

Professor Simon S. M. Ho

Liberal + Professional Education Nurturing Better Persons

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Dear Members of HSMC,

I am indeed honoured to be the new President of HSMC. With a humble heart, I will serve the College with my utmost best, and together with all HSMC members we will pursue the mission and goals of the College.

The College's vision and core values match closely with my own ideas about university education - to nurture young talents with independent thinking, innovative mind, human care, ethics and social responsibility. I chose to join the HSMC Family, in the hope of working together with fellow colleagues, students and alumni, to further the College's fine traditions and spirit and to scale new heights.

Aspiring to be a top quality and leading non-profit private university, HSMC plays a unique and important role in the higher education of Hong Kong. Currently only 20% of the local workforce are degree holders and only 18% of the age-group are admitted to UGC-funded degree programmes each year. More than 10,000 students fulfilling the minimum entry requirements are not admitted to a degree place in the eight UGC-funded universities. To fill partly this big gap, HSMC offers more than 1,000 self-financing degree places annually, thereby helping to ease the pressure of local students pursuing further studies and to enhance social equity.

Hong Kong has been relying on publicly-funded universities in its history. The development of private institutions commenced rather late in Hong Kong and the public's understanding of such institutions is not sufficient. In fact, top universities in US are mostly private, and graduates from the small liberal arts institutions are most outstanding. The newly-developed self-financed institutions in Hong Kong help to change the imbalance that many public research universities put too much emphasis on research, size, competitions and rankings. In addition, self-financed institutions are more flexible in their system, and if provided with sufficient resources and policy support, can bring in more programmes and teaching innovations. They can make up the deficiencies of the public institutions, and provide parents and students with a choice of "liberal + professional" education model.

I hope that our HSMC students, apart from being professional, will always think about the meaning of life and work and be more socially responsible. We wish them to grow

as a self-reflective, grateful and fulfilled person. To me, the education philosophy of HSMC shall encompass the following four keywords: “Humanistic Perspectives, Professional Management, Ethical Leadership, and Social Responsibility”.

Putting student’s personal development as our top priority and concentrating our resources on quality undergraduate education, HSMC focuses on small class teaching, learning effectiveness, close teacher and student relationship, and care and guidance for individual students outside classrooms. I would encourage each HSMC student to develop a lifelong teacher-friend relationship with at least three of their more admirable teachers.

Students admitted by HSMC are outstanding ones with dreams, diligence and passion. They seem relatively mature and rational, and they care very much for the development of the College and the society. Being the President, I will support students on their all-round development, on exploring their own interests and realising their potentials. I trust that the HSMC environment will provide our students with ample opportunities for self-learning and self-management, thus stimulating active participation and creativity in their college life.

My top priorities of work in the coming year are to promote the unique ethos of HSMC to the public and to seek more recognition, support and donations from the community. As a newly-established private tertiary institution, there are lots of tasks and challenges in its initial fast-growing stages. This would require mutual trust and cooperation among the College leaders, staff and students.

In the past six months, I have been meeting most unit heads and representatives of different stakeholder groups, and listening to their views and feelings. In my first few months as the new President, I will continue to communicate with many of you proactively in order to strengthen the College’s team spirit and to work closely together for the betterment of the College.

Simon S. M. Ho
President