its offerings, ensuring the graduates possess the essential skills needed to thrive in a world increasingly influenced by AI and emerging technologies.

In response to the growing demand for Chinese-taught postgraduate programmes in Hong Kong, particularly among Mainland students, THEi initiated the development of its first-ever Qualifications Framework (QF) Level 6 programme — the Master of Business Administration in Digital Transformation (MBA-DT) — in October 2023. Jointly developed by the Department of Hospitality and Business Management and the Department of Digital Innovation and Technology, the MBA-DT programme, being developed with Chinese (Putonghua) as the medium of instruction, aims to equip professionals with advanced knowledge and leadership skills in two key streams, namely (i) Digital Business and Leadership; and (ii) Digital Technology and Innovation. Following approval by the HKCAAVQ in November 2024, the MBA-DT programme was offered for Spring intake in AY2024/25, providing students with opportunities to enhance their skills and expertise in digital initiatives and Chinese (Putonghua) proficiency, thereby positioning them for success in navigating and leading change in the modern business landscape. The programme not only aligned with Hong Kong's broader strategy to bolster talent development in the digital economy but also empowered graduates to seize emerging career opportunities within the GBA.

Programme Area Accreditation (PAA)

One of the prerequisite criteria for applying for a private university or a UAS title is for the Institute to obtain PAA status for degree programmes at the undergraduate level (i.e. QF Level 5) in a minimum of three programme areas. To this end, the Institute has submitted applications to the HKCAAVQ for PAA status in three programme areas: “Sports and Recreation Management” (PAA-SRM), “Built Environment” (PAA-BE), and “Computer Science and Information Technology” (PAA-CSIT). Following the successful completion of the PAA-SRM in January 2025, the Institute achieved the PAA-BE in May 2025. It is expected that the final PAA exercise – PAA-CSIT – would be completed in 2026.

Programme Accreditations, Reaccreditation and Recognition

In light of the rising demand for skilled professionals in cyber security, advanced digital manufacturing, and technology-driven music industries in the GBA, the Institute secured the learning programme accreditation (LPA) from the HKCAAVQ for three bachelor’s degree programmes in AY2024/25, namely Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Cyber Security (top-up degree programme), Bachelor of Engineering (Honours) in Digital Manufacturing (top-up degree programme), and the Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Music Technology. These programmes are set to launch in AY2025/26, aiming to provide more applied, industry-oriented progression pathways that equip students with practical skills and portfolios for these fast-growing sectors. In addition, the Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Public Relations and International Events Management and Bachelor of Engineering (Honours) in Building Services Engineering (BSE) successfully underwent Learning Programme Reaccreditation (re-LPA) by the HKCAAVQ in AY2024/25, reaffirming their continued compliance with quality standards and their relevance to industry and market needs.

Aiming to strengthen the recognition of its programmes, the Institute continued to enhance its professional standing through obtaining or renewing professional accreditations or reaccreditations from local and/or international professional bodies in AY2024/25, including the Hong Kong Institution of Engineers, Hong Kong Institute of Surveyors, Hong Kong Public Relations Professionals’ Association Limited, and Hong Kong Exhibition & Convention Industry Association. Plans are in place to seek additional accreditations from both the Mainland and international professional bodies in AY2025/26.

Enhancing Applied Degree Provision

The EDB launched two rounds of the Pilot Project on the Development of Applied Degree Programmes (PPDADP) in December 2020 and March 2023, aiming to strengthen the positioning of VPET at the post-secondary level and complete the VPET articulation pathway. Following the launch of the Bachelor of Science in Horticulture, Arboriculture and Landscape Management (HALM) applied degree programme in AY2022/23, the BSE programme was introduced as the Institute’s second applied degree

programme in AY2024/25 after modifying its structure and curriculum to include stronger industry elements and satisfactory completion of relevant accreditation.

The Institute would remain vigilant for updates from the EDB concerning the subsequent rounds of PPDADP, if launched, and plans to submit proposals to the EDB for developing more applied degree programmes to nurture students with practical skills that address societal manpower needs.

