STUDENT HUB



Student Achievement

2nd Runner-Up at the HKUST Talent Quest 2025

We celebrate ZENG Yuqiyu, a Master of Public Policy (MPP) student from HKUST's Division of Public Policy, who has won 2nd Runner-Up at the HKUST Talent Quest 2025, held in celebration of the University's 35th Anniversary. Her standout performance at the event showcases exceptional artistic talent and cultural expression, reflecting the MPP program's spirit of creativity and multicultural engagement.





Throughout the competition, Yuqiyu delivered a captivating performance that embodied passion, cultural heritage, and artistic excellence—qualities that define both outstanding performers and future public policy leaders. This achievement not only honors Yuqiyu but also the vibrant and diverse community of the Division of Public Policy.

PHD Thesis Presentation



Dr. Elizaveta Dorrer

Measuring Normalisation: Facial Recognition Technology in Moscow

Student Activities

Master of Public Policy Analysis Exercise 2025-2026: Advancing the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals through Policy Innovation and Collaboration



The Policy Analysis Exercise (PAE) is an eight-month capstone practicum of the two-year Master of Public Policy (MPP) programme offered by the Division of Public Policy (PPOL) at the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology. Centered on the theme of "Advancing the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs) through Policy Innovation and Collaboration", the 2025/26 PAE embodies the programme's core mission of nurturing future policy leaders who are capable of translating global sustainable development frameworks into concrete, actionable local solutions. In this academic year, MPP students presented their group project outcomes across two parallel sessions during the full-day conference, demonstrating rigorous policy analysis skills and collaborative problem-solving capabilities.

Dr. Marie N. BERNAL from the Division of Public Policy delivered the opening remarks. She introduced the background and positioning of the PAE programme and acknowledged the collective efforts of all academic supervisors, client consultants, partner organisations and participating students. Prof. Kira MATUS of the MPP programme encouraged students to derive practical and implementable insights from their PAE experience. She highlighted that the wide-ranging research topics explored by student teams, including urban climate resilience and urban biodiversity conservation, faithfully mirror the inherent complexity of real-world policy-making and public governance.

The 2025/26 PAE projects were fully supported by an experienced academic supervision team, consisting of Prof. Kira Matus, Prof. Raul P. Lejano, Prof. Masaru Yarime, Prof. Alex He, Prof. James Wong, Prof. Xiaofan Zhao, Dr. Fangxin Francine Yi, and Dr. Michael Tyrala. Under the joint mentorship of academic instructors and professional client advisors from industry and government sectors, MPP students conducted group-based specialised policy research. Their studies primarily explore how policy innovation and cross-sectoral collaboration can facilitate the local implementation and advancement of the UN Sustainable Development Goals in Hong Kong and neighbouring regions. Addressing pressing sustainable development challenges, the projects cover key areas including climate governance and urban resilience building, urban biodiversity preservation, food waste mitigation among small and medium-sized enterprises, and sustainable population development, systematically identifying both opportunities and practical constraints in the delivery of local sustainable development initiatives.

The annual PAE conference serves as a professional platform for practical achievement demonstration and academic exchange. It enables students to apply public policy theories and analytical frameworks acquired from coursework to real-world public governance scenarios, accumulate front-line industry experience, and build professional networks with industry practitioners and potential partners. During the conference, each student group presented their research findings. Closely aligned with the UN SDGs, their studies focus on cutting-edge policy challenges in urban governance, ecological conservation, livelihood improvement, and industrial green transition, featuring diverse analytical perspectives and strong practical relevance. Following each presentation, academic supervisors and client consultants provided professional comments and targeted feedback, offering detailed optimisation suggestions on research frameworks, policy design and implementation feasibility to help students refine and strengthen their project outcomes.



The 2025/26 PAE programme received robust support from senior client consultants across diverse industries in Hong Kong and the Greater Bay Area. Serving as senior management personnel, department heads and core executives in their respective fields, these consultants provided students with valuable industry insights and localized governance experience. The MPP programme has long fostered in-depth industry-academia collaboration with industrial institutions and government bodies. By delivering practical training based on authentic policy issues, the programme empowers students to tackle real-world public governance challenges, contribute evidence-based policy research to regional sustainable development, and effectively advance the localized implementation of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.



Student Activities

2025-2026 PAE Celebration Dinner

As the formal agenda of the PAE final conference came to a successful conclusion, the program specially held a celebratory dinner to mark the perfect completion of this year's practicum project. All participating students, academic supervisors, and faculty members of the division gathered together for this special gathering.

Throughout the dinner, the atmosphere remained relaxed, joyful, and heartwarming. After a full year of dedicated research, intensive preparation, and the high-pressure rhythm of project implementation, everyone finally had the chance to step away from their busy schedules. They greeted one another warmly, catching up freely and enjoying the rare moment of leisure together. The venue was filled with constant laughter and lighthearted conversation.



More than just a celebratory meal, this dinner served as a meaningful gathering that wrapped up the practicum on a positive and heartfelt note. It offered everyone a chance to unwind and connect on a deeper level, strengthening the bonds among students, supervisors, and faculty members. The event not only marked a perfect conclusion to the practicum project but also deepened the cherished relationships built throughout the year, leaving everyone with beautiful, unforgettable memories to carry forward.





PPOL End-of-Year Cocktail Gala 2026

On May 27, 2026, the PPOL program hosted a vibrant End-of-Year Cocktail Gala at the Intercontinental Grand Stanford Hotel in Tsim Sha Tsui, Hong Kong, bringing together students, faculty, and staff to celebrate the conclusion of a remarkable academic year and honor their collective achievements.

Attendees arrived dressed in glamorous and smart attire, ready to enjoy an evening of connection and celebration. A highlight of the night was the instant photo booth, which guests used to capture dazzling keepsake photos against custom-designed backdrops throughout the event. The exciting lucky draws also added an extra layer of fun and anticipation, keeping the energy high from start to finish.





This gathering offered a joyful, relaxed space for the PPOL community to unwind after a year of hard work. It was a chance to step away from academic routines, share memories, and strengthen bonds with one another in a casual, festive setting.

Such events play a vital role in fostering a warm, inclusive community spirit within PPOL. We thank all attendees for joining this memorable night and making the gala a wonderful celebration of our shared journey. The PPOL program will continue to host engaging gatherings to nurture connection and belonging among students, faculty, and alumni.

