

Welcome Remarks at the Conference for Higher Education Research – Hong Kong 2025 (CHER 2025)

29 April 2025

Fung Yiu King Hall, 4/F, S H Ho Academic Building, North Campus, HSUHK

Under Secretary Jeff SZE, Dr NGAN Man-yu, Mr Tim LUI, distinguished speakers, guests, colleagues, and friends,

Good morning and a very warm welcome to the Conference for Higher Education Research – Hong Kong 2025, or CHER 2025.

It is our great honour of the Graduate School of The Hang Seng University of Hong Kong (HSUHK) to co-organize this major international academic event together with the Asia Pacific Higher Education Research Partnership (APHERP) — a platform with a long-standing commitment to advancing research in higher education.

In an era where the global academic landscape is increasingly shaped by the forces of geopolitics and rapid transformation, CHER 2025 arrives at a pivotal moment. This conference provides a timely and important platform for University leaders, scholars, policymakers and academics, to engage in meaningful dialogues that foster mutual understanding, trust, and collaboration within our international higher education community.

We are thrilled to share that this year’s conference has attracted over 80 distinguished speakers from around 12 countries and regions across the globe to share their recent research. In addition, we welcome around 15 insightful poster presentations. Over the next two days, we are joined by nearly 300 registered participants—both onsite and online—demonstrating the global relevance and reach of this conference.

At HSUHK, we adopt our unique “Liberal and Professional” education model nurturing future responsible leaders with critical thinking, innovativeness, human caring, moral values and social responsibilities. On the global perspective, we have been proactively advancing our internationalization strategies. Some of our recent efforts include:

Since joining the Alliance of Asian Liberal Arts Universities (AALAU) in January 2024, HSUHK hosted the AALAU Annual Presidents’ Forum 2024 in November. Speakers from

10 AALAU member institutions held discussions on the theme of “Sustainability Leadership: The Role of Liberal Arts Education”. Members also signed a joint declaration to reaffirm their collective commitment to advocate sustainable development.

In March 2025, HSUHK’s School of Transdisciplinary Studies, in collaboration with the Graduate School, hosted the inaugural session of the International Classroom for Climate Change, Wellbeing, and Sustainability in Education. The first seminar, titled “Internationalisation of Higher Education: Help or Hindrance to Climate Action?”, explored the complex relationship between internationalisation and sustainability, critically examining how global academic mobility and partnerships impact climate action. The International Classroom serves as a platform for knowledge exchange, interdisciplinary dialogue, and collaborative discussions, addressing pressing global challenges in education and sustainability.

I would like to express my deepest gratitude to all our partners, speakers, and participants for making CHER 2025 possible. I am confident that the insights, ideas, and connections shared here will inspire new collaborations and contribute meaningfully to the future of higher education in Hong Kong, China, Asia and in the globe.

Lastly, I wish you all a fruitful and engaging conference. Thank you very much!