On-the-job Training Allowance Pilot Scheme by the Development Bureau

The Development Bureau (DEVB) introduced a 2-year pilot initiative in July 2023, namely the On-the-job Training (OJT) Allowance Pilot Scheme (the Pilot Scheme), aiming to increase the supply of professionals for the construction industry. Students admitted to construction-related bachelor's degree programmes in AY2023/24 or AY2024/25 (two cohorts) who have undergone OJT with designated employers in the construction industry during their studies would be eligible for an OJT allowance, with a maximum cumulative amount of HK\$90,000. Students enrolled in the following bachelor's degree programmes offered by THEi in AY2024/25 are eligible to apply for the OJT allowance under the Pilot Scheme:

- Bachelor of Engineering (Honours) in Building Services Engineering;
- Bachelor of Engineering (Honours) in Civil Engineering (CE);
- Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Horticulture, Arboriculture and Landscape Management;
- Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Surveying (SUR);
- Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Landscape Architecture (LA); and
- Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Green Engineering and Sustainability (GES).

As announced by the Financial Secretary in the 2025-26 Budget, the Pilot Scheme would be extended for an additional two academic years (i.e. AY2025/26 and AY2026/27), with funding jointly allocated by the Government and the Construction Industry Council (CIC). Similar to previous years, the Pilot Scheme would cover trainees admitted to construction-related bachelor's degree programmes in AY2025/26 and AY2026/27 (two cohorts) who have completed OJT with designated employers during their studies. The Institute would continue to collaborate with industry partners to facilitate OJT opportunities, preparing students with a combination of campus-based and real-world experiences before graduation.

Professional Education and Lifelong Learning

Since 2021, THEi has offered a diverse array of short courses to meet the training needs of various industries, providing upskilling opportunities and equipping the workforce with emerging skills. In light of the rapidly evolving economic landscape and to support the HKSAR Government's digital

transformation initiatives, the Professional Education and Lifelong Learning (PELL) Centre has collaborated closely with the Department of Digital Innovation and Technology to develop two new online short courses focusing on Web3.0, namely “Introduction to Web3.0 for Business Leaders” and “Advanced Web3.0 Certificate Course for Business Leaders”, in AY2024/25. These courses provided business leaders, industry practitioners and interested professionals with a foundational understanding of Web3.0 and blockchain, as well as deeper insights into the complexities and applications of these transformative technologies, empowering them with the knowledge and skills necessary to thrive in today’s digital era.

Other PELL short courses offered in AY2024/25 include:

- Tree Risk Assessment Course with Assessment (including two Corporate Training Classes); and
- Recognised Continuing Education in Arboriculture (CEA) Course – Diagnosis & Treatment of Pests & Diseases.

Looking ahead, THEi would continue to offer diverse PELL short courses, blending emerging skills and knowledge to address the upskilling and reskilling needs of individuals and the workforce across various professional fields and industries.

Student Admission

With the remarkable concerted efforts of the Academic Departments and Professional Administrative Units through a wide variety of brand-strengthening and promotional activities over the past two years to position THEi as a leading applied-science and technology institution offering niche programmes, prioritising graduate employability, and strengthening industry integration, coupled with the appointment of reliable student recruitment agencies, THEi attracted over 1,360 new local and non-local students in AY2024/25, including those enrolled in the bachelor’s and master’s degree, professional diploma, professional certificate, professional diploma meister and collaborative master’s programmes offered by the six Academic Departments. For AY2024/25, THEi saw a nearly 30% increase in new local Year-1 intakes for degree programmes, while registered local Year-1 students rose by approximately 73% compared with the previous academic year.

In response to requests from THEi and other self-financing (SF) post-secondary institutions, the EDB announced on 26 February 2025 that, in agreement with the Ministry of Education of the People’s Republic of China, the admission quota for Mainland, Macao and Taiwan (MMT) students allocated to THEi would be progressively increased to 40%, and the scope from which THEi may admit Mainland students would be expanded to include all 31 provinces / regions / municipalities on the Mainland from AY2025/26. Alongside the relaxation of the MMT admission quota, the calculation methodology for the quota and percentages would also be rationalised. The Institute is committed to fully utilising the admission quota to support the HKSAR Government’s initiative to establish Hong Kong as a renowned

international education hub while effectively mitigating the shortage of skilled labour across various industries.

Recognising the importance of a diverse and balanced student body, the Institute established partnerships with international student recruitment agencies in AY2024/25 to facilitate the referral of international students, particularly from the B&R countries, aiming to promote cultural richness, and enhance both students' educational experience and THEi's international standing. The Institute is poised to explore and engage additional international agencies in the coming year to further strengthen its student recruitment efforts and foster a dynamic learning environment that encourages intercultural exchange, thereby enhancing students' understanding of global issues and interconnectedness, ultimately broadening THEi's academic portfolio and facilitating collaborations with international institutions.

