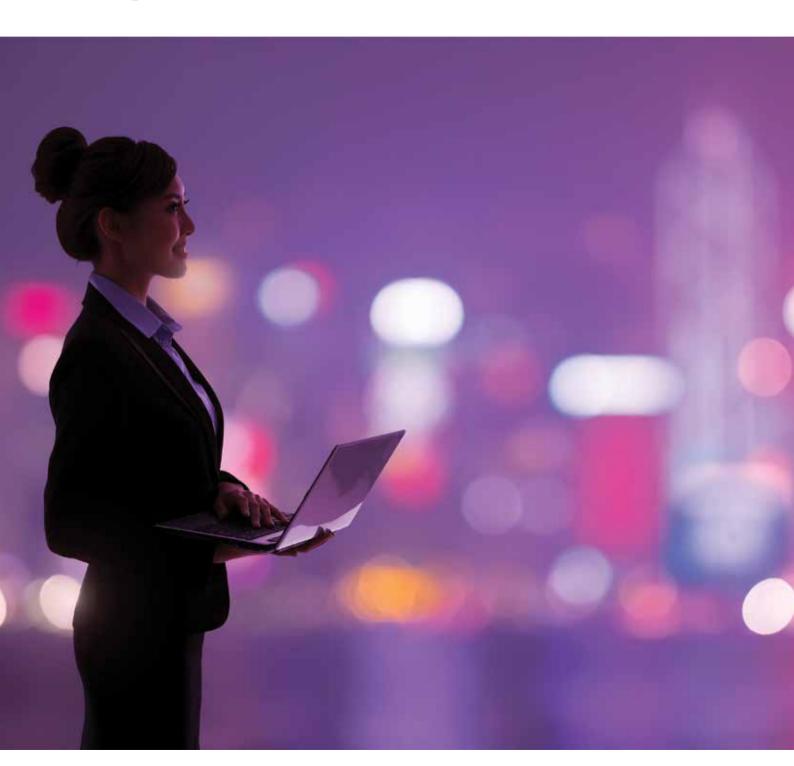# Empowering People

The British Chamber and the Vocational Training Council provide excellent opportunities for IT students and the companies that hire them. – By Emily Chui

Since 2010, the Innovation & Technology Committee of The British Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong and the Vocational Training Council (VTC) have collaborated to offer a training programme for high-calibre Higher Diploma (HD) graduates in the IT discipline of the Hong Kong Institute of Vocational Education (IVE).

This programme is called "Graduate Enhancement Training Scheme for IT" (GETsIT). The objectives of the scheme are:

• To enable companies to contribute to the betterment of Hong Kong society in helping vocational education graduates;

• To provide a well-focused career development opportunity for high calibre HD IT graduates in vocational education to work in various organisation; and

• To foster a strong relationship between the members of The British Chamber and VTC.

At the beginning of this scheme, the training programme lasted for approximately two years. The graduate would be placed with two or three multi-national companies, and would work with each company for a period of six-to-12 months.

At the launch of the programme, the companies involved in the work scheme included Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited (HSBC), China Light & Power (CLP), Atos, British Telecom (BT), Cathay Pacific, Hong Kong Jockey Club and Office of the Government Chief Information Officer (OGCIO), and the jobs were limited to: Network Engineer Trainees and Customer Services Trainees. Approximately 70 graduates benefited from this programme since its launch.

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To allow more flexibility, the training period was expanded in 2016 and provided options for a one-year programme that could be extended another year at the discretion of the company with whom the trainees were working. The trainee-hiring programme was made accessible to all member companies within the Chamber, and the job list expanded to incorporate all types of IT jobs, moving well beyond the original scope of Network Engineer or Customer Services Trainees. Today jobs include Software Engineer Trainee or Web Developer Trainees.

Since the launch of GETsIT, both graduates and the employers have benefited. Graduates use their position to learn new skills and knowledge in the company they work for, while employers use the programme to contribute to the IT industry by providing valuable training opportunities to young people. Finally, companies can then select good candidates for their own workforces by observing the graduates' performance during the training period. B

If you would like to get involved with the GETsIT programme, please contact jennifer@britcham.com

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Established in 1982, the **Vocational Training Council (VTC)** is the largest vocational and professional education and training provider in Hong Kong. VTC provides valuable credentials for some 250,000 students each year through a full range of pre-employment and in-service programmes with internationally recognised qualifications.