

Ex-senior staff of OUHK charged with bribery over employment with beauty industry organisation

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A former Director and a former Programme Director of the Open University of Hong Kong (OUHK) have been charged by the ICAC today (June 17) with conspiracy to solicit an employment with a beauty industry organisation.

Kris Wong Wai-ning, 50, former Director of Li Ka Shing Institute of Professional and Continuing Education (LiPACE) under the OUHK; and Vicky Lai Wai-kee, 47, former Programme Director of LiPACE of the OUHK, face a joint charge of conspiracy to solicit advantage as a public servant, contrary to Section 4(2)(c) of the Prevention of Bribery Ordinance and Section 159A of the Crimes Ordinance.

The defendants will appear at the West Kowloon Magistrates' Courts on Friday (June 19) for the case to be transferred to the District Court for plea.

At the material time, Wong was the Director of LiPACE under the OUHK responsible for its overall management. Lai was the Programme Director of LiPACE responsible for developing and organising various professional programmes, including Corporate Training Programmes (CT Programmes) which would be jointly organised with individual requesting organisations.

The OUHK informed Wong in mid-2017 that no further employment contract would be offered to him after his contract expired on January 20, 2018.

In October 2017, upon Wong's request, Lai started arranging a CT Programme with a beauty industry organisation as a co-organiser.

The charge alleges that between September 25, 2017 and January 20, 2018, Wong and Lai conspired together to, without lawful authority or reasonable excuse, solicit from a director of the aforesaid beauty industry organisation an employment on terms acceptable to Wong, as an inducement to or reward for procuring LiPACE to organise an accredited

CT Programme on cosmetic light therapy with that organisation.

The OUHK has rendered full assistance to the ICAC during its investigation into the case.

The defendants have been released on ICAC bail, pending their court appearance on Friday.