Student Achievements

THEi's students actively participated in various competitions, programmes, events and projects, winning numerous awards and scholarships throughout AY2024/25. They excelled in a range of major international and local competitions, including the 41st Watch and Clock Design Competition organised by Hong Kong Trade Development Council – 2nd runner-up, the Chartered Institute of Housing Asian Pacific Branch (CIHAPB) – Best Student Award, the HK4As Kam Fan Students' Award 2024 – Merit, Arts Criticism Recognition Programme 2024 organised by the Arts Criticism Group of the Hong Kong Arts Development Council – First Prize in Tertiary Students category, HKILA (Hong Kong Institute of Landscape Architects) Awards 2024 – Champion and Communication Awards, Global Design Award 2025 – Winner, the Hong Kong Smart Design Awards 2025 organised by The Hong Kong Exporters' Association – the Gold Award in the conceptual group and the Student Award, "Let's Go Well-being Chak On" Design Competition jointly organised by the Housing Bureau and the Hong Kong Housing Authority – Winner in the emerging category and 1st runner-up in the student category, Hong Kong International Culinary Classic (HKICC) 2025 – one Silver, six Bronze and four Diplomas Awards, the Hong Kong Flower Show 2025 – Merit Award for Unique Feature (最具特色優異獎). Additionally, students received awards from professional bodies such as the CIBSE (Chartered Institution of Building Services Engineers) Hong Kong Region Student Awards, the Hong Kong Institute of Engineers-Building Services Division (HKIE-BSD) Outstanding Student Award 2025, the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating, and Air-Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE) Student Award, and the Hong Kong Housing Society (HKHS) Award, etc. Furthermore, a total of 205 THEi students were awarded scholarships under the HKSAR Government's Self-financing Post-secondary Scholarship Scheme (SPSS) in AY2024/25, namely the Outstanding Performance Scholarship, Best Progress Award, Endeavour Scholarship for SEN Students, Talent Development Scholarship, and Reaching Out Award. Some of THEi students also represented Hong Kong in international competitions and achieved outstanding results, including the East Asia Dodgeball Championships 2024, the International Korfball Federation (IKF) Asia Korfball Championship 2024, the Kabaddi World Cup 2025, among others.

We take pride in our students' exceptional accomplishments and dedication. The Institute will continue to support our students in enhancing their vocational competencies and encourage holistic development.

Graduate Employment

A Graduate Employment Survey was conducted in January 2025 to study the employment situation of full-time programmes graduates of THEi in 2024. The findings indicated that the overall employment rate was 92% based on the overall response rate of 80.3%. The statistics on the relevance of jobs showed that THEi's graduates were highly successful in securing employment, approximately 87% (compared to 86% in 2023 and 84% in 2022) of employed graduates were in jobs relevant to their studies at THEi, and 91% (compared to 92% in 2023 and 86% in 2022) of employed graduates agreed that the discipline/industry-specific knowledge gained from the programmes at THEi was beneficial for their current roles. These figures consistently demonstrate that THEi's graduates were well-prepared for the workforce.

Employers' Views on THEi Graduates of 2022/23

In a committed effort to assess and monitor the quality of THEi programmes, an independent external party was commissioned in September 2024 to conduct a survey aimed at collecting employers' perceptions regarding the performance of THEi's eighth cohort of graduates (i.e. graduates of 2022/23) who had provided their consent for participation. The survey was conducted from September 2024 to February 2025. According to the feedback from the participating employers, the performance of our graduates was found to be satisfactory. Among the various core competencies assessed, our graduates exhibited exceptional performance in work attitude, team spirit, sense of responsibility, ability to learn and adapt to new skills, as well as independent work. This testimonial highlights the effective integration of practical applications with theoretical knowledge in THEi's programmes, ensuring our students are adept at transferring their academic knowledge into practical, real-world situations, thereby enhancing their professional readiness and career success.

THEi Work-Study Degree Programmes Scheme

THEi Work-Study Degree Programmes Scheme (the W-S Scheme) enables eligible Higher Diploma holders and working adults to pursue a bachelor's degree qualification through a structured work-study model that integrates part-time study with sponsored employment at industry partners, providing alternative articulation pathways and advancement opportunities. In AY2024/25, the Institute offered four undergraduate programmes under the W-S Scheme through different delivery modes, including:

- Bachelor of Engineering (Honours) in Building Services Engineering;
- Bachelor of Engineering (Honours) in Civil Engineering;

- Bachelor of Engineering (Honours) in Aircraft Engineering (AE); and
- Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Chinese Medicinal Pharmacy (CMP).

