

Thank you and Season's Message to All Staff

23 December 2016

Dear Colleagues,

Christmas is a time to celebrate, to thank persons who have helped us, and to express our love and care for others. In this festive season, I would like to convey my heartfelt gratitude to all colleagues for your hard work and dedication throughout the year.

HSMC is a dynamic growing institution becoming increasingly robust in its academic spectrum, and we had a fruitful year in 2016. With the concerted efforts of the College community, we are now entering a milestone stage in the history of HSMC. I am pleased to share with you some of the major achievements in the past six months:

- The implementation of the Desired Graduate Attributes “iGPS” framework which help students develop the four dimensions of qualities systematically, namely Intellectual Competence (i), Generic Skills (G), Personal Development (P) and Social Engagement (S).
- The granting of a clean pass in the Institutional Review together with the Programme Area Accreditation (PAA) Status of two Areas of Study in “Business and Management” and “Languages and Related Studies” by HKCAAVQ. HSMC would also be soon granted the third PAA in “Mass Media and Communications, Journalism and Public Relations”, subject to the HKCAAVQ’s Final Report.
- Four new programmes, namely Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Applied and Human-Centred Computing, Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Convergent Media and Communication Technology, Bachelor of Social Sciences (Honours) in Asian Studies, and the first HSMC master programme, Master of Arts in Translation (Business and Legal), were launched in September 2016.
- Full Implementation of the Residential College (RC) system which provides a combined living and learning environment for the all-round development of students.

- The award of the Platinum rating of BEAM Plus certification to The HSMC Jockey Club Residential Colleges by the Hong Kong Green Building Council, being the fourth of such honour received by HSMC after the same was awarded to the S H Ho Academic Building, the Sports and Amenities Centre, and the Lee Quo Wei Academic Building. HSMC is proud to be the first institution in Hong Kong to have received such a platinum recognition.
- The highest amount of the three-year cumulative government research / teaching funding and the highest number of funded research projects among all the local self-financing degree-granting institutions since 2014/15.
- The HSMC – Foundation Inauguration Ceremony cum Fundraising Dinner was held in October 2016 with a total of more than HK\$6 million raised in support of HSMC’s development. The Foundation serves as a platform to connect our donors and supporters to advance the College’s teaching, learning and research priorities.
- Students’ outstanding performance in various local, regional and international open competitions, such as:
 - the Champion in the Case Competition 2016, Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport in Hong Kong (CILTHK);
 - the five "Best" awards in the China Daily Hong Kong Edition 2015-16 Campus Newspaper Awards; and
 - “My Favorite Presenter” award in the EY Young Tax Professional of the Year 2016.
- The establishment of the First-Year Study Centre to provide better learning support and experience to Year 1 students through the provision of tutoring services by senior year students for selected first-year foundation modules. The face-to-face tutoring sessions are conducted free of charge.
- The offer of a good array of around 1,000 local and overseas internship opportunities enhancing student exposure and strengthening employability of graduates. Based on a recent independent survey, our graduates were regarded by employers as having good working attitudes and interpersonal skills, receptive to new ideas and opinions from others, devoted, responsible and always willing to take up further responsibilities.

As we look forward to 2017, there are a number of upcoming significant activities and projects. As planned, HSMC will submit its application to acquire the private “university” title in March 2017. The College has also set up a Task Force on Strategic Engagements for connecting relevant stakeholders to support the application process. The upcoming year will also have its challenges while at the

same time presenting opportunities for us to continue our progress in areas such as student admissions, teaching and learning, programme portfolio, research impact, global partnership and fund raising. The Academic Planning Retreat will also be held on 6 January 2017 to discuss the work plan for the coming year and to kick off the planning of the Five-year Strategic Plan (2019-2024).

The priorities of HSMC will continue to remain on fostering excellence and innovation in teaching and learning, with the aim to nurture young talents with critical thinking, innovative minds, humanistic care and social responsibilities. Working with one heart and one mind, I am confident that HSMC will shine as a leading private non-profit university in Hong Kong.

While HSMC has all along been a caring institution, I hope you will also take care of your own physical and mental well-being and maintain a good work-life balance.

Once again, I would like to thank all of you for your tireless work and tremendous contributions in 2016. It is indeed a privilege for me to work with you all, and we should take pride in our accomplishments.

Lastly, I hope you will enjoy the festive holiday season. Wish you and your family a New Year full of blessings and joy!