



## Launch Ceremony of the Third Biennial of the China-Europa Forum at the Hong Kong Polytechnic University



On 3 October 2008 the Third Biennial of the China-Europa Forum was launched at the Hong Kong Polytechnic University. Pierre Calame, President of the China-Europa-Forum Foundation, Professor Suleyman Demokan, Vice-President of the Hong Kong Polytechnic University, Professor Angelina Yuen, the Hong Kong Polytechnic University Associate Vice-President, Head of Applied Social Sciences and Chairman of the China-Europa Forum China Committee, and Dr Yu Shuo, General Coordinator of the China-Europa Forum, attended the ceremony together with more than 40 representatives from the Office of the Commissioner of the Ministry of Civil Affairs of the People's Republic of China in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, Chinese and foreign guests, scholars and journalists.

Mr Calame and professors Suleyman Demokan and Angelina Yuen addressed the audience. Professor Demokan said it was an honour to co-organize the Third Biennial Meeting of the Forum in Hong Kong PolyU in July 2009. He believed that hosting such a society-to-society dialogue between China and Europe, in Hong Kong - the international city of East-West cultural exchanges - would be most appropriate.

Mr Calame presented the China-Europa Forum as a long-term, innovative dialogue process between European and Chinese societies. It was interspersed with biennial meetings, at which reports were drawn up, held alternately in China and Europe. The First Biennial Meeting was held in Nansha, South China, in 2005 and the second in Europe in 2007. The China-Europa Forum aimed to enhance communication and understanding between citizens of different societies in order to eliminate misunderstanding and fears, and to build together a pluralistic and harmonious world community.

Professor Angelina Yuen told guests that the Third Biennial Meeting of Forum would consist of two main parts. First, in July 2009, dozens of sector workshops would be organized around China, and second, those who participated in the workshops would attend the biennial meeting of the Forum at PolyU from 22 to 24 July 2009.

At the press conference after the ceremony, Pierre Calame and Professor Angelina Yuen answered questions from reporters representing China Radio International and the Southern Metropolis Daily.

Before the ceremony, Mr Qiu Zhenhai, Hong Kong Phoenix TV commentator, interviewed Pierre Calame, Professor Angelina Yuen, Yu Shuo and Chen Yan, Vice President of the China-Europa Forum Foundation. The interviews were broadcasted last mid-October. A special correspondent for Tianjin TV also interviewed some of the core members of the Forum. The programme has already been broadcast on CCTV Channel 4.