

New Academic Year Message to All Staff and Students

2 September 2016

Dear Colleagues and Students,

First of all, I wish to express my warmest welcome to all of you to the new academic year 2016/17, in particular the new staff members and students who have joined the HSMC Family!

For new academic staff members, you have joined a strong cohort of scholars with evident commitment to excellence in education. You will add significance 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 and resources provided here. Our teaching staff, schoolmates and alumni will be your close partners to help you maximize your potentials.

When I took office as President in March 2014, I was impressed by our faculty members' exceptional commitment to a student-centred culture. They share a passion for teaching and students' all-round success. I am also proud of our students for their creativity, humility and strive for excellence. I am grateful to be a part of this community and I am confident that together, we will radiate the spirit of excellence in the tasks, big and small, ahead of us, and help the College to scale new heights.

The past year 2015/16 was a remarkable one and has borne witness to how members of the College Family have worked together to surmount difficulties and to together achieve success. I'm pleased to share with you some recent developments and notable accomplishments of the College in 2015/16, such as:

- the successful accreditation of three new undergraduate programmes and the College's first master's programme by the Hong Kong Council for Accreditation of Academic and Vocational Qualifications (HKCAAVQ);

- the attainment of “clean passes” for the Institutional Review (IR) and Programme Area Accreditation (PAA) exercises conducted in April 2016, which is crucial for our application for the university title in mid-2017;
- the receipt of RGC competitive research funding support for a total of 19 research projects, being the highest number of awarded projects among the local self-financing degree sector in the year;
- the implementation of the residential college system which was the first of its kind in the local self-financing institutions;
- the award of the Final Platinum rating of BEAM Plus (V1.1 for New Buildings) for the Lee Quo Wei Academic Building (Block D) by the Hong Kong Green Building Council;
- student achievements in various open competitions such as winning the championship in “MPF 360 Marketing Challenge” organized by the Mandatory Provident Fund Schemes Authority (MPFA), the first runner-up in the ACCA Hong Kong Business Competition 2015, the first runner-up in the annual Student Day hosted by The Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport in Hong Kong;
- 93% of fresh graduates received full-time employment within six months after graduation;
- major donations received and continued public recognition and Government support; and
- recently we have had a very successful student admission exercise with over 1,400 new students joining in 2016/17.

Thus far, we have made good progress towards becoming a leading non-profit private university, and I am proud to say that our achievements in 2015/16 have moved us closer to this goal. All these achievements would not have been made possible without the unfailing support and devotion of the College community. Moving forward, we will continue to strive for excellence in teaching and learning and all-round development for our students. We are also in full swing preparing for the Institutional Review for the university title in 2017.

This academic year will be a watershed year for HSMC. I strongly believe that with a passionately-supported vision, together with the shared goals and concerted efforts of all members of HSMC, we will realise our dreams. May I count on your continuous support, which has always been abundant, to me and the Senior Management.

Working with one heart and one mind, I am confident that HSMC will shine as a leading private non-profit university in Hong Kong.

Lastly, while the College has all along attempted to create a caring environment to facilitate your work and study, I hope you will take care of your own physical and mental well-being, by maintaining a good work-life or study-life balance.

I look forward to chatting with you on campus, sharing your ideas on advancing HSMC and working closely with each and every one of you for another fruitful academic year!