

New Academic Year Message from the President

3 September 2018

Dear Members of the HSMC Family,

My warmest welcome to all of you to the new academic year 2018-19, 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 over 1,400 new students and some 30 exchange students embarking on your learning journey at HSMC, your engagement will infuse the College community with fresh talent, new ideas and passions. For freshmen, as your university life unfolds, you will meet new challenges and stimulations. I encourage you to be open-minded, appreciate different ideas and views, take a proactive role in learning, and make the best of your undergraduate experience. Our teachers, staff and senior year students will stand ready to help your smooth transition to a fully-engaged university life.

At the commencement of the new academic year, it is useful to review what we did last year and to plan ahead. The year 2017-18 was a flourishing year for HSMC with impressive strides in different areas. I am pleased to share with you a highlight of some key developments and notable accomplishments of the year:

1. Following a year-long comprehensive development and extensive consultation process, the *HSMC Strategic Plan 2018-2023 – Riding on the New Era: Private University with a Difference* was launched in February 2018. Drawing on the collective wisdom of the College community and relevant stakeholders, the Plan sets the direction and priorities for HSMC in the next five years, with goals and action plans clearly defined.
2. Launched the Joint-Institution Network for Student Success (JINESS) system (funded by the Quality Enhancement Support Scheme), which is the first career

portal for students and graduates of local self-financing degree-granting institutions, and the JINESS Careers Fair in March 2018.

3. Launched three new externally-funded research/ learning centres, namely Centre for Greater China Studies (CGCS), Wu Jieh Yee Centre for Innovation and Entrepreneurship (WUCIE), and Institute for Youth Sustainability Leadership (IYSL) on HSMC Founders' Day 2018. CGCS aims to enhance interdisciplinary research in humanities and social sciences; WUCIE is to cultivate an innovative and entrepreneurial mindset in our students; and IYSL empowers students to identify solutions addressing the United Nation's 17 Sustainable Development Goals respectively.
4. Received the "School Social Responsibility Award" in July 2018 from the *Mirror Post* in recognition of HSMC's achievements in nurturing talents with ethical commitment and a sense of social responsibility, good corporate governance and leadership, caring for students and staff members, active community engagement and promotion of environmental protection. HSMC is the only university in Hong Kong receiving such an award.
5. Submitted to EDB in August 2018 the College's responses on the Consultation Document of the Task Force on Review of Self-financing Post-secondary Education. The College's views, such as an overhaul revision of the outdated Post Secondary Colleges Ordinance (CAP320) and Regulations (CAP320A), creating a level-playing field such that a single unified accreditation and quality assurance mechanism be applicable to self-financing units/ programmes of publicly-funded institutions and independent self-financing institutions, more policy and resources support to self-financing institutions, etc., were included.
6. Received HKCAAVQ accreditation and launched two new degree programmes, Bachelor of Business Administration (Honours) in Human Resource Management and Master of Science in Entrepreneurial Management in September 2018.
7. Receipt of 2017-18 RGC competitive research funding support of HK\$21.9 million for a total of 25 research projects (including 1 Institutional Development Scheme project, 2 Inter-institutional Development Scheme projects and 22 Faculty Development Scheme projects), being the highest in terms of funding received and the number of awarded projects among the local self-financing degree-granting institutions in the year.

8. Received a funding amount of HK\$2.03 million under the 2017-18 Quality Enhancement Support Scheme of EDB for a two-year project named “Integrating Service Learning into Classroom Learning”. To promote service learning on a College-wide basis, the Service Learning Section was also established under the Centre for Teaching and Learning in August 2018.
9. Remarkable student achievements in various open competitions such as Winner of “Best in Tech News Reporting” and “Best in News Video Reporting” in the Chinese group of *China Daily* (Hong Kong Edition) 2017 Campus Newspaper Awards; Gold Award and “Best Advertising Video Award” in 2017-18 Joint University Outstanding Marketing Award; and Gold Award in the 18th Consumer Rights Reporting Awards (2018), etc.
10. Significant progress in fundraising achieving a total of HK\$139 million during the year. As of July 2018, the College has successfully met the matching grant ceiling of HK\$100 million under the Government’s 7th Matching Grant Scheme. HSMC also successfully held the “HSMC FunD Run for U”, drawing over 1,200 internal and external participants to take part in the 10km Challenge Run and 3km Fun Run in April 2018.
11. The application progress for private university title is on schedule and in good form. HSMC submitted its Institutional Review Report for application of private university title to HKCAAVQ in December 2017 and an on-site accreditation visit by the HKCAAVQ panel was smoothly held in April 2018. Following our established plan in 2016, the College hopes that it will attain approval of its university title by late 2018.

While reviewing such achievements, I would like to extend my grateful thanks to the College Council and Board of Governors for their wise counsel, and especially our immediate past Board Chairman Ms Rose Lee Wai-mun for her exceptional leadership over the past five years. I would also like to warmly welcome our new Board Chairman Ms Louisa Cheang Wai-wan (Vice-Chairman and Chief Executive of Hang Seng Bank Limited) and our four new Governors, Ms Ivy Chan Shuk-pui, Dr Patrick Fung Yuk-bun, Professor Michael Hui King-man and Dr Eric Li Ka-cheung, for coming on board in July 2018.

Last but not the least, I would like to thank each and every member of the HSMC Family for your remarkable work and contributions. Much of HSMC’s accomplishments would not have been achieved without your determination and collaborative efforts.

In 2018-19, following our Strategic Plan, we will delineate the College's Academic Development Plan of 2018-2021, develop new degree programmes in global business management, economics, politics-philosophy-economics (PPE), and art and design; launch various new initiatives of WUCIE and IYSL; fully implement the Residential College System to engage more non-residential faculty fellows and student members; and step-up our efforts in developing HSMC into a smart university using smart technologies.

While there will definitely be challenges ahead in 2018-19 and beyond, I have every confidence that with our collective effort, HSMC will grow in prominence and march towards its vision to become a leading private liberal-arts-oriented university in the region.

Our aim remains unchanged --- to nurture students to become responsible global citizens and leaders with critical thinking, innovative minds, caring attitude, moral values and social responsibility.

I look forward to working with you closely for another fruitful academic year!