

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

To: Local News / Education / Arts & Culture / Feature Editors

2 pages (with an Appendix)



Hong Kong Art School - Appointment of Dr. CHEUNG Ping Kuen, MH, as Director

Hong Kong, 25 August 2015 – Hong Kong Arts Centre, together with Hong Kong Art School (a division of Hong Kong Arts Centre), is pleased to announce the appointment of Dr. Cheung Ping Kuen, MH as Director of Hong Kong Art School, effective 1 September 2015.

Dr. Cheung is a respected arts educator and a senior arts practitioner in Hong Kong. With over 40 years of relevant experience, Dr. Cheung has proven his genuine passion, unique insight and solid commitment towards the local arts field. As the Director of the Hong Kong Art School, Dr. Cheung will be responsible for the course development, the direction, the overall strategic planning, the management and the promotion of the Hong Kong Art School.

Mr. Nelson Leong, Chairman of Hong Kong Arts Centre, welcomes the appointment of Dr. Cheung and reconfirmed the importance of the Hong Kong Art School, "Arts education is one of the most important focuses of the Hong Kong Arts Centre. Our education arm, the Hong Kong Art School, is established for this reason and has grown into an arts institute offering comprehensive programmes ranging from short course, diploma, bachelor degree, professional diploma to master degree. More than 2,000 students have graduated from our award-bearing programmes and over 25,000 students have been nurtured through our short courses. We are very honoured and encouraged to have Dr. Cheung join us as the School Director of the Hong Kong Art School. With his rich experience in education and his energetic personality, we look forward to Dr. Cheung taking the Hong Kong Art School to higher levels of academic excellence."

Mr. Sebastian Law, Chairman of Hong Kong Art School Council, is very delighted about the appointment of Dr. Cheung, "It is anticipated that Dr. Cheung, with his expertise in the field, will guide the School to stride towards another brilliant stage of development. Dr. Cheung will also work closely with Mr. Fumio Nanjo, Art Education International Director of the School as well as a worldly acclaimed art curator. Together, they will for certain be enhancing the academic and the artistic prospect of the School both locally and on an international basis."

Dr. Cheung obtained his B.A., M.Phil. and Ph.D. degrees at the Chinese University of Hong Kong. Before joining Hong Kong Art School, he was the Head of Liberal Arts Studies at the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts, and he served as the Acting Chair of the School of Chinese Opera there in the academic year 2013-14. Dr. Cheung was the Programme Director of Independent Learning Centre (Chinese Section) at the Chinese University of Hong Kong prior to his service at the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts from 2003 to 2015.

For a fuller profile and other achievements of Dr. Cheung, please refer to the **<Appendix>** attached.

<End>

Media Enquiry

Ms. LAW Chung Foon — Manager (Communication & Development), Hong Kong Art School

Tel: 2824 5370 | Email: cflaw@hkac.org.hk

About Hong Kong Art School

Hong Kong Art School (HKAS), founded in 2000, is a division of the Hong Kong Arts Centre (HKAC). Closely associated with HKAC's environment of cultural venues, client art groups and creative enterprises, HKAS offers a unique setting for students to draw on a vast spectrum of artistic practices.

HKAS is an accredited institute staffed by a group of dedicated artists, who are active and distinguished practitioners in the field. The focus of HKAS award-bearing curriculum lies in four core academic areas, namely, Fine Art, Applied Art, Media Art, and Applied Theatre & Drama Education, and its scope covers programmes with academic levels ranging from Higher Diploma, Professional Diploma, Bachelor Degree to Master Degree. The short courses and the outreach projects of the School that run parallel to the award-bearing curriculum span an even wider variety of artistic disciplines, and they genuinely bridge art and the community. www.hkas.edu.hk

<Appendix> to Press Release

Hong Kong Art School - Appointment of Dr. CHEUNG Ping Kuen, MH, as Director

Supplementary Profile of Dr. CHEUNG Ping Kuen, MH

Dr. Cheung has long been dedicating his support to the development of the local arts scene, and he has been taking up various advisory roles in the industry. He was appointed as a member of Hong Kong Arts Development Council from 1996 to 2007; while serving as the Chairman of the Drama Committee throughout the twelve-year appointment period, he was also the Chairman of Arts Support Committee from 2005 to 2007. Besides, Dr. Cheung is currently the Chairman of Art Form Panel on Theatre, Leisure and Cultural Services Department, and he was a Member of Cantonese Opera Advisory Committee, Home Affairs Bureau from 2004 to 2014.

Being active in promoting performing arts in Hong Kong, Dr. Cheung is the founding Chairman of the Hong Kong Drama/Theatre and Education Forum. He is also one of the founders of the Amity Drama Club, an established drama society in Hong Kong. He was involved in the productions by the Hong Kong Repertory Theatre, the Shatin Theatre Company, the Exploration Theatre and the Theatre Horizonte.

Moreover, Dr. Cheung is devoted to liberal arts, literary study and arts critique. He is currently the Chairman of the International Association of Theatre Critics (Hong Kong). He is the author of On Huang Tingjian's Circle of Friends and his Poems, published by the Chinese University Press in 1978, as well as the editor of a number of books and journals on theatre arts and related reviews, including Hong Kong Drama Review vols. 1-4, A Narrative History of Hong Kong Drama from the Thirties to Sixties, Restless Youth: Hong Kong Plays from the 1970s, and After the Fireworks: Hong Kong Drama Scripts 1998. He is also the co-author of The APPLE Method – an illustration of drama-in-education workshop, Reading Drama – appreciation of 20 drama excerpts, and Reading Dramatic – appreciation of 20 literary pieces with a pair of drama glasses, all works are published by the Education Bureau, with an aim to help enhance the role of drama education in the formal curriculum.

As a recognition of his long-term contribution to the arts development in Hong Kong, Dr. Cheung was awarded a Medal of Honour by the Government of Hong Kong SAR in 2002.