

Report on Distinguished Lecture by PROFESSOR MENGCHU ZHOU

1. The name of distinguished lecturer and topic of the lecture

The IEEE Systems, Man and Cybernetics Society Hong Kong Chapter successfully organized two distinguished lectures (DL) given by Prof. MengChu Zhou on November 18 and 19, 2025 at Hong Kong Polytechnic University and Lingnan University, respectively. The topic of the lectures was “**Evolutionary Algorithms Accelerated with Autoencoders for High-dimensional Expensive Optimization Problems and their Applications**”.

2. Date and Venue

The IEEE distinguished lecture was given on November 18 and 19, 2025.

Date	Activities and venue		Hosting team	Funding Resource
November 16	Travel	USA -> Hong Kong	SMC Hong Kong Chapter	SMC
November 18	DL Talk and technical visit and meeting with local researchers	Lingnan University	SMC Hong Kong Chapter	SMC Hong Kong Chapter
November 19	DL Talk and technical visit and meeting with local researchers	Hong Kong Polytechnic University	SMC Hong Kong Chapter	SMC Hong Kong Chapter
November 19	Travel	Hong Kong -> US	SMC Hong Kong Chapter	SMC

3. Impact on the Chapter

[Background] SMC Hong Kong Chapter was established in 2003. For these years, we have appealed SMC activities through inviting talks, organizing many technical sessions at our SMCS-sponsored conferences, and organizing a few workshops.

[Objective] Besides these local activities, we would like to give an impact to our Chapter members and potential Chapter members by inviting an international speaker, providing a distinguished talk, and attracting their interest.

[Impact] We offer various degree programs in many engineering fields at Hong Kong Polytechnic University and some nearby universities and are connected with several industrial sectors. They are closely related with Prof. Zhou’s expertise and a talk mentioned in the above.

Therefore, his talk attracted not only our SMC Chapter members but also students and researchers/engineers from many nearby universities and industrial firms, who were potential members of IEEE and SMCS, increased technical impact in this region, and

contributed to recruiting our new Chapter members. We took the opportunity of this technical event to recruit our new members.

Due to the high profile of the lecturer, this DL attracted an audience of more than 60 IEEE members and non-members from academia and industry. This event significantly advanced research on rapidly developing areas of AI, machine learning, optimization, and their applications to various automated systems, promoted the presence of IEEE SMC in the section, and strongly supported the local SMC chapter.

4. Attendance

This DL given at Hong Kong Polytechnic University, has attracted over 60 IEEE and non-IEEE members across the section as well as many postgraduate research students. Besides, This DL given at Lingnan University, has attracted over 30 IEEE and non-IEEE members across the section as well as many postgraduate research students.

Hong Kong Chapter has provided the sufficient support for Prof. Zhou's successful DLs. We published the related news in IEEE Hong Kong section and plan to submit a newsletter item to IEEE SMC Newsletter for publication.

