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PolyU establishes first Asia Pacific chapter of Eta Sigma Delta

The School of Hotel and Tourism Management (HTM) of The Hong Kong Polytechnic University (PolyU) has swept another honour by being the first institution in Asia to establish a local Chapter of Eta Sigma Delta (ESD) - a prestigious international society that unites institutions with exceptional academic achievement among hospitality and tourism students. ESD is administered by the renowned International Council on Hotel, Restaurant and Institutional Education (I-CHRIE).

"It is an honour for HTM to be granted the approval to set up the local Chapter of Eta Sigma Delta," said Prof. Kaye Chon, Chair Professor and Head of HTM, who is also the President of I-CHRIE for the Asia Pacific Chapter. "Being the first institution in Asia to be awarded such a privilege, we are committed to lead other institutions around the region to excel in the professional training of hospitality and tourism."

PolyU's HTM students - both full-time and part-time - who have completed 50 per cent of the credit hours required for graduation and have a cumulative GPA of 3.5 or above are eligible to apply for membership.

By becoming members of Eta Sigma Delta, students are able to distinguish themselves in the eyes of educators, recruiters and industry executives. The ESD provides a network system of over 90 chapters for outstanding students to exchange information and ideas, and help them join forces on campus activities, fundraising and voluntary programs. By functioning as a resource for the hospitality programs, ESD chapters can also provide tutoring or other forms of academic support for students needing assistance. It also serves as a stimulus for students to strive for academic excellence.

I-CHRIE is a non-profit professional organisation in hospitality and tourism education. The organisation aims to unite scholars and practitioners with exceptional achievement in hospitality and tourism. In recent years, I-CHRIE has expanded and evolved into an agent to facilitate the exchange of market information, research, products and services related to education, training and resource development for the hospitality and tourism industry.

About PolyU's School of Hotel and Tourism Management

Established in 1979 as the Department of Institutional Management and Catering Studies and later renamed to the School of Hotel and Tourism Management in 2001, the School has groomed around 10,000 students for the hospitality industry. Every year, over 1,000 students are recruited on taught and research programmes, ranging from Higher Diploma, Bachelor's and Master's Degrees, to Professional Doctorates. The School has over 40 academic staff with expertise on all aspects of hotel, food and beverage services and tourism management.

The School is the only one in Asia, which has been designated by the World Tourism Organisation, as one of the 16 Education and Training Network Centres. In 2002, the School was designated as the world headquarters and Secretariat of the prestigious International Academy for the Study of Tourism.

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