

Press Release
For Immediate Release

Cyberport GBA Young Entrepreneurship Programme hit a Record High of Over 420 Applications

Accumulatively 177 project teams receiving a total of HK\$17.7 million funding support from the Cyberport Creative Micro Fund

Hong Kong, 22 January 2024 – Cyberport has been committed to promoting and deepening exchange as well as cross-border innovation and technology (I&T) cooperation among young talents in the Greater Bay Area (GBA). This year’s “Cyberport GBA Young Entrepreneurship Programme” (the Programme) attracted applications from 424 students, hitting a record high, and 168 students were selected to participate in the online preparatory class on 17 January and the entrepreneurship boot camp at Sanshan Science and Technology Innovation Center in Foshan from 19 to 21 January.

Selected participants who completed the training at the entrepreneurship boot camp will form Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao cross-regional teams to submit proposals with information and digital technology and commercialization elements. The ten winning teams will each be awarded HK\$100,000 from the Cyberport Creative Micro Fund (CCMF) as support to turn their ideas into reality, which allows digital technology projects and commercial ideas with high potential to emerge on the market while expediting early-stage project development. Cyberport will offer a total of HK\$1 million for the Programme.

The launch ceremony of the Programme and the entrepreneurship boot camp took place in Foshan on 19 January. The organizer’s representatives, Alice So, Head of Entrepreneurship of Cyberport alongside Lin Zaijin, Vice Chairman of the Foshan Youth Federation and the co-organizer’s representatives including Lyu Hui, Secretary General of Guangdong Software Industry Association, Deng Xiaokun, President of The Shenzhen-Hongkong Union For Promoting Science and Technology and Executive Director of PKU-HKUST Shenzhen-Hongkong Institution and Andy NG Chung, Assistant General Manager of Da Heng Qin (Macao) Corporation Limited officiated at the ceremony, with Duncan Chiu, Legislative Council Member (Technology and Innovation Constituency) of the HKSAR delivering a speech online.

Alice So, Head of Entrepreneurship of Cyberport, said at the ceremony, “As Hong Kong’s digital technology flagship and incubator for entrepreneurship, Cyberport is dedicated to nurturing technological talents and supporting young entrepreneurs in the GBA to start their businesses and realize their entrepreneurial dreams. This year’s applicants come from students of around 50 universities and higher education institutions in the GBA, some of which are first-time participants. The overwhelming response reflected the diversified nature

of the Programme. It is also encouraging to note that over 45% of participants are female, reflecting an increasing number of female entrepreneurs who aspired to shine in the I&T industry. Cyberport particularly encourages young people to seize the opportunities arising from the GBA and strives to expand the youth I&T community at Cyberport.”

Duncan Chiu, Legislative Council Member (Technology and Innovation Constituency), said, “The Cyberport GBA Young Entrepreneurship Programme serves as a first step for the young talent to embark on their entrepreneurship journey. With various strengths and abundant resources in the GBA cities, including policies and regulations support, funding, facilities, venue subsidy and talent pool, I hope that the boot camp participants could exchange ideas with like-minded young people and work together to stimulate creativity and collaboration and make good use of the full range of resources to turn your dreams into reality.”

This year’s entrepreneurship boot camp covered innovative I&T topics such as FinTech, Web3.0, ArtTech, sustainable development, opportunities in digital asset and compliance issues. At various roundtable meetings of the boot camp, corporate executives shared their experience in various industries and digital transformation with the participants. In addition, the participants also visited the Jihua Laboratory, one of the first batch of provincial laboratories initiated by the Guangdong Provincial Party Committee and the Provincial Government, providing a comprehensive learning experience to them.

Cyberport first launched the “Cyberport Hong Kong-Shenzhen/Guangdong ICT Young Entrepreneurship Programme” in 2011. In 2019, the Programme was upgraded to “Cyberport GBA Young Entrepreneurship Programme” to encompass all cities in the GBA, including Hong Kong and Macau. Since its launch, the Programme has attracted approximately 4,000 applicants, resulting in 551 innovative projects and 177 project teams receiving a total of HK\$17.7 million funding support from the Cyberport Creative Micro Fund. Many graduates were successfully admitted to the incubation programmes in Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macau and have grown rapidly and raised funds successfully. Dr Body is one of the successful start-up stories. The two founders hit it off at the “Cyberport GBA Young Entrepreneurship Programme 2019”, co-founded the start-ups and were subsequently admitted into the Cyberport Incubation Programme. Their newly-developed medical assessment system not only won the Student Innovation Grand Award, Gold Award of the 2021 Hong Kong ICT Awards and the Gold Medal of Geneva Inventions Expo in 2023, but also secured several millions of HKD funding. Medical organizations in Chengdu and Yangzhou adopted their products, allowing them to expand into the Mainland market successfully.

