

Professor Simon S. M. Ho

Message from the President

29 August 2014

Dear Members of the HSMC Community,

Welcome back to school after the summer break! At the beginning of the academic year 2014/2015, I wish to express my warmest welcome to all new faculty and administrative staff members, and freshmen who have joined the HSMC Family!

For new academic staff members, you are joining a strong cohort of scholars with evident commitment to excellence in education. You will add significantly to HSMC's academic strength, and bring new dynamism and energy to the campus.

For new students moving onto a new stage of your life, you will be encountering exciting and challenging moments. I encourage you to play an active role and make the best of the many learning opportunities provided here. Our staff, schoolmates and alumni will be your close partners to help you maximize your potentials.

Since joining HSMC in March 2014, I have been impressed by our faculty members' commitment to a student-centred culture. They share a passion for teaching and student all-round success. In just six short months' time, I have witnessed changes here that have given me more encouragement and confidence to help the College scale new heights.

Adopting the unique "Liberal + Professional" education model, the quality of HSMC's undergraduate experience is characterized by small class teaching, close student-teacher interactions, guidance for individual students, and vast opportunities for internship, international exchange, and independent research. In addition to professional competencies, I advocate to nurture young talents with 5 'Cs': **C**ritical thinking, **C**reativity, **C**ommunication skills, **C**aring attitude, and **C**haracter.

With such distinctions, I would also like to share with you a few recent achievements of the College, delivery of new and innovative programmes, record-breaking numbers of freshman applications and percentage of offer acceptance, award-winning faculty members and projects, student achievements in open competitions, the provisional rating of "Platinum" for our new student residential hall project by the Hong Kong Green Building Council, major donations received, successful graduate employment,

wide publicity from the local media, and continued recognition from the Government and the community.

Our fast growth comes with both opportunities and challenges. We reckon that the path to a private university status in the next few years will not be an easy one. Our priorities in the coming year include new programme development, teaching and learning quality enhancement, implementation of the unique residential college project combining living and learning experience, strengthening the research infrastructure and culture, streamlining the management system and operation, enhancing image-building and external relations, and more aggressive fund raising, etc.

I believe that a passionately-supported vision, together with the concerted efforts of all members of HSMC, will have the power to overcome most of the challenges. I am confident that with our passionate Board of Governors and Council, dedicated staff, self-motivated students and loyal alumni, we can even dream bigger and act bolder.

As members of the HSMC Family, we are building an institution of growing renown which advocates for the transformative power of undergraduate education.

I look forward to working closely with each and every one of you for a fruitful and enjoyable academic year!

Simon S. M. Ho
President