

HKU Engineering Students Awarded for Aviation Final-Year Project



The importance of innovation and technology is constantly emphasized in Hong Kong, and HKU strives to encourage its students to adapt to the ever-changing economy. Five students from the Faculty of Engineering joined the 2016 Taiwan Innovative Unmanned Aircraft Design Competition for their final-year project, and were awarded the Aerodynamic Design Award, Outstanding Report Award and First Runner Up in Aircraft Design Group (Electric Motor).

The competition, held since 1999, is jointly organized by National Cheng Kung University, Republic of China Air Force Academy and Aeronautical and Astronautical Society of the Republic of China, with the aim of promoting aerospace education, improving the quality of aircraft designs and enhancing cooperation between the industry and institutes. It has expanded into a prestigious international event attracting over 50 university teams from all over the world. The Design, Build & Fly team of Department of Mechanical Engineering prepared rigorously for half a year under the supervision of Dr. Chan Chi Keung. Although they faced numerous obstacles, they drew inspiration from the founders of aircrafts, the Wright Brothers, to have faith and continue persevering. The canard aircraft they were building was highly sensitive and unstable, and lacking wind tunnels and accurate simulation tools, they could only verify aerodynamic performance through repeatedly crashing and repairing the aircraft. This experience was extremely painful and demanding, yet proved to be rewarding when they discovered how to overcome the stability issue. The competition was extremely fruitful for the participating HKU team as they not only received compliments and recognition, but also exchanged ideas with engineering elites from different universities. The award is a great encouragement for HKU students to continue innovating and shaping the future of the aviation industry.

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