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## Stephen Hawking Delivers IAS Inaugural Lecture

Prof Stephen W Hawking, widely considered the most influential scientist of the age, today (15 June 2006) delivers the inaugural lecture of the Institute for Advanced Study (IAS) at the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST).

Entitled "The Origin of the Universe", Prof Hawking's lecture will analyze why we are here and where we came from. It will touch on his famous big bang theorem and many of the other discoveries he has articulated, including the conjecture that the universe has no boundary in imaginary time.

Prof Hawking comments: "I am proud to have been invited by HKUST to deliver the inaugural lecture. HKUST's vision and enthusiasm have made a great impression on me, and I look forward to the IAS making many important contributions to the progress of science and technology in the years to come."

The inauguration of the IAS fulfills a key objective of the [HKUST Strategic Plan 2005-2020](#). It is set to become one of the world's leading research institutions, driving major advances in science and technology on behalf of Hong Kong.

As a premier intellectual center where leading international scholars can work in partnership with top local academics and students, the Institute will build on the University's established strengths in nanotechnology and nanoscience, biotechnology and bioscience, information technology, the environment and sustainable development.

Prof Paul Chu, HKUST President and Founding Director of the IAS, says: "The University is immensely honored to receive Prof Hawking as our guest in Hong Kong. We have been overwhelmed by the public's interest in both his visit with us this week and the launch of the IAS.

"In so willingly joining us, Prof Hawking provides a ringing endorsement of the IAS, and his inaugural lecture will undoubtedly act as a springboard for the Institute to achieve tremendous future success."

Prof Hawking will remain in Hong Kong as a guest of HKUST until Saturday when he will fly to Beijing.

**About HKUST**



The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST) is a leading international research university dedicated to the pursuit of new knowledge in cutting-edge fields and the education of tomorrow's leaders. Opened in 1991, HKUST comprises four Schools: Science, Engineering, Business & Management, and Humanities & Social Science. Faculty and students (5,500 undergraduates and 3,000 postgraduates), come from more than 40 countries and the University has established academic, industry and research partnerships worldwide. High-impact areas include nanotechnology; biotechnology; electronics, wireless and information technology; environment and sustainable development; and management education and research. HKUST is ranked among the world's top 50 universities (*Times Higher Education Supplement*), with the Kellogg-HKUST Executive MBA placed at No.2 globally (*Financial Times*).