In AY2024/25, a total of 174 students were recruited from 112 employers who participated in this Scheme, including some key industry partners such as MTR Corporation, Chun Wo Construction Company Limited, ATAL Engineering Group, Build King Management Limited and FSE Engineering. In addition to career fairs strategically designed to engage new employers and encourage prospective students to participate in the W-S Scheme, online briefing sessions were also organised for prospective students and human resources representatives to further promote the Scheme.

In recognition of the strong performance of students and graduates, and in response to the industry's manpower needs, MTR Corporation, a key industry partner of the W-S Scheme, extended its participation in the Scheme, reflecting employers' confidence in student calibre and reinforcing industry recognition of the role of the W-S Scheme in nurturing work-ready talents. THEi is committed to broadening industry engagement by partnering with new companies and fostering their participation in the W-S Scheme through staff nomination for W-S degree programmes and/or the provision of full-time employment opportunities for participating students.

Partnerships and Connections

The Institute has consistently strived to broaden its network of institutional and professional partnerships and connections, as well as related activities locally, regionally, and internationally, including the GBA. In AY2024/25, Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) were signed with a number of local, Mainland, and international institutions and industry partners. For instance, Macau Millennium College; Shenzhen Institute of Advanced Technology, Chinese Academy of Science; Guangdong Xin'an Polytechnic; Shandong Sport University; Marriott International (Shanghai); Integral Institute Limited; FERRANDI Paris (France); Dundalk Institute of Technology (Ireland); the Kansai University of Social Welfare (Japan); Flinders University (Australia); the International University of Logistics and Transport (Poland); JW Marriott Phuket Resort & Spa (Thailand); Correctional Services Department; Hengan Pharmacare Co., Limited and Sports Therapists Association of Hong Kong (*a tripartite MoU*); Hong Kong Cyberport Management Company Limited; the School of Dance of the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts; Chubb Hong Kong Limited; H World Holdings (HK) Limited; Hong Kong Ocean Park Marriott Hotel; Network Box Hong Kong Limited; OneAsia Network Limited; Shang Sin Chun Tong Community Services Limited and Wu Zhi Qiao (Bridge to China) Charitable Foundation Limited (*a tripartite MoU*); etc.

The robust partnerships established not only secured a wide range of exciting and valuable opportunities for our students, including industrial attachments, internships, outbound student exchanges, training and job opportunities, but also facilitated senior-year admission opportunities and promoted joint initiatives as well as enabled THEi's academic staff to engage in industry-institute cooperative research projects.

Some of the key outcomes of THEi’s partnership engagement and connection establishment efforts are highlighted below:

- **2025 Policy Address of the HKSAR Government:** THEi was invited by the HKSAR Government to design a collection of ties and scarves for the Chief Executive and his team to wear on the announcement day of the 2025 Policy Address. The academic staff, students and alumni of the Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Fashion Design programme collaborated to design and produce the collection inspired by the three iconic bridges in Hong Kong: “Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge”, “Tsing Ma Bridge” and “Ting Kau Bridge”, symbolising connection, globalisation, and vitality. The Team received high recognition from the HKSAR Government for delivering products of outstanding quality, underscoring THEi’s creative excellence and its dedication to bridging education with industry needs.
- **LegCo:** The Institute was invited by the LegCo to contribute to a beautification project for five public areas within its premises, including the main entrance, the lily pond outside LegCo dining hall, the sky garden, etc. Staff and students from THEi’s LA programme developed six comprehensive proposals, one of which received endorsement from the President of the LegCo, the Hon Andrew LEUNG Kwan-yuen, GBM, GBS, JP, in October 2024. In recognition of the successful collaboration, the LegCo once again invited THEi to participate in a second beautification project in June 2025, with the objective of enhancing the streetscape of Tim Mei Avenue outside the LegCo Complex. This project included the design of paving, lighting, planter boxes, and planting. The Team developed three proposals, one of which was endorsed by the President of the LegCo in July 2025. The Institute is currently collaborating with the Architectural Services Department to refine the two endorsed proposals to ensure they are both cost-effective and feasible for implementation.
- **Kai Tak Sports Park (KTSP):** Commissioned by KTSP to celebrate its opening, THEi’s LA and HALM programme teams and students, in collaboration with a local artist, Ms Niko LEUNG, designed a nature-themed participatory artwork embodying the dynamic spirit of Hong Kong’s athletes and sporting events while celebrating KTSP’s integration with the surrounding urban environment and reinforcing its commitment to youth education, environmental stewardship and community engagement. As part of the initiative, the HALM programme team organised a series of community tree-planting workshops titled “Community Tree Planting: KTSP x THEi Collab Project”, involving primary school students to promote environmental awareness and an eco-friendly lifestyle. The sculpture, designed by the LA programme team featuring the name of KTSP, and the plants grown by students at the tree-planting workshops, were installed at the entrance of the Kai Tak Arena. This collaborative project exemplified THEi’s commitment to experiential learning and meaningful engagement with the wider community.
- **Ocean Park Hong Kong (OPHK):** Led by the CMP programme team, a cross-industry partnership between THEi and OPHK has facilitated the introduction of two new Chinese Herbal

