

VTC and IBM announce collaboration to promote digital skills training in Hong Kong

IBM SkillsBuild for Job Seekers Programme to help IVE and Youth College students acquire skills for the future

Hong Kong, December 5, 2021 - The Vocational Training Council (VTC) and IBM (NYSE: IBM) announced in a signing ceremony last Tuesday, 30 November that they will jointly promote digital skills training in Hong Kong. Under the collaboration, students of the Hong Kong Institute of Vocational Education (IVE) and Youth College can acquire the latest digital skills, such as Artificial Intelligence, Blockchain, Cloud Computing and Data Science, through the online learning and career readiness platform IBM SkillsBuild for Job Seekers to users. Badges will be awarded to students upon successful completion of the courses. Workplace skills and experience sharing will also be offered by IBM Hong Kong to help students enhance their human-centric, professional skills, such as collaboration, presentation and problem solving, nurturing digital ready talent for Hong Kong.

The signing ceremony was held at the Innovation & Technology Co-creation Centre of IVE (Morrison Hill), where Dr Joseph LEUNG, Academic Director of VTC Information Technology Discipline and Kitty WONG, General Manager, IBM Hong Kong signed the collaboration agreement. Tony TAI, VTC Chairman, remarked in his speech that VTC becomes IBM's first partnering education institute on IBM SkillsBuild for Job Seekers in Hong Kong, enabling IVE and Youth College students to enroll on the online courses in the platform programme to reinforce their digital skills starting from this academic year.

The collaboration is part of IBM's groundbreaking global plan to provide 30 million people of all ages with new skills needed for the jobs of tomorrow by 2030. Kitty WONG, General Manager of IBM Hong Kong said, "The partnership with VTC is part of this commitment, and I am delighted to collaborate with VTC, the largest vocational and professional education and training provider in Hong Kong, to launch a local version of the IBM SkillsBuild for Job Seekers programme to help students build skills for the future. As Hong Kong is accelerating its transformation into an innovation and technology hub and its integration into the Greater Bay Area, the collaboration with VTC can play an important role in nurturing talent for Hong Kong."

IBM SkillsBuild is an online learning programme for digital skills training covering such areas as Artificial Intelligence, Blockchain, Cloud Computing, Data Science, Cybersecurity, Internet of Things (IoT), etc. Over 1,000 no-cost online courses at different levels are offered in languages like English, Chinese, French, German, Japanese and Spanish, for people around the world to learn at their own interest and pace. Each topic is supported with learning materials such as videos, scenario based practices and quizzes to cater for students' learning needs step by step. Students can self-evaluate their career interests and strength through the platform. When they complete the courses, students will be awarded with digital badges by IBM that are recognised by the IT industry and other employers worldwide.

Starting from this academic year, IVE and Youth College students of Higher Diploma or Diploma of Vocational Education programmes from different disciplines will have an opportunity to enroll on the IBM SkillsBuild online courses to enrich their knowledge on new technologies. In addition, experts from IBM Hong Kong will share with IVE and Youth College students the latest application of digital technology and workplace skills, to help them better understand the industry trends. Through the partnership and exchanges, VTC and IBM will train up the digital skills of young people and nurture talent for the future development of Hong Kong.

Besides, IBM will provide support to the VTC teaching staff through introducing different online courses available at IBM SkillsBuild, and facilitating teaching staff to analyse students' performance to optimise the learning outcomes.

A student from the IVE Higher Diploma Programme of Information Technology Discipline spoke of the experience with IBM

SkillsBuild for Job Seekers, especially on how the programme offers digital skills training highly relevant to tech job roles in many industries, and covers some up-and-coming subjects like Cybersecurity, Artificial Intelligence, IoT, etc. The platform also offers practical training scenarios which reflect industry needs, brushing up students' professional skills in design thinking and project management. Students can access the online programme anytime and anywhere, developing their practical workplace skills at their own schedules flexibly.

About VTC

Established in 1982, the Vocational Training Council (VTC) is the largest vocational and professional education and training provider in Hong Kong. The mission of VTC is to provide a valued choice to school leavers and working people to acquire the values, knowledge and skills for lifelong learning and enhanced employability, and also to provide support to industries for their manpower development. VTC has 13 member institutions, namely the Technological and Higher Education Institute of Hong Kong (THEi), the Institute of Professional Education And Knowledge (PEAK), the School for Higher and Professional Education (SHAPE), the Hong Kong Institute of Vocational Education (IVE), the Hong Kong Design Institute (HKDI), the Hotel and Tourism Institute (HTI), the Chinese Culinary Institute (CCI), the International Culinary Institute (ICI), the Maritime Services Training Institute (MSTI), Youth College, Pro-Act by VTC, the Integrated Vocational Development Centre (IVDC) and the Shine Skills Centre.

Website: www.vtc.edu.hk

About IBM & Education

IBM's commitment to education has long been core to its corporate social responsibility initiatives. Ten years ago, IBM launched its P-TECH programme, a revolutionary public education model designed to address the high-tech skills gap. Additionally, the company has created upskilling and reskilling programmes for community members in every stage of their learning journeys. These teach technical skills for job roles that involve cybersecurity, quantum computing, cognitive AI, design thinking, and digital marketing. They also offer human-centered professional workplace proficiencies for resume building, collaboration, presentation, time management – even mindfulness. IBM offers these with a mix of hands-on and virtual programmes to reach people wherever they are globally.

About IBM

For more information about IBM Hong Kong, please visit www.ibm.com/hk and the Facebook page at www.facebook.com/IBMHongKong.

News Photos:



Dr Joseph LEUNG, Academic Director of VTC Information Technology Discipline (Left) and Kitty WONG, General Manager, IBM Hong Kong (Right) sign the collaboration agreement on promoting digital skills training in Hong Kong.



VTC and IBM sign the collaboration agreement to nurture talent with digital skills. (From left) Dr Joseph LEUNG, Academic Director of VTC Information Technology Discipline, Carrie YAU, VTC Executive Director, Tony TAI, VTC Chairman, Kitty WONG, General Manager, IBM Hong Kong, Donald TONG, VTC Executive Director Designate, Dr Eric LIU, VTC Deputy Executive Director and Helen WONG, Director of Innovation and Technology Co-creation Centre.



Tony TAI, VTC Chairman, remarks in his speech that IVE and Youth College students could enroll on the online courses on IBM SkillsBuild for Job Seekers to reinforce their digital skills starting from this academic year.



VTC and IBM Collaboration on Talent Nurturing

Launching Ceremony of IBM SkillsBuild

30 November 2021



Kitty WONG, General Manager, IBM Hong Kong is delighted to collaborate with VTC helping students build skills for the future.



Guests visit the Innovation & Technology Co-creation Centre of IVE (Morrison Hill) after the ceremony to learn more about the collaborative projects between IVE and industry partners.

<https://hongkong.newsroom.ibm.com/news-releases?item=122377>