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About the Guangdong Technion Israel Institute of Technology

The Guangdong Technion Israel Institute of Technology (GTIIT) is an historic partnership between the Technion - Israel Institute of Technology and Shantou University (STU) to promote joint undergraduate and graduate-level research and innovation. Located in China's Guangdong Province, GTIIT is the first Israeli university in China and the Technion's second presence on a campus outside Israel. It is yet another example of the Technion's growing global influence. Made possible by a \$130 million grant from the Li Ka Shing Foundation (LKSF), the venture represents unprecedented cooperation between the People's Government of Guangdong Province and the Shantou Municipal Government, Technion, and STU. Inaugurated in December 2017, GTIIT is ushering in a new era of cooperative research between Israel and China.

GTIIT's Vision: The university is modeled after the Technion, adhering to its rigorous academic standards and commitment to multidisciplinary research. Its goal is to become a leading technological institute in China within the next 10 years. GTIIT's cutting-edge research is expected to boost entrepreneurship and technology transfer, and foster a high-tech industrial ecosystem in Shantou and Guangdong Province. With a focus on the three interconnected areas of environmental sciences, energy resources, and human health, GTIIT aims to train scientists and engineers who will create pioneering research for China and the world.

GTIIT hopes to import Israel's innovative and entrepreneurial spirit. In turn, the Technion gains access to China's vast resources and boosts its ability to attract doctoral and postdoc students who see their future in China. This is a win-win for all.

Fast Facts:

- GTIIT undergraduate students earn Technion engineering degrees as well as a Chinese Ministry of Education approved degree certificate from GTIIT
- GTIIT currently offers bachelor's degrees in four tracks: Materials Engineering, Chemical Engineering, Mathematics with Computer Science, and Biotechnology and Food Engineering
- GTIIT offers master's and Ph.D. programs as part of the Technion Graduate School
- GTIIT enrolled some 216 undergraduate students in 2017-2018, its first academic year
- As of the 2019-20 academic year, it had 480 students; 28% are women, and 22 faculty members

Future: Plans are already underway to expand the campus, programs, and student body. Since the current site, known as North Campus, is being fully utilized, a new South Campus is being built across the road, and is expected to be four times as large. The first stage of the project will enable GTIIT to add academic tracks, and to build a large library, more dorms, and other advanced facilities. The student body is expected to reach 5,000.

GTIIT plans to launch more undergraduate programs in the future. An industrial park is also planned for the GTIIT campus, which will serve as a foothold for Israeli companies to crack key markets in the U.S. and China.

At the Helm: The GTIIT has attracted highly regarded educational leaders including:

- **Professor Gong Xingao** was appointed Chancellor in April 2021, the equivalent of a U.S. or Israeli university president. He also holds the titles of Xie Xide Distinguished Professor of Fudan University, principal scientist of the Major Scientific Research Programs of the Chinese Ministry of Science and Technology, Fellow of the American Physical Society, and Academician of the Chinese Academy of Sciences. An eminent computational physicist, he twice won first prize for the Provincial Award for Natural Science and was the second prize winner for the National Award for Natural Science.
- Nobel Laureate and **Technion Distinguished Professor Aaron Ciechanover** serves as Special Envoy of the Technion President to GTIIT. Prof. Ciechanover received the 2004 Nobel Prize in Chemistry for the discovery of the ubiquitin-mediated process.
- Prof. Eliezer Shalev serves as Vice Chancellor. He is a former Dean of the Technion's Rappaport Faculty of Medicine.

History: In April 2011, the Technion received a call from billionaire Li Ka-shing's foundation requesting a visit to the Technion with representatives of Shantou University. A month later, a delegation representing Mr. Li arrived at the Technion. And in September of that year, when then Technion President Prof. Peretz Lavie was delivering a lecture at Shantou University, he received an invitation to lunch with Mr. Li. At the end of that lunch, it became clear that Mr. Li, who had long been investing in Israel and was a patron of Shantou University, wanted to bring a bit of the Technion to Shantou.

In September 2013, the Li Ka-shing Foundation granted the Technion \$130 million, the largest ever gift to the Technion, and one of the most generous in the history of Israeli higher education. Part was allocated to the Technion's home campus in Haifa, and the remainder enabled the Technion to help build GTIIT. Construction of the GTIIT campus began with a groundbreaking ceremony on December 16, 2015. And just two years later, the GTIIT campus was **officially inaugurated on December 18, 2017.**

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