attractions at OPHK. Supported by the Chinese Medicine Development Fund, the collaboration transformed over 186 square meters of land within OPHK into two new attractions, namely “Whisker’s Herbal Valley (威威百草谷)” and “Eco-Herbal Trail (百草生態徑)”, which were officially opened to the public on 15 January 2025. These attractions showcase a rich array of medicinal plants and herbs set amidst themes inspired by the Chinese Zodiac, Lingnan Chinese medicine and dietary practices, enabling visitors to explore and learn about the cultural significance and health benefits of these herbs in a unique and immersive environment at OPHK. This collaboration marked a significant milestone in the promotion of Chinese Medicine culture and served as a vital link between education, industry and the community.

- **SIX Hands 6-Course Dinner 2025:** Held on 24 April 2025, the Institute organised the “SIX Hands 6-Course Dinner 2025” at *Spring* training restaurant, featuring three outstanding alumni of the Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Culinary Arts and Management programme who are now distinguished chefs at MICHELIN-starred restaurants. The three chefs collaborated to prepare an exclusive 6-course dinner menu for invited guests at a discounted price from the industry and partner institutions. Each chef showcased his/her unique culinary expertise, creating a refined and memorable dining experience. In addition to celebrating the professional achievements of these accomplished alumni, the dinner provided current students with an invaluable opportunity to learn from industry professionals, fostering alumni engagement and contributing to the development of the next generation of culinary talent.
- **FHKI:** In collaboration with the FHKI, the Institute hosted a networking event for MBA-DT students on 15 July 2025, providing a valuable platform for students to connect with industry leaders and business professionals. The event featured distinguished guests, including Professor Steve CHUANG, JP, then Chairman of FHKI, who shared insights on industry trends and leadership, attracting over 130 participants. Through structured networking sessions and informal discussions, participants expanded their professional networks and gained first-hand insights into potential job and/or business opportunities. This industry-institute collaboration not only exemplified THEi’s commitment to enriching students’ learning experiences by bridging academic knowledge with real-world industry engagement but also demonstrated its dedication to equipping students with the connections and perspectives essential for their future careers and potential collaborations.
- **Waste Management Forum:** Sponsored by Junxin Environmental Protection Corporation (Hongkong) International Limited, and supported by the FHKI, Environmental Industries Council, Hong Kong Sustainable Development Research Institute, the Institution of Engineering and Technology, Hong Kong Federation of Innovative Technologies and Manufacturing Industries, and Hong Kong Productivity Council, a forum titled “Sustainable and Effective Waste Treatment Plant – Their Operations and Benefits to the Country (可持續、全面且有效的垃圾及廢棄物處理 – 其運作及其對國家的效益)” was held on 1 November 2024. Officiated by Ir Boris YIU, Assistant Director of Electricity and Energy Efficiency, Electrical

and Mechanical Services Department, and Professor Frank CHAN, BBS, JP, former Secretary for Transport and Housing, the Forum featured expert speakers who shared insights on the latest advancements in waste treatment technology, case studies, and strategies for implementation in their operations, presenting a valuable opportunity for participants to enhance their understanding of sustainable practices and their benefits to the community. This insightful forum drew approximately 100 guests, including guests from the construction and engineering industry, staff and students from THEi.

Strategic collaborations provided practical platforms for students to apply theoretical knowledge to real-life practice, whilst expanding eligibility for work placements, exchange programmes, and other valuable resources. THEi will continue its steadfast efforts to promote industry-institute collaborations to strengthen teaching and learning initiatives.