The Programme have received staunch support from the governments of Guangdong Province, Hong Kong SAR, and Macao SAR, industry entities, innovation and entrepreneurship organisations, youth associations, incubators, and higher education

institutions, among others. This year, the Programme is co-organised by the Hong Kong Information Technology Joint Council, Guangdong Software Industry Association, Shenzhen-Hong Kong Union for Promoting Science and Technology, PKU-HKUST Shenzhen-Hong Kong Institution, Macao Young Entrepreneur Incubation Centre and Association for Promotion of Science and Technology of Macau.

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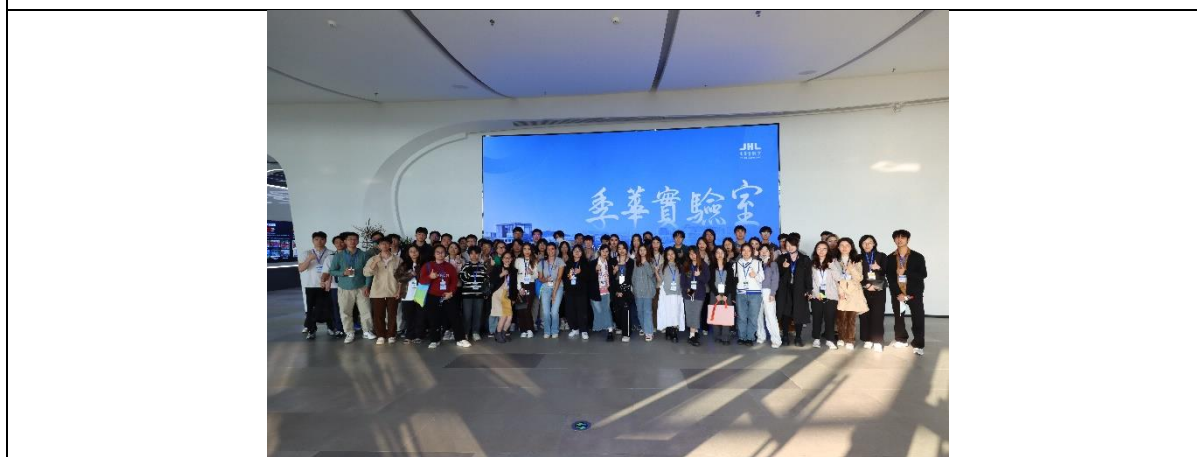
This year's "Cyberport GBA Young Entrepreneurship Programme" (the Programme) attracted students of around 50 universities and higher education institutions in the GBA and 168 students were selected to participate in the entrepreneurship boot camp at San Shan Technology Incubation Park in Foshan from 19 to 21 January 2024.



(From Left to Right) Deng Xiaokun, President of The Shenzhen-Hongkong Union For Promoting Science and Technology and Executive Director of PKU-HKUST Shenzhen-Hongkong Institution, Alice So, Head of Entrepreneurship of Cyberport, Lin Zaijin, Vice Chairman of the Foshan Youth Federation, Lyu Hui, Secretary General of Guangdong Software Industry Association and Andy NG Chung, Assistant General Manager of Da Heng Qin (Macao) Corporation attended and officiated the launch ceremony



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About Cyberport

Cyberport is Hong Kong's digital technology flagship and incubator for entrepreneurship with over 2,000 members including over 900 onsite and close to 1,100 offsite start-ups and technology companies. It is managed by Hong Kong Cyberport Management Company Limited, wholly owned by the Hong Kong SAR Government. With a vision to be the hub for digital technology, thereby creating a new economic driver for Hong Kong, Cyberport is committed to nurturing a vibrant tech ecosystem by cultivating talent, promoting entrepreneurship among youth, supporting start-ups, fostering industry development by promoting strategic collaboration with local and international partners, and integrating new and traditional economies by accelerating digital transformation in public and private sectors.

For more information, please visit <http://www.cyberport.hk>