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## Media Information

For immediate release

19th June 2023

### **Swire launches the ‘Hong Kong Young Technology and Innovation Talent’ programme to encourage greater exchange of sci-tech innovation expertise between the Chinese Mainland and Hong Kong**

Hong Kong, 19th June 2023 — The Swire Group today officially launched its “Hong Kong Young Technology and Innovation Talent” programme (“the programme”), which aims to encourage undergraduate students from Hong Kong to study science and technology subjects at Chinese Mainland universities. The launch ceremony was followed by sci-tech-themed discussion forum.

The event was attended by The Hon Chan Kwok-ki, Chief Secretary for Administration of the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region; Yin Zonghua, Deputy Director of the Liaison Office of the Central People's Government in the Hong Kong SAR; Su Yujun, Director of the Beijing Office of the Liaison Office of the Central People's Government in the Hong Kong SAR; Yu Bin, Deputy Director General Level Inspector of the Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan Office of the Ministry of Education; Liu Maozhou, Deputy Director General Level Inspector of the Department of Education and Technology of the Liaison Office of the Central People's Government in the Hong Kong SAR; Lillian Cheong, Under Secretary for Innovation, Technology and Industry of the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region; Clarence Leung, Under Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs of the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region; Arthur Au, Deputy Commissioner for Innovation and Technology of the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region; Lu Pingli, Expert of the Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan Office of the China Association for Science and Technology; Dr Zhang Yaqin, Chief Scientist of the “Hong Kong Young Technology and Innovation Talent” programme and Dean of the Institute for AI Industry Research of Tsinghua University; Guy Bradley, Chairman of John Swire & Sons (H.K.) Limited; Zhang Zhuoping, Chairman of John Swire & Sons (China) Limited; Augustus Tang, Director of John Swire & Sons (H.K.) Limited; Titus Diu, Director of John Swire & Sons (China) Limited, leaders from Hong Kong's education sector and technology and innovation sector, as well as students from Hong Kong who are currently studying at Chinese Mainland universities.

The programme is designed to facilitate exchange, knowledge-sharing and the development of sci-tech innovation in the Chinese Mainland and Hong Kong.

The Swire Group was able to develop the programme thanks to vital support and guidance from the Office of Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan Affairs of the Ministry of Education of the People's Republic of China, the Beijing Office of the Liaison Office of the Central People's Government in the Hong Kong SAR, the Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan Affairs Office of the China Association for Science and Technology, and the Innovation and Technology Commission of the Hong Kong SAR Government.

From 2023 to 2025, the programme will admit 100 Hong Kong students who possess excellent academic results and good moral character, and who have an offer from a Chinese Mainland university to study a science or engineering subject at undergraduate level.

Successful candidates will be given a cash grant of HK\$40,000 per year for the total period of undergraduate study to cover tuition fees and living expenses. They will participate in research and study tours, which include visiting key scientific research centres and sci-tech innovation enterprises in the Chinese Mainland, and have the opportunity to engage with renowned scientists, technology entrepreneurs and heads of scientific research institutions.

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The students will also take part in summer internships and the programme will provide subsidised internship opportunities in scientific research institutions or sci-tech innovation enterprises.

“Swire has a long-standing tradition of supporting young people in Hong Kong through education. As we keep up with the times, we wanted to introduce an initiative that will cultivate future innovation and technology professionals,” said Guy Bradley, Chairman of John Swire & Sons (H.K.) Limited.

“Sci-tech innovation is booming in the Chinese Mainland, and the quality of teaching in this field is constantly going up. Through our programme, we expect to provide more opportunities and resources for young people in Hong Kong, helping them develop their skills in sci-tech innovation. As such, they will be able to make greater contributions to transforming Hong Kong into an international innovation and technology centre, as well as facilitating the city’s integration into the country’s overall development,” added Mr Bradley.

Dr Zhang Yaqin, Dean of the Institute for AI Industry Research of Tsinghua University (AIR) and a Fellow of the Chinese Academy of Engineering (CAE), has been appointed as the programme’s Chief Scientist. As one of the two chairpersons of the Selection Committee, Dr Zhang will guide the selection process and will offer guidance to the successful candidates.

“I’m delighted to see that the Swire Group has launched this programme with the aim of motivating and inspiring young people in Hong Kong to devote themselves to the cause of sci-tech innovation for the good of Hong Kong and the whole country. I also hope that young students in Hong Kong will proactively respond to the call for historical responsibility, stay agile, carry out scientific research that truly serves humanity, and fully leverage their talents in the vast space provided by the country for scientific and technological development,” said Dr Zhang.

Applications for the 2023 programme are open from 16th June to 15th August. Applicants should hold a valid Hong Kong permanent ID card and a valid Mainland Travel Permit for Hong Kong and Macao Residents, and have been admitted to a bachelor’s programme in a science or engineering subject at a Chinese Mainland university.

For more details on the application process, please visit [Swire’s website](#).

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## Media Information

### Notes to editors:

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Image	Description
	<p>(From left) Liu Maozhou, Deputy Director General Level Inspector of the Department of Education and Technology of the Liaison Office of the Central People’s Government in the Hong Kong SAR; Arthur Au, Deputy Commissioner for Innovation and Technology of the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region; Clarence Leung, Under Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs of the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region; Lillian Cheong, Under Secretary for Innovation, Technology and Industry of the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region; Yu Bin, Deputy Director General Level Inspector of the Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan Office of the Ministry of Education; Zhang Zhuoping, Chairman of John Swire &amp; Sons (China) Limited; The Hon Chan Kwok-ki, Chief Secretary for Administration of the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region; Yin Zonghua, Deputy Director of the Liaison Office of the Central People’s Government in the Hong Kong SAR; Guy Bradley, Chairman of John Swire &amp; Sons (H.K.) Limited; Dr Zhang Yaqin, Chief Scientist of the “Hong Kong Young Technology and Innovation Talent” programme and Dean of the Institute for AI Industry Research of Tsinghua University; Lu Pingli, Expert of the Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan Office of the China Association for Science and Technology; Augustus Tang, Director of John Swire &amp; Sons (H.K.) Limited; Su Yujun, Director of the Beijing Office of the Liaison Office of the Central People’s Government in the Hong Kong SAR and Titus Diu, Director of John Swire &amp; Sons (China) Limited attended the launch ceremony of the “Hong Kong Young Technology and Innovation Talent” programme.</p>

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Guy Bradley, Chairman of John Swire & Sons (H.K.) Limited, delivered welcome remarks at the launch ceremony.



Dr Zhang Yaqin, Chief Scientist of the “Hong Kong Young Technology and Innovation Talent” programme and Dean of the Institute for AI Industry Research of Tsinghua University delivered keynote speech at the forum.

### About Swire Group

The Swire Group is a highly diversified global corporation, with businesses encompassing property, beverages and food chain, aviation, marine, as well as trading and industrial activities. Its core businesses are mainly focused on Asia, with its key operations in Hong Kong and the Chinese Mainland. Within Asia, Swire's activities primarily come under the Group's publicly quoted arm, Swire Pacific Limited (HKSE: 00019/00087), which is the largest shareholder in two Hong Kong listed companies: Swire Properties and Cathay Pacific Airways.

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For media enquiries, please contact:

Agnes Yeung  
Manager Group Public Affairs  
Tel: (852) 2840 8077 / (852) 9102 7163  
Email: [agnesyeung@jsshk.com](mailto:agnesyeung@jsshk.com)