THEi Innov8 Enterprise Start-up Programme and Empowerment of Entrepreneurship

In AY2024/25, THEi-Lions Clubs Innov8 Enterprise Start-up Centre remained committed to supporting THEi's students and graduates in their entrepreneurial pursuits. Through the Innov8 Enterprise Start-up Programme, which offers students with essential resources including seed capital and services, mentorship, business networking opportunities, training workshops, co-working office space and workshop facilities, the Centre aims to foster the development of entrepreneurial ideas and the transformation of design projects into viable start-ups.

The Third THEi-Lions Clubs Enterprise Start-Up Competition commenced in February 2025, featuring seven innovative teams competing for a place in the Innov8 Entrepreneurship Incubation Programme and a bursary of up to HK\$100,000. Meta Engine (HK), from the MBA-DT programme, and Cross Starry Technology, from the AE programme, were awarded the "Lion Eva Leung Enterprise Start-up Award", resulting in each team receiving a bursary of up to HK\$100,000 and the opportunity to participate in the "Innov8 Entrepreneurship Incubation Programme", which allows them to learn from Innov8 industry advisors, develop business skills and establish business networks with industry and market leaders. In addition, "SmartLion Technologies" from the MBA-DT programme was awarded the "Lion Eva Leung Best Elevator Pitch Award".

The entrepreneurial ingenuity of our students has earned recognition both within THEi and in external competitions. "Cross Starry Technology" was selected for the HKSTP Tech FYP Sponsorship Programme by the Hong Kong Science and Technology Parks Corporation (HKSTP), through which the students would receive up to HK\$100,000 in seed funding, training, coaching/mentoring, and co-working space access to transform their innovative concepts into viable businesses.

The Institute would continue to seek industry support and external funding to assist our students in realising their entrepreneurship ideas. As part of this continuing endeavour, THEi co-organised the Hong

Kong Techathon+ 2026, the city's largest innovation and entrepreneurship competition for University Grants Committee (UGC)-funded and SF tertiary institutions, and was one of the founding members of the Global University Innovation Network (GUIN), aiming to connect our students with industry leaders, successful entrepreneurs, and potential investors, thereby fostering a vibrant environment that empowered students to transform innovative concepts into successful start-ups.

Campus Development

Following the welcoming of its first cohort of students in AY2024/25, the Hong Kong Institute of Information Technology (HKIIT) officially took ownership of the repurposed VTC Tsing Yi Complex in September 2024. Consequently, the four science programmes of THEi's Department of Food and Health Sciences were relocated to THEi Chai Wan (CW) campus by the end of August 2025. THEi's Department of Construction, Environment and Engineering remained as the only Academic Department of THEi to be a tenant at the VTC Tsing Yi Complex.

Steered by the President of THEi, the Environment and Conservation Fund (ECF) awarded HK\$1.9 million to the Institute in November 2024 to support the development of the Hydrogen Energy Education and Talent Development Centre (Hydrogen Centre), facilitating education in hydrogen energy and enhancing public understanding of its applications. Marking a significant milestone, the Hydrogen Centre was scheduled for an official opening on 26 September 2025, with a formal opening ceremony and a hydrogen forum to foster discussions on sustainable energy solutions. This publicly accessible Hydrogen Centre plays a pivotal role in supporting Hong Kong's commitment to carbon neutrality by offering comprehensive education on hydrogen energy and inspiring students to pursue renewable energy solutions. By nurturing a skilled workforce knowledgeable in hydrogen technologies, the Hydrogen Centre aims to drive industry growth and empower the next generation to contribute to a sustainable environment.

Besides, with a substantial donation from the Wu Jieh Yee Charitable Foundation, the greenhouse on the ground floor on THEi CW campus has been converted into the Wu Jieh Yee Arboriculture Education and Research Centre (the Education Centre) as part of the Arboricultural Research Base for Learning and Exploration (ARBLE) Project of THEi. The Education Centre is equipped with a 10-meter-tall artificial tree, advanced tree-climbing facilities, Augmented Reality (AR)/Virtual Reality (VR) learning technologies, and safety equipment, providing comprehensive and advanced training for both students and professional arborists. Following the completion of construction works in May 2025, the Education Centre would officially open on 10 September 2025, with the Governors of the Wu Jieh Yee Charitable Foundation, and the Head of Greening, Landscape and Tree Management Section of the DEVB, Dr Kathy NG, invited to the opening ceremony.

