



香港恒生大學
THE HANG SENG UNIVERSITY
OF HONG KONG

31 August 2026

My Parting Gratitude and Blessings -- A 12.5-Year Journey of Shared Visions and Trust

As you know, I will be 'retiring' (or more correctly 'rewiring 進優') from my presidency at HSUHK after 31 August 2026. Twelve and a half years seems not a short time for most university presidents' tenure.

Gazing at the warm and beautiful Wei Lun Square when I wrote this message and reflecting on my life journey here, I must say that I have had a most delightful and rewarding experience, and one of the greatest privileges of my professional life. As I bid farewell to the HSUHK community with whom I have enjoyed every single moment of my 12.5-year journey, I feel much blessed and immensely grateful.

Intents and Visions

We would not forget our unique intents: a smaller non-profit private liberal-arts oriented institution allowing greater autonomy, flexibility and innovations (rather than being driven by government's funding constraints and indicators). We aim at a compact, green and student-centred campus, putting quality undergraduate education as our backbone and highest priorities. We aim to provide students with an all-rounded transformational and empowering educational experience through advancing our "Liberal + Professional" model, interactive small class teaching, close student-teacher relationships, teachers' guidance and mentorship for individual students outside classrooms, a good balance between teaching and research (we are a 'teaching-research balanced' institution, not a 'teaching-led' institution), and integrating humanity, social sciences, technology and business management disciplines.

We admit motivating undergraduate applicants who find fitness with the Hang Seng University's ideals via other assessments rather than merely public examination results. We respect and appreciate each student is different with a different starting line, socio-economic background, talents and potential. We believe in 'value-addedness'.

We encourage students to pursue free enquiries and know their own characters, interests, strengths/weaknesses, core values and aspirations earlier for continuous growth. We adopt the ASK competency framework: **A**ttitudes, **S**kills and **K**nowledge. We nurture students the 5 "C" core transferrable competencies: Critical thinking, Creativity, Communication/Collaboration, Caring attitude, and Continuous active learning. We enable our graduates to become responsible global citizens handling future challenges

in work and life with more adaptability and confidence, and leading to more meanings and fulfilment. Following what Albert Einstein says, “We rather be a person of Value, not a person of Success”.

Thus, our institution supplements some other local institutions’ missing or inadequacies, allowing student/parents a different quality education model to choose. We have been changing many outsiders’ perception from a ‘second choice/chance’ to ‘fitness’ and even ‘the University of Choice’.

Initiatives and Accomplishments

Indeed, I was not able to predict our accomplishments when I first joined in March 2014, but we did pursue many together. In unity and trust, I feel deeply proud of what the University community has achieved together over the past 12.5 years.

It might not be easy to recollect all the challenges we navigated, some of the major ones include fierce admission competitions, Form-6 student population drops, repetitive and tedious external academic accreditation exercises even after the naming as a private university, government’s constraints in annual tuition fee adjustments, global pandemic disruptions and social unrests in 2019, AI-led ethical issues, concerns about Government measures allowing a UGC-funded university to own a CAP 320 self-financed degree-granting institution, and the recent campus space shortage due to TPG programme and non-local student growth.

And it is heartening to see how effective we have addressed many such challenges and embraced the new opportunities, with a shared commitment to our mission and values.

So together, I am honoured to see many collective initiatives and achievements, especially I had the opportunities to initiate and lead a number of new projects, such as the two 5-year strategic plans, major programme innovations beyond business and management, forming the first School of Decision Sciences in the region, revamping our mission-focussed common core curriculum, successfully convincing the Government to subsidize tuition fees of local undergraduates, setting records in enrolments, research grants and fund-raising, high research standing on non-science disciplines in the Greater China region, and successful strategic campus development projects (being the first higher education institution in Hong Kong receiving the BEAM+ platinum recognitions for its new buildings).

I also led to establish the residential college system combining living with learning, the first Honours Academy in Hong Kong nurturing future public leaders, the ‘one student, one internship’ scheme with global exposure, the externally-funded Youth Sustainability Leadership Institute advocating the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the first generative AI platform among the local institutions allowing free and

responsible use by all staff and students, the HSUHK - Foundation Gallery promoting arts and culture, and the School of Transdisciplinary Studies. And we have been recognized as the leading institution in the region promoting business ethics, stakeholder values and sustainability.

It is gratifying to witness the fruit of bringing together liberal education and professional education. Our students continue to distinguish themselves in academic studies, competitions, innovations and entrepreneurship, and service-learning projects. On the casual side, I had hiking, cycling and farming outdoor with students under the "Along with the President" Series, during which students shared with me their thoughts, their worries, their aspirations and their dreams. With close communications and mutual trust with our student leaders, HSUHK is probably among the very few local universities with an active and devoted Student Union. We have also seen continuous improvements in our students' satisfaction ratings. With strong connections with the industry and employers, it is also encouraging to see the continued confidence shown by our employers. According to our regular independent surveys, a great majority of employers were highly satisfied with the performance of our graduates.

When I met many leaders of Hong Kong society, I heard their commendations on our pathfinding achievements as a non-profit private institution. We are one of their "model undergraduate institutions" in the region. And our uniqueness, achievements, impacts and public standing have been widely recognized.

The world today is a very different place than it was in 2014. And so is our University. We have come a long way, undoubtedly we still have a long way to go with new challenges. I look forward to even greater momentums as HSUHK under the new leadership will take the University to further heights.

People, Teamwork and Gratefulness

Among the numerous memorable HSUHK moments I recollected, apart from the University Naming Ceremony held on 6 November 2018, our 45th Anniversary Concert held on 18 September 2025 filled me with much joy and gratitude. The Concert engaged not only University members, but also friends from the wider community, to share the achievements of our institution, as well as raising for our strategic campus development fund. The overwhelming responses have been lasting in my mind, representing the deep affection we hold for our institution.

An institution is more than any individual. Its most valuable asset is its people. Teamwork and mutual trust are what make an institution great. Each stakeholder, be it the board governors, council members, management, faculty, students, staff, alumni, donors, partners and supporters, who share the same visions, all play an important role and define HSUHK. The many impressive outcomes are the result of the

dedication, hard work, and selfless contribution of every member of the HSUHK community.

In this regard, I have been fortunate to have an excellent team of talented people to work with. In particular, during my tenure, I have worked closely with the past and current Board/Council Chairmen, and I am particularly grateful to them for their wisdom that has shaped my beliefs and aspirations for higher education.

It has been my high honour to serve HSUHK alongside our HSUHK family members. Thank you for the trust you have shown in me and the assistance you have provided to me. Together we have achieved great strides. I am awfully grateful to each and everyone of you.

I would like to offer my best wishes to you. I will continue to care about and serve the University in other ways.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Simon S.M. Ho', with a stylized, flowing script.

Simon S.M Ho
President (3/2014 – 8/2026)

(Please click [here](#) for my parting video)