

“SmarTone 5G Ednovation Programme” Sets Sail Empowering Schools with 5G Technology Boosting Teaching Efficiency and Inspiring STEM Learning

(Hong Kong, 23 November 2022) SmarTone today announced its new initiative “SmarTone 5G Ednovation Programme” – an endeavor to bring 5G technology into school campuses through integrating education and innovation. In this programme, SmarTone developed diversified 5G solutions that can assist teachers in achieving their educational goals, enhancing teaching efficiency, as well as stimulating students’ passion in STEM learning. Piloting schools include HKSKH Bishop Hall Secondary School, Kowloon Bay St. John The Baptist Catholic Primary School and Man Kwan Pak Kau College.

“SmarTone 5G Ednovation Programme” aims to provide schools with tailor-made smart campus solutions, such as innovative 5G smart learning solutions, as well as smart administration and class management systems. In addition, SmarTone also assisted HKSKH Bishop Hall Secondary School in acquiring funding from the Office of the Communications Authority’s (OFCA) “Subsidy Scheme for Encouraging Early Deployment of 5G” for its “5G Smart Hydroponics Planting System”.

Mr. Norman Tam, Deputy Chief Executive Officer of SmarTone said, “Ever since the launch of 5G services, SmarTone has been enabling corporations on their digitalisation journey by creating endless possibilities in 5G applications. With 5G on campus, students can enjoy innovative learning experiences, such as ‘5G Smart Hydroponics Planting System’ and ‘5G Smart Terrarium’, fostering their interest in STEM education.”

“With 5G smart campus solutions in place, we are expecting a boost in overall quality of teaching and learning, with better teaching efficiency and more interactions in learning. We believe it can stimulate students’ interest in learning about technology and hence nurture more technological talents, which is essential for Hong Kong to become a smart city,” added Mr. Tam.

As the first school to participate in the “SmarTone 5G Ednovation Programme”, HKSKH Bishop Hall Secondary School has implemented a “5G Smart Hydroponics Planting System” on their campus. With multiple sets of 4K cameras and a series of sensors, students can monitor the plant on livestream while the AI analyses water condition, humidity, temperature, etc. to provide advice on how to care for the plants. Another batch of 4K cameras is also set up for real-time system monitoring.

On top of that, the planting system also acts as an extended teaching material to enrich the variety of STEM classes, as well as increase students’ knowledge of planting, and nurturing their awareness of environmental protection and sense of responsibility. Besides, the “5G Power-Saving Classroom” connects IoT equipment to a 5G network, which allows teaching staff to control lighting, ventilation, air-conditioning, as well as AV systems with their mobile phones. In classes, they can also turn the facilities on and off with one switch or control the lighting with gestures.

Mr. Stanley Kam, Principal of HKSKH Bishop Hall Secondary School said, “Under the arrangement by the OFCA, we visited the SmarTone 5G LAB at Sky100 with more than 30 schools to learn how 5G technology improve management efficiency and quality for corporations and schools. Since then, we have been working closely with SmarTone to co-design the most suitable ‘5G Smart Hydroponics Planting System’ for our school, combining SmarTone’s technological expertise and our understanding of campus administration and teaching needs.”

“We believe the application does not only help increase the management efficiency of our school but is also a great demonstration for our students on how technology can improve our daily lives,” added Mr. Kam.

Under the “SmarTone 5G Ednovation Programme”, a “5G Power-Saving Bus Classroom” was also built for Kowloon Bay St. John The Baptist Catholic Primary School, which is a 5G outdoor classroom converted from a bus. With IoT facilities connected to 5G network, the lighting facilities inside the room can be controlled with sensors. The lights will turn on automatically when students or teachers enter. They can also control air conditioners and projectors easily with remote control. Furthermore, SmarTone has provided the school and its students with low latency VR experience, powered by 5G broadband routers that support multi-device connections with the leading Wi-Fi 6 technology.

SmarTone has also built a “5G Smart Terrarium” in Man Kwan Pak Kau College for raising turtles. The facility is equipped with different monitoring devices and sensors, responsible for collecting various real-time data, including water contamination and abnormalities of water level. Working staff can also control lighting and temperature systems with remote control and calculate the concurrent number of views.

SmarTone will continue to collaborate with more schools and organisations in the future to co-develop diverse and innovative 5G smart campus solutions, paving the way for Hong Kong to become a smart city.

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