Considering the growing student population at THEi CW campus, several under-utilised spaces have been repurposed to optimise teaching space on the campus. Moreover, to mitigate the shortage of

teaching and learning space on THEi CW campus, the Institute has been exploring viable options to lease commercial properties for conversion into an off-site campus that would provide teaching space for degree programmes, as well as support high-level conferencing and networking events with industry partners.

Given the rising demand for student accommodation driven by the growing number of non-local students admitted to THEi's programmes, the Institute has been proactive in holding discussions with commercial accommodation providers to secure affordable accommodation options located in close proximity to THEi CW campus for its students. These additional affordable accommodation options, alongside VTC's Halls of Residence, demonstrate the Institute's resourcefulness in addressing accommodation needs of its students amid resource challenges.

Applied Research and Consultancy

Placing students at the forefront, the Institute champions applied research endeavours that underpin curriculum development and equip students with contemporary expertise to navigate professional challenges adeptly. In AY2024/25, THEi secured a total of over HK\$25 million in research funding from the 2025 round of the Research Grants Council (RGC) funding exercise and other external competitive research funding schemes or bodies. While no proposals under the Institutional Development Scheme Research Infrastructure Grant (IDS(R)) or IDS Collaborative Research Grant (IDS(C)) were awarded by the RGC across all participating institutions in this round, THEi achieved a commendable success rate of 31% for FDS applications, surpassing the average of 28%. This achievement clearly reflects the high quality and competitiveness of THEi's research proposals, underscoring the Institute's commitment to advancing knowledge and innovation.

The Chief Executive announced in the 2024 Policy Address that the UGC would launch a new round of the Research Matching Grant Scheme (RMGS) running from 1 May 2025 to mid-2029 to attract additional support from private sector organisations for institutions' research endeavours. Under this new round, a dollar-for-dollar matching basis would apply, meaning that for every HK\$1 donation received from non-government / non-public sectors after 1 May 2025 (bank-in date), a corresponding HK\$1 research matching grant would be awarded, up to a total of HK\$20 million over the 4-year period. THEi welcomes this new round of the RMGS, and is committed to attracting notable industry sponsorships to enhance its research capabilities and drive advancement in collaboration with private sector partners. In AY2024/25, THEi's academic staff solicited over HK\$11 million worth of cash and in-kind private donations.

As applied research capability, *inter alia*, is a key factor in assessing eligibility for attaining UAS status, the Institute established the THEi Applied Research Matching Grant Scheme in AY2024/25, aiming to strengthen the research landscape on campus by fostering collaborations between THEi and industries, promoting co-investment and co-funding for research projects with commercialisation potential and

outcomes which could be practically adopted and applied. In addition, to encourage and provide financial support to early career researchers who have not yet received any external funding to conduct fundamental and/or applied research as Principal Investigator, THEi Seed Grant Scheme was reinstated in AY2024/25 to build up the research capacity of these researchers and assist them in obtaining preliminary results for securing external grants for further study, while also expanding the overall research capacity of THEi.

As part of its strategic initiatives, the Institute developed THEi-industry Applied Research Centres (TiARC) to conduct high-level applied research projects with an aim to resolve critical industrial problems and issues. The development of the first TiARC, named “TiARC for Sustainable Development”, kicked off in early AY2024/25 in collaboration with an industry partner, Integral Institute Limited (Integral), to promote sustainable development, environmental conservation, and a circular economy. Under this partnership, three interdisciplinary research projects have been launched with donations from Integral, focusing on the impacts of sustainable practices on employee well-being, innovative approaches to production processes, and the role of technology and education in promoting sustainability. Key activities, including site visits and study tours to Integral as well as interviews and surveys on employee well-being and sustainable dining practices, were conducted in AY2024/25, contributing to presentations at the international stages such as the Global Hospitality and Tourism Research Summit in Japan in May 2025. As part of the broader initiatives of the “TiARC for Sustainable Development”, THEi co-organised the “NKU-THEi Symposium for Energy Applications: Towards an Innovative and Sustainable Future” with Nankai University’s College of Chemistry in Tianjin, China, on 22–24 July 2025, brought together around 100 leading academics and industry experts in advanced technologies to share insights on the development of advanced materials and technologies for novel, high-performance batteries, renewable energy, circular economy, and sustainable development. The collaborations exemplified THEi’s capacity to lead impactful, industry-relevant research and its commitment to applied research, student engagement, and industry collaboration in advancing sustainability and well-being in institutional environments.

