The Secretary for Education, Mr Michael Suen, led a higher education delegation to Hanoi, Vietnam and Brunei Darussalam from April 17 to 21 to promote Hong Kong as a regional education hub. The trip formed part of Hong Kong’s ongoing efforts to promote the city’s education services in Asian countries, following similar visits to Malaysia, Indonesia, Korea, Japan and India last year.

Besides publicising Hong Kong’s initiatives to further internationalise and diversify the higher education sector, the visit also aimed to encourage students in Vietnam and Brunei Darussalam to pursue studies and engage in exchange programmes in Hong Kong. Speaking at a networking luncheon entitled “Nurturing Talents in a Globalised World” in both countries, the Secretary for Education highlighted that the closer collaboration in the education front would achieve a win-win situation for all sides.

Outlining the launch of a ground-breaking education reform in Hong Kong, Mr Suen said, “Hong Kong aspires to be a regional education hub. It is our vision not only to attract and nurture talent for Hong Kong, but also for Asia as a whole. We want to prepare a strong cadre of people who can flourish in this era of regionalisation and globalisation.”

Mr Suen first stopped at Hanoi to meet the Vietnamese Vice Minister of Education and Training, Mr Bui Van Ga; and call on the Chinese Ambassador to Vietnam, Mr Sun Guoxiang. The delegation also toured the Vietnam National University and the United Nations International School Hanoi.

Continuing the visit to Brunei Darussalam, Mr Suen and the delegation met the Acting Minister of Education of Brunei Darussalam, Dato Seri Setia Hj Yusoff Hj Ismail; and the Chinese Ambassador to Brunei Darussalam, Mr Min Yongnian. The delegation then visited the Jerudong International School and the Universiti Brunei Darussalam.

The delegation comprised representatives from the City University of Hong Kong, the Hong Kong Baptist University, the Lingnan University, the Chinese University of Hong Kong, the Hong Kong Institute of Education, the Hong Kong Polytechnic University, the University of Science and Technology and the University of Hong Kong.