

Season's Message to All Colleagues and Students

20 December 2019

Dear Members of the HSUHK Family,

With 2019 coming to a close and Christmas almost on our doorstep, it is an opportune time for us to reflect on the past year and look forward to 2020 with good wishes.

In the hustle and bustle of daily life, we may not have slowed down for a moment to show our appreciation to others and those who have helped us. In this festive season, I would like to express my grateful thanks to all of you for your hard work and dedication in 2019, which helped set HSUHK on the path of continuous growth and advancement.

The past 12 months have been marked by some noteworthy university achievements as well as new challenges. In addition to the many attainments mentioned in my “New Academic Year Message” to staff and students in August 2019, I am glad to share with you some recent ones as below.

Student Achievements

Some major accolades received through participation in open competitions include:

- Championship in the 10th International Logistics Case Competition 2019 organised by the Hong Kong Logistics Association;
- Winners of “Best in Tech News Reporting (English)” and “Best in Headline Writing (English)” in the 2019 Campus Newspaper Awards hosted by *China Daily*;
- Three HSUHK students awarded the Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants’ (HKICPA) Qualification Programme (QP) Scholarships 2019; and
- A 2017 graduate in BBA (Accounting concentration) awarded the ACCA HK Top Achievers' Awards: Best Paper in Advanced Taxation in October 2019.

University Awarded for Social Responsibility and Sustainability

- School Social Responsibility Award 2019 granted by *Mirror Post*. This is the second year that HSUHK garnered the award, reaffirming and recognising the University's effort and commitment to social responsibility, and caring for students and staff members; and
- Certificate of Excellence of the Hong Kong Sustainability Award 2018-19 granted by The Hong Kong Management Association, which recognises HSUHK's commitment to sustainable development and achieving good organisational performance.

Research Grant Achievements

- In the Research Grants Council (RGC)'s Competitive Research Funding Schemes for the Local Self-financing Degree Sector 2019-2020, HSUHK secured a total funding of HK\$16.33 million for 18 projects under the Faculty Development Scheme (FDS), 4 projects under the Inter-institutional Development Scheme (IIDS), and 1 project under the Institutional Development Scheme (IDS) Collaborative Research Grant (CRG). HSUHK's total number of approved projects and success rate in FDS and IIDS are the highest among all the eligible institutions.
- Furthermore, under the Research Matching Grant Scheme newly launched by the University Grants Committee (UGC) in August 2019, HSUHK secured a matching grant of HK\$5.99 million for private research funding and in-kind sponsorships in the first processing cycle from 1 August 2019 to 30 September 2019.

Maintaining a Safe, Harmonious and Caring Campus

Due to the evolvment of the social incidents in the past few months and in view of unstable public transport and concerns about safety on roads, the University decided in mid-November to cancel the last two weeks of face-to-face classes in Semester 1, and alternative online arrangements on teaching, learning and final assessment were made to minimise disruption to the least. With your understanding and co-operation, feedback has been positive on such arrangements.

With our concerted effort, it is comforting to note that HSUHK has been by far one of the most safe and peaceful university campuses in Hong Kong. I am particularly touched by the great resilience, care for each other, and love of the University that have been shown by our students, colleagues and alumni during the past several months. With enhanced security and other measures, the management will continue to build a university embracing diversity and inclusiveness, promoting empathy, human caring and respect for others' freedom to express (or not to express). It is through these shared values that we grow and mature as a responsible citizen as well as an autonomous and responsible academic institution.

The local situation seems, by and large, to have improved. I urge members of the University family to remain rational and positive, and help Hong Kong get out of the difficult time. With confidence and willingness to compromise, we together will overcome challenges ahead.

Concluding Remarks

Looking forward, the second semester will commence on 13 January 2020 as scheduled; a series of activities is underway to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the founding of the University in 2020, such as the inaugural Honorary Doctorate Conferment Ceremony cum 40th Anniversary Reception, the "HSUHK FunD Run" (a community engagement cum fundraising running event) as well as other academic and student activities. I earnestly invite your active participation in the forthcoming anniversary events.

On a concluding note, I would like to share with you the organic farming experience and hike I had with students and colleagues on 7 December 2019 under the "Along with the President" series. The team visited the organic farm at Produce Green Foundation (PGF) and showed keen interest in organic farming and maintaining biodiversity. The team also practised some basic farming techniques on the farm such as fertilizing, hoeing, raking, sowing seeds and irrigating. The farming experience was followed by a hike amidst fields with crops and flowers glimmering in the sunshine, radiating the vitality of nature. The body and mind stretching activities of the day remind us that life can be very simple and basic, yet full of joy and fulfilment.

I wish you all a restful Christmas full of joy and blessings. I look forward to seeing a revitalized you in 2020!