Additionally, a new THEi-industry co-working space, Creative Media Collaborating Centre has been established to foster synergies between creative minds and cutting-edge technologies, focusing on applied research and practical outcomes. Initiated in September 2024, the Centre’s first research project, titled “Generative AI Animation with Hong Kong Comic Industry”, secured a donation from an industry partner and received matched funding from the RMGS. By leveraging the power of artificial intelligence (AI), the project aims to push the boundaries of traditional animation techniques, bringing forth a new era of creativity and innovation in comics and visual storytelling. The project exemplifies the Centre’s commitment to bridging creative practices with industry needs, highlighting the transformative potential of collaboration and innovation. Through such efforts, the Creative Media Collaborating Centre not only enhances the research capabilities of the Institute but also ensures the outcomes are relevant and beneficial to the industry.

To showcase the innovations and technological advancements in different research disciplines from our students' Final Year Projects, physical exhibitions will be organised for the annual THEi Student Applied Research Presentations (SARP) for AY2024/25 on THEi CW and Tsing Yi campuses, as well as on the THEi website, between 10 November 2025 and 4 December 2025. This year, a total of 79 abstracts, 78 research posters and 10 video presentations were received from students across the six Academic Departments, covering a wide spectrum topic from the study of new materials and engineering innovations to research on artificial intelligence, landscape design, sustainability, traditional Chinese medicine, sports therapy, cinematic and multimedia design — each addressing real-world challenges and societal needs.

Quality Enhancement Support Scheme (QESS) Project

Kicked off in September 2022, the institution-wide 30-month QESS project, “Formation and Development of a Work Integrated Learning Hub for Diverse Programmes of THEi”, concluded in February 2025. Supported by HK\$5.87 million from the EDB’s Self-financing Post-secondary Education Fund, the Project facilitated the development of an institutional WIL framework, stipulating standards and requirements to be adopted by all credit-bearing WIL modules, which has been in operation since 1 September 2024.

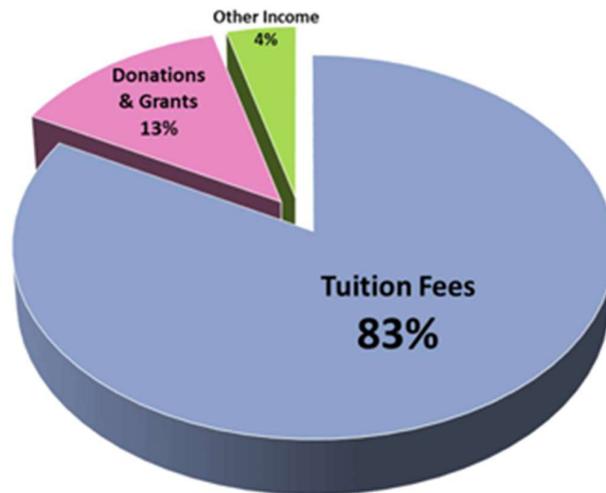
Besides, a one-stop-shop system – WIL Digital Platform (WILDLP) – was established, along with guidelines for a centralised repository to manage WIL records. A gradual adoption process for the WILDLP has been ongoing across all programmes since March 2025. To date, eight programmes, with approximately 350 students enrolled, have successfully launched their respective WIL modules on the WILDLP, with the aim of implementing the WILDLP across all programmes once they transition to credit-bearing WIL modules.

Upon the conclusion of the previous QESS project, the Institute has successfully secured funding for a new QESS project to conduct collaborative research with other local SF institutions. Led by the Hong Kong Shue Yan University, along with THEi, Hong Kong College of Technology, and Yew Chung College of Early Childhood Education as co-applicants, the collaborative project titled “Developing an AI-Enhanced Teaching Research Hub for the Self-Financing Higher Education Sector” was awarded HK\$13.1 million by the EDB’s Self-financing Post-secondary Education Fund in August 2025. This 36-month project aims to develop an AI-enhanced Teaching Resource Hub expected to significantly benefit both students and academic staff within the SF higher education sector, with THEi responsible for conducting research to evaluate the initiatives tailored for AI literacy development.

Finance

The following charts illustrate the summary of the operating income and expenditure of THEi for the financial year 2024-25, i.e. from 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025.

Income



Expenditure

