Joint Convocation Conference

Minds Met to Explore the Way Forward for CUHK & HKU – Nurturing 21st Century Talents

On April 13, 2013, Saturday, over 300 Convocation members from The University of Hong Kong (HKU) and The Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK) attended the Joint Convocation Conference “Nurturing 21st Century Talents” held at the lecture theatre of the Yasumoto International Academic Park at CUHK. The 1st Joint Convocation Conference, “The Roles of HKU and CUHK in China’s Development”, was held in March 2012 in Loke Yew Hall, HKU.

The two Guests of Honour; namely, Dr Vincent Cheng 鄭海泉, Chairman of the Council, CUHK, and Dr the Hon Leong Che-hung 梁智鴿 (MBBS 1962; Hon DSc 2006), Council Chairman, HKU, made the opening remarks.

The Importance of “Ethics” and “Values”

Professor Joseph Sung 沈祖堯 (MBBS 1983), Vice-Chancellor and President, CUHK, started off by pointing out the irreversible path of globalisation, accelerated by the advancement of information technology, increased mobility, free trade and other global issues such as climate change, financial crises, and epidemic diseases. The current problems faced by university students, in his view, include gloomy career prospects for young graduates, employers’ dissatisfaction, but on the other hand, young people seemed to value materialistic goals rather than having dreams and visions for their future.

Drawing upon the success stories of Israel and Singapore, Professor Sung gave the following advice to young people: “Be inquisitive and persistent, be broad-minded and practical, be connected, take responsibility, be creative, be a team player, and have work ethics.” As for local education in general, it must be able to nurture students to have these qualities: global vision, broad-base education, independent thinking, persistence and resilience, less egocentric, ethics and values education.

The New Age and the New Culture of Learning

Professor Amy Tsui 徐碧美 (BA 1971; DipEd 1972; MA 1979), Pro-Vice-Chancellor & Vice-President, HKU, said that the world had entered into a Conceptual Age or a Cognitive Age, with the knowledge economy developing into a conceptual economy. It is no longer sufficient to teach skills or even meta-skills, e.g. learning how to learn. The New Age requires a new culture of learning – skills, mind sets, dispositions, passion, imagination, exploration, experimentation, engagement, and experiential learning are all important.

Quoting from Howard Gardner’s book “Five Minds for the Future”, Professor Tsui stressed the importance of the Respectful Mind and the Ethical Mind, besides the Disciplined Mind, the Synthesising Mind, and the Creating Mind. She went on to delineate the six educational aims of the curriculum reform of HKU, the reconceptualisation of learning and curriculum, the common core curriculum, experiential learning, and the design of HKU’s new physical, intellectual and social learning environments to enhance effective learning.
Armstrong Lee 李漢祥, Director, Worldwide Consulting Group Co., Ltd, listed out the general complaints of employers about local university graduates - the decline in English standards, unsatisfactory work ethics and a lack of responsibility in young employees. But he was of the opinion that these issues had to be addressed by parents and teachers during the primary and secondary education of the young generation.

Since China was now on its way towards great transformation, Mr Lee suggested that local universities should make further efforts in the curriculum design to enable our graduates to contribute to the “renaissance of the Chinese race”.

At the panel discussion session after the two speeches, Chan King-cheung 陳景祥, Chief Editor, Hong Kong Economic Journal, moderated a panel discussion. Tai Hay-lap 戴希立, Principal, Yan Oi Tong Ka Ping Secondary School, expressed his wish that the two universities make innovations while preserving their heritage, especially taking into consideration the rise of China. Mr Tai also expected both universities to solve and balance some outstanding issues: enhancing research on local issues while seeking international ranking, valuing whole-person development and the humanities while the market demands more practical subjects, reviewing whether government-funded universities should spend so much resources on developing self-funded programmes, and so forth.

Contributing to the Chinese Renaissance

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Adapting to Rapid Changes

Nathan Wong 黃世傑 (BBA(Acc&Fin) 2002; PCLL 2007), Solicitor, Kao, Lee & Yip Solicitors, a graduate with about ten years of working experience, said even young employees like himself need to make efforts to adapt to the rapidly changing and technology-driven world.

Continuing the Collaboration

After the Q&A session, Choi Sau-yuk 蔡秀煜 (BSocSc 1972), HKU Convocation Chairman, and Dr Chan Chi-sun 陳志新, CUHK Convocation Chairman, expressed in their respective closing remarks the wish to collaborate again next year, perhaps bringing in one or two other local universities.

Around one hundred participants joined the lunch afterwards at the Chung Chi College Staff Club. A guided campus tour by bus was arranged for participants, giving them a glimpse of the new and old buildings of CUHK on its 50th anniversary.

(The content of this section is contributed by the Standing Committee of Convocation.)
Ordinary General Meeting

In accordance with Convocation Constitution and Rules, eight members* were elected to the Standing Committee of Convocation at the Ordinary General Meeting held on June 20, 2013 for a term of three years with immediate effect following the close of the Ordinary General Meeting in 2013 until the Ordinary General Meeting in 2016.

Standing Committee members:

Chairman:  
Choi Sau-yuk 蔡秀煜 (BSocSc 1972)

Deputy Chairman:  
Andrew Fung 馮可強 (BA 1969; DipEd 1972)

Clerk:  
John Wan 溫頌安 (BSc 1970; MBuddhStud 2007)

Members:  
* Chan Ka-chin 陳嘉展 (BEng(Mech) 1992)  
* Ian Chu 朱位能 (BSc 1976)  
Ir Dr Wilton Fok 霍偉棟 (BEng 1993; MSc(Eng) 1996; MSc(EnvMan) 1999)  
Paul Ho 何偉志 (BSocSc 1975)  
Andrew Kuet 闕順昌 (BSocSc 1987)  
* Peter Kwan 關伯明 (FDipM 1994; MBA 1997)  
Dr Vincent Kwan 關品方 (BSocSc 1973)  
* Alex Lai 賴振鴻 (BSc(Eng) 1985)  
* Dr Lee Ka-yan 李家仁 (MBBS 1976)  
Dr Lee Kin-hung 李健鴻 (MBBS 1958; MD 1971)  
Mabel Lee 李黃眉波 (LLB 1974)  
Jimmy Lo 盧志明 (BSc 1969; CertEd 1978)  
Man Cheuk-fei 文灼非 (BA 1987)  
* Dr Evelyn Man 文綺芬 (BA 1971)  
Dr Victor Ng 吳瀚 (BEng(EEE) 1999)  
Vivien Pau 鮑慧兒 (BSocSc 1977)  
* Tai Keen-man 戴健文 (BSc 1977; MPhil 1983)  
Mona Tam 譚張碧芬 (MBA 2004)  
* Jeffrey Tse 謝海成 (BBA(Acc&