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CHINA DAILY

香港版
HONG KONG

中國日報

WEDNESDAY, July 26, 2023

www.chinadailyhk.com HK \$10



Hong Kong Chief Secretary for Administration Eric Chan Kwok-ki (third from right in front row) attends the send-off ceremony for students participating in the Young Astronaut Training Camp 2023 at the Hong Kong Space Museum on Tuesday. ANDY CHONG / CHINA DAILY

SAR students going to astronaut camp

By MIKE GU in Hong Kong
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Thirty Hong Kong secondary students will embark on a journey to experience the country's achievements in space science and technology.

During the eight-day Young Astronaut Training Camp 2023, they will visit key space observation sites, cutting-edge facilities and have face-to-face communication with space experts.

The camp is the 12th of its kind. This year's activity will run from July 29 to Aug 5, during which the students will go to three mainland cities — Beijing, Dunhuang in Gansu province and Xi'an in Shaanxi province.

The students will visit sites such as the Technology and Engineering Center for Space Utilization of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, the National Astronomical Observatories and Lenghu Mars town in Qinghai province.

They will also experience a rocket launch and view space sta-

tion work with virtual reality technologies, participate in astronomy science and manned space science lectures, and take rocket model production courses.

The Leisure and Cultural Services Department of the Hong Kong government and the Chinese General Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong have organized the camp since 2009, with about 330 Hong Kong students having participated.

Eric Chan Kwok-ki, Hong Kong's chief secretary for administration, encouraged all the young campers to seize this opportunity to follow the example of the country's space heroes.

He added that during the short recruitment period of less than one month, the SAR government has received 120 application forms and selected 30 students.

Timothy Ho, curator of the Hong Kong Space Museum, said that each middle school in Hong Kong has the right to nominate two students, after which three rounds of selection will be con-

ducted.

Jonathan Choi, chairman of the Chinese General Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong, said that China's space industry is developing in full swing. He hoped trainees in the camp will have an opportunity to become real astronauts someday and contribute to space development in the SAR and the Chinese mainland.

Ngai Yiu-tung, a student in the camp from Christina Alliance Cheng Wing Gee College, said that this is a great opportunity for the youth to experience the rapid development of the country. He said he has decided to major in space engineering and hopes his dream of going into space will come true one day.

Lui Pui-ying, a student from Po Leung Kuk Mrs Ma Kam Ming-Chung Fok Sien College, said that she admires Yang Liwei most among all the astronauts. She added that the camp will definitely be an unforgettable experience for her.

First satellite manufacturing plant set up

By WILLIAM XU in Hong Kong
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Hong Kong inaugurated its first commercial satellite production plant on Tuesday, which is expected to produce at least 200 commercial satellites per year.

Experts said the plant will provide a strong boost to the city's advanced manufacturing, scientific research and education sectors, as well as provide more high-end jobs for talented individuals both from home and abroad.

The ASPACE Hong Kong Satellite Manufacturing Center, built by a local commercial aerospace enterprise, Hong Kong Aerospace Technology Group (HKATG), spans an area of about 18,580 square meters at the Advanced Manufacturing Centre in Teung Kwan O.

With over 200 sets of sophisticated in-built manufacturing devices, the center is targeting an annual output of at least 200 commercial satellites, weighing from 30 kilograms to 100 metric tons, said Sun Fengquan, co-chairman and chief executive officer of HKATG, at the facility's opening ceremony.

The satellites are designed for a variety of commercial uses, including optical and radar remote sensing, communication, and navigation, Sun said.

He said the plant's inauguration marks an important step in the development of Hong Kong's aerospace industry and precise manufacturing, which are both highlighted in the city's future development road map.

Sun also highlighted some of the advantages that Hong Kong offers to the satellite business, including the city's global influence and reputation for technological innovation, as well as its low tax rate. Additionally, he noted that Hong Kong's talent attraction policies are also a pull factor for professionals from all over the world to join the industry.

Sun underscored that many countries and regions have included the aerospace industry in their



Company employees control a robotic arm to produce satellite components at the ASPACE Hong Kong Satellite Manufacturing Center on Tuesday. WILLIAM XU / CHINA DAILY

development strategies. Seeing a huge demand for satellites in the private sector, he said he expects the market size of HKATG to reach \$30 billion by 2027.

As a commercial aerospace enterprise focusing on satellite network engineering and precise satellite manufacturing, HKATG has provided satellite services including weather analysis, air and water pollution monitoring and traffic management in different regions in China, such as Hong Kong and Shandong province, with its low-orbit satellite constellation, Golden Bauhinia.

Revealing that the HKATG also plans to build a satellite launching center, Sun said the group aims to provide a one-stop solution that incorporates satellites' manufacturing, testing, launching, managing and data analysis in the future, which will reduce the company's costs of producing satellites and providing associated data services by 20 percent, he added.

During the opening ceremony, HKATG signed memorandums of understanding with several local and overseas partners, including Nigeria's National Space Research and Development Agency and Spain's Celestia Aerospace.

Gloria Garcia-Cuadrado, CEO of

Celestia Aerospace, said that her company plans to work with HKATG on satellite launches and geographical observation missions. She said Hong Kong is a business-oriented and open-minded city, and she expects to exchange more experiences with counterparts in Hong Kong to strengthen the competitiveness of both sides.

Peter Lui, president of Hong Kong Aerospace Society, told China Daily that the aerospace industry covers a wide spectrum of areas, including high-end equipment manufacturing and scientific research and education, and there are close links between the different areas. The completion of this factory will boost Hong Kong's development in all these areas, he said.

Lui noted that the factory can also offer opportunities to local students who aspire to engage in the civil aerospace field. It will serve as a reminder to them that, instead of having to pursue their career outside Hong Kong, they will also be able to find good opportunities in the city to unleash their potential, Lui said.

A growing satellite manufacturing industry can also serve as an incentive to attract more global talents to Hong Kong, he added.