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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Sunday, 15 March 2009

### **SCOLAR promotes “lively learning and use of Putonghua” (with photo)**

The Standing Committee on Language Education and Research (SCOLAR) organises eight school and community activities this year to promote “lively learning and use of Putonghua”.

Speaking at the launching ceremony of SCOLAR’s Promotion of Putonghua Activities 2009, SCOLAR Member Mr Hui Sau-yau described these activities as “providing an environment to learn and use Putonghua outside the textbook”.

The activities include singing, public speaking, debating, radio drama and stage drama. To encourage more participation, SCOLAR appointed artiste Alex Fong as the “Ambassador for Promotion of Putonghua 2009” to help in the publicity and to spread the message of “lively learning and use of Putonghua” to the community.

SCOLAR has been organising large-scale activities for students and the community since 2002 to promote Putonghua. This year’s school-based activities include: the “Putonghua Radio Drama Training and Competition” and the “Inter-Varsity Putonghua Debating Competition for Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macau” co-organised with RTHK; the “Putonghua Singing Competition for Primary and Secondary Schools” with the Hong Kong Professional Teachers’ Union; the “Putonghua Public Speaking Competition for Primary and Secondary Schools” with the Cultural and Educational Association of the New Towns; the “Putonghua Training Programme for Student Tourism Ambassadors” with the Hong Kong Community College of Hong Kong Polytechnic University; and the “School-based Putonghua Drama Training Programme” with Prospects Theatre.

For the wider community, SCOLAR will co-organise the “Putonghua Broadcaster Competition” (for public and secondary school students) with RTHK. A radio programme introducing the Putonghua pronunciation of some terms commonly found in economic news will also be broadcast on Metro Radio. The series of activities will be wrapped up with a finale show which will bring this year’s promotion to its climax.

For more details of the promotion of Putonghua activities in 2009, please visit SCOLAR website (<http://www.language-education.com>).

Established in 1996, SCOLAR advises the Government on language education issues and on the use of the Language Fund.

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Caption:



Members of the Standing Committee on Language Education and Research (SCOLAR), Mr Stephen Chan (fourth from right) and Mr Hui Sau-yan (second from left), Ambassador for Promotion of Putonghua 2009, Mr Alex Fong (fourth from left), and representatives of Activity Organisers officiated at today's (15 March) Launching Ceremony of SCOLAR's Promotion of Putonghua Activities 2009.