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The Council of the Hong Kong Laureate

Forum

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Re: Reference Letter for Lilian Lai Yee Lee

As Chairman of the SHAW Adjudicator Committee, I was asked to nominate young scientists to attend the HKLF (Hong Kong Life Sciences Congress). I had the opportunity to nominate **Lilian Lilian Lai Yee Lee**, one of my PhD students, for this honour.

Lilian is a truly promising and very talented young scientist. She came to Germany from Hong Kong with the best recommendations from her supervisors after completing her undergraduate studies at the University of Hong Kong with honors. Her Bachelor of Science (double major in Physics and Astronomy, which she completed with Second Class Honours Division One) included a research project on “Study of Brightest Cluster Galaxy Alignment in 14 CLASH Clusters”. This led to her Master of Philosophy in Astrophysics (“Examining the smoothness of Einstein Rings”, supported by an excellence scholarship), a research project at the interface between observations and theory on the nature of dark matter, and tests of alternative gravitational theories.

For her PhD project at the Max Planck Institute for Extraterrestrial Physics, since 2021, she has focused on the fundamental aspects of the gas kinematics and flows, and thus the structural evolution of galaxies in the early Universe. This research area is currently one of the most exciting direction of astrophysics. Her excellent comparative study of state-of-the-art dynamical modeling approaches, as well as her pioneering work of using unique new data sets on high-resolution kinematics of young galaxies 1-3 billion years after the Big Bang, are impressive and have important implications for fundamental aspects of galaxy evolution.

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Lilian has a wide range of interests in all topics related to physics. She is highly motivated, driven by curiosity and is not afraid of big challenges. Her intellectual growth and maturation in the last few years have been truly remarkable. I expect her to become a leading researcher.

I am delighted to recommend Lilian Lai Yee Lee to you in the strongest terms.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Reinhard Genzel". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'R'.

Reinhard Genzel

Director, Max Planck Institute for Extraterrestrial Physics, Garching
& Professor of the Graduate School, Physics and Astronomy, University of California, Berkeley, USA

Nobel Laureate in Physics 2020