

**For Immediate Release**

**30 secondary students selected for the inaugural  
Gifted Education Fund Programme: Maritime History and Curating  
funded by the Gifted Education Fund, Education Bureau**

**Hong Kong, 2 November 2021** – The Hong Kong Maritime Museum (HKMM) offers an advanced learning programme *Maritime History and Curating* to gifted secondary students. Supported by the Gifted Education Fund, the 6-month programme aims to enhance students' knowledge in maritime history, as well as their skills in research, curating and installing exhibitions.

Through a rigorous selection process, 30 secondary students were admitted to the programme in July 2021. The students engaged in an intensive lecture programme and practicum led by a panel of museum professionals, scholars, EDB curriculum development officers and former secondary school principals. These experts include Dr. Stephen Davies, former Museum Director of the Hong Kong Maritime Museum; Prof. Lau Chi-pang, Associate Vice President of the Lingnan University; Prof. Joseph Ting, former Chief Curator of Hong Kong Museum of History; Ms. Lee Pak-lan, former Principal of HKFYG Lee Shau Kee College; Prof. Joost Schokkenbroek, Museum Director of the Hong Kong Maritime Museum; and more.

“The programme has successfully transformed the museum into an enthusiastic and interactive classroom. It is our goal to provide students with a cross-disciplinary learning experience, in which they can acquire and apply knowledge of maritime history, skills of presentation and academic writing to their studies and future endeavours,” says Prof. Joost Schokkenbroek, Museum Director of the Hong Kong Maritime Museum.

Through the lectures, students learnt topics in underwater archaeology, maritime trade and history in Asia and the world, made connections between the Chinese History curricula and the HKMM's permanent collection, and sharpened skills in research, curating and academic writing. The practicum focused on training students in exhibition curation, budget planning and storytelling.

Ng Hoi Yan from Pooi To Middle School joined the programme because maritime trade history is rarely taught in schools. “I became more aware of history after the programme. History is like a gem buried in the dust of time. The process of uncovering historical truths from artefacts is like unearthing and polishing these gems. This programme showed me the stories behind different artefacts and helped me cultivate a deeper understanding about how history can be uncovered,” says Ng.

From August 2021 onwards, the students will get hands-on with curating their exhibitions, under the mentorship of 20 university student mentors from the humanities and science disciplines. The students will develop ship models using 3D printing and put together docent scripts. These exhibitions will be presented in the form of a competition in December 2021, judged by professional advisors, external adjudicators and members of the museum's Education Committee. The graduation ceremony will be held in January 2022.

Another student of the programme, Tang Hei Man from Pope Paul VI College, saw curatorial work in

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a new light through the programme. “The lectures about curating allowed me to see the innovative elements put in exhibitions by curators. Museums used to give me a solemn and static impression, but this course has changed my view. I am surprised to learn about the workload of a curator. It is not easy to curate an exhibition, it is more dynamic than just doing research,” says Tang.

**Download Images:** <https://bit.ly/hkmmgiftedprog>

### **Gifted Education Fund Programme: Maritime History and Curating**

Duration: July 2021 – January 2022

Participants: 30 secondary students selected from 54 applications

Organisers: Hong Kong Maritime Museum in partnership with the Education Bureau

More info.: <https://www.hkmaritimemuseum.org/gifted-education-fund>

### **About Hong Kong Maritime Museum**

The Hong Kong Maritime Museum (HKMM) is founded by members of the Hong Kong Shipowners Association to help Hong Kong residents and visitors to the city explore its unique maritime heritage. HKMM is an independent, non-profit registered charity supported by the shipping industry, the business community, individuals, and the Hong Kong SAR Government. The HKMM is a cultural institution that tells the stories of Hong Kong’s relationship with the sea, including the trades between Hong Kong and the Pearl River Delta and the World, and the vital roles played by so many ships in those stories.

The Museum opened its door to the public at Murray House in Stanley in 2005 and relocated to beautifully situated Central Pier No. 8 in the heart of the Central Harbour Waterfront in 2013. Today the Museum displays over 1,200 objects in 15 galleries. The HKMM also houses various event spaces for rent, a resource centre, its rooftop (social enterprise) Café 8 which enjoys wonderful harbour views, and a gift shop. The HKMM engages with the community of Hong Kong by providing education and public programming to schools, community groups and families.

[www.hkmaritimemuseum.org](http://www.hkmaritimemuseum.org)

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