

Professor Simon S. M. Ho

Season's Message 2021

21 December 2021

Dear Members of the HSUHK Family,

As we are approaching the end of the year and Christmas is around the corner, I would like to take this opportune time to send my appreciation and best wishes to the HSUHK community.

While facing the challenges such as a drop in the Year-one student intake in 2021-22 and the tough and yet gradually improved condition of the COVID-19 pandemic in Hong Kong, the University has persisted in thriving and growing in a number of dimensions. Apart from the developments I mentioned in my New Academic Year Message (2021-22), I would like to share with you some recent major University advancements highlighted below.

Honours Academy 2nd Cohort

The Honours Academy (HA) 2nd Cohort Inauguration Ceremony was held on 15 October 2021 which marked the beginning of a three-year exciting learning journey for 16 finely-selected HA students. Since the beginning of Semester 1, our 2nd cohort of HA students have immersed themselves in the HA programmes through participating in a leadership training camp, connecting with their mentors, and commencing one of the HA core modules on self-awareness and interpersonal skills.

Being the first and only kind in Hong Kong, and with the guidance and support from HA Professional Fellows and Academic Fellows as well as the exclusive resources and professional development opportunities, HA aims to nurture our students to become future servant leaders who can initiate positive changes in the local and global communities.

Teaching and Learning

In October 2021, the School of Business was awarded HK\$19 million for a four-year project "*FinTech Literacy Enhancement*" under the Education Bureau's \$1.26 billion

Enhancement and Start-up Grant Scheme (ESGS) for Self-financing Post-secondary Education.

The project embeds the Fintech quintessential elements into our finance-related programmes (i.e. BBA in Financial Analysis, BBA in Finance & Banking and BBA in Economics) blending the traditional finance/ economic principle with advances in technology. The enhancement will cover the use of artificial intelligence and blockchain in the financial service industry, as well as the management of FinTech. The funding success underpins our efforts to offer programmes that meet the fast changing needs of society.

Research Grants Council's Competitive Research Funding Schemes

In the Research Grants Council's (RGC) Competitive Research Funding Schemes for the Local Self-financing Degree Sector 2021/22, HSUHK secured a total funding of HK\$18.16 million (representing an increase of 22% compared with that of last year) for 16 Faculty Development Scheme (FDS) projects, one Inter-institutional Development Scheme (IIDS) project and one Institutional Development Scheme Research Infrastructure Grant (IDSR) project. HSUHK's total amount of grants is the highest among all the eligible local self-financing institutions in the year. In the eight-year period since 2014-15, HSUHK was awarded by RGC the highest cumulative funding amount as well as the highest total number of research projects among all the eligible institutions.

Radio Dialogue Programme

The Communications and Public Affairs Office of HSUHK entered into a collaboration with RTHK to launch a radio dialogue programme themed 「人生學堂」 (“Life Lessons”). Broadcast every Saturday for 13 consecutive weeks from 16 October 2021, the programme features dialogues between myself and guests who, with extensive achievements in both professional careers and public engagement, share their youth experience in identifying their potentials/interests and the ways they handled adversities and pursued life learning and goals. We hope to learn from the life experiences of these leading figures.

Student Achievements

Apart from academic studies, HSUHK students continued to excel in local and regional open competitions in 2021-22. Some major recent achievements include:

- Championship in “Best in News Reporting (Chinese)” and “Best in News Page Design (Chinese)” in the 2021 Campus News Awards organized by *China Daily Hong Kong*;
- One of the top 10 Outstanding Tertiary Students in “The first Outstanding Tertiary Students Selection (2021)” organised by Junior Chamber International City (Hong Kong); and
- Top 10% worldwide in the Kotlin Heroes 5 (2020), the world’s largest Kotlin programming competition organized by JetBrains (a professional software development company headquartered in Prague, Czech Republic) and Codeforces (a website that hosts competitive programming contests maintained by a group of programmers from ITMO University, Russia).

FunD Run 2021-22 Engaging HSUHKers

Starting from 18 December 2021 until 2 January 2022, registered runners can complete and upload their own running records generated by mobile smart devices or running apps of the minimum distance of 3 km (family team) or 5 km (individual) to the event website and compete for a variety of awards. Participants can also form teams achieving a cumulative distance of 20km or above in their first team record.

To support the event and foster closer ties among all HSUHKers, Council Chairman Dr Moses Cheng and I have set up the “Council Chairman Cup” and “President Cup” respectively, hoping that you will find this event more competitive and exciting when you run along with your teachers and fellow students from the same School or Residential College as a team. Besides, promoting healthy living, community engagement and alumni connections, the Run also aims to raise fund to support the strategic development of the University. I look forward to your active participation and support in this fun sport event.

Words of Blessings

The above accomplishments were possible because we work together with resilience and a common vision. As we conclude 2021, I would like to express my appreciation and sincerest thanks once again to our Governors and Council Members for your stewardship and wise counsel, our teachers for maintaining a high quality of teaching especially during the challenging COVID-19 pandemic; our administrative and academic support staff for your effort in providing a high standard of services and operations; our students for your hard work, adaptability and versatility in coping with changes; our frontline staff for keeping our campus safe and healthy; and our alumni

and friends for your steadfast support. On behalf of HSUHK, I would also like to express our heartfelt gratitude to the late Ms Louisa Cheang, former Chairman of Board of Governors, for her vigorous leadership and significant contributions to the University throughout her tenure.

I wish you all a restful winter break full of love and blessings. Meanwhile, please stay vigilant and healthy.

Truly,



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