HKU Faculty of Dentistry launches Centre for Innovation in Dental Education

The HKU Faculty of Dentistry has established the Centre for Innovation in Dental Education (CIDE) as its new virtual hub for curriculum innovation and research.

The CIDE website, accessible at <http://facdent.hku.hk/learning/cide_index.html>, allows educators, researchers, and the public to view information on the Faculty’s curriculum development, educational consultancies, and related news, publications, awards, and upcoming events.

The official Launch Ceremony of CIDE took place on 28 February 2011 at the Prince Philip Dental Hospital, and was attended by 50 guests, including Guest-of-Honour Professor Amy BM Tsui, HKU Pro-Vice-Chancellor and Vice-President (Teaching and Learning); Professor Lakshman Samaranayake, HKU Dean of Dentistry; Dr Cynthia KY Yiu, CIDE Co-Director and the Faculty’s Associate Dean for Undergraduate Education; and Dr Susan Bridges, CIDE Co-Director and the Faculty’s Assistant Dean for Curriculum Development.

Professor Tsui praised the Faculty for establishing CIDE, and for its devotion to innovation in dental education, especially in preparing for the final phase of Hong Kong’s 3-3-4 curriculum reform in 2012, when university undergraduate programmes will be extended by 1 year.

“The Faculty of Dentistry has a strong reputation for its commitment to high-quality teaching and learning. Its response to the 3-3-4 curriculum reform and active engagement in curriculum and pedagogical renewal have been exemplary,” Professor Tsui said. “The setting up of the CIDE hub by the Faculty is strategic and timely. Not only will it take teaching and learning within the Faculty to new heights, it will also provide a platform for cross-fertilisation of innovative ideas and practices — something that is much needed in an era of higher education reform.”
Professor Samaranayake also commented on the timeliness and significance of the online hub, saying: “Our Faculty is unique in Asia, having fully integrated problem-based learning in our curriculum for 12 years. We’ve gained an unparalleled reputation as a leader in dental education and innovation, so it’s fitting that with our vast amount of experience gained, and in HKU’s Centenary year, we’ve decided to launch our CIDE platform to exchange knowledge and best practices with educators in the region and internationally.”

Regarding the 3-3-4 curriculum reform in 2012, when the HKU undergraduate dental degree programme will last 6 years instead of 5 years, Professor Samaranayake added, “Our University has taken the 3-3-4 educational reform as an opportunity to re-examine its whole undergraduate curriculum. Our Faculty has likewise taken the opportunity to plan very carefully our new 6-year curriculum slated for 2012 – both to help students transition from school to university and to fully align our goals with those of HKU. CIDE will be invaluable in organising and documenting our programme planning, training, implementation, and evaluation. It will also help us continue to nurture an innovative, collaborative, and supportive spirit among our educators, in addition to showcasing our scholarship in teaching and learning. I’m glad to be able to entrust CIDE to its two Co-Directors, Dr Cynthia Yiu and Dr Susan Bridges.”

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For more information about the HKU Faculty of Dentistry, visit <http://facdent.hku.hk>.

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