<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project Title</th>
<th>Professional Development Platform for Innovation and Entrepreneurship</th>
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<tr>
<td>Leading Institution</td>
<td>City University of Hong Kong</td>
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<td>Participating Institution(s)</td>
<td>The Chinese University of Hong Kong, The University of Hong Kong</td>
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Innovation and entrepreneurship are commonly regarded as the driving forces of economic growth and the development of employment opportunities. However, innovation education is a relatively new and highly complex discipline. Research and experience show that creativity, innovation and entrepreneurship are interrelated but different, and accordingly they must be integrated in a multidisciplinary process. Exactly how this multidisciplinary process can be taught at a university and how it can be related to the practical field are urgent topics in entrepreneurship education and professional development worldwide.

The aim of this project is to develop a web-based professional development platform for innovation and entrepreneurship. The platform will focus on innovation and entrepreneurship disciplines but its scope is much broader than a conventional online education platform since it will move education to practice. Its main objectives as well as uniqueness are as follows.

First, the platform is particularly for innovation and entrepreneurship education instead of being generic like MOOC or Edx. Second, not only will university education and professional development materials be uploaded to the platform website, but upstream education will be expanded to embrace professional development. Teachers and students will join the platform both to learn and to further their professional development by simulating a start-up company. Third, the platform will be designed as a virtual global social network to provide teachers and students with the opportunity to establish a wider team with collaborators outside the university, with a view to expanding the platform to the public in the future. Fourth, the platform will be advisory in nature, as successful entrepreneurs will be invited to
play the role of advisors to give student teams practical experience, which teachers at
the university may not be able to provide. Fifth, the platform will also simulate
investment matching by investors. Finally, the proposed platform will initially be
implemented in an official CityU course on innovation and entrepreneurship
(GE1204), and then gradually rolled out to students and teachers in other universities
and to the general public.

There are quite a few platforms available for online teaching of separated courses, but
an integrated professional platform for simulating teaching and learning innovation
and entrepreneurship from the academic, social networking, industry advisory,
investment matching, intellectual property (IP) protection, has yet to be developed.
The proposed platform has the potential for development into a real-life platform for
start-up companies in the long run, to build Hong Kong into an international hub of IP
trading and technology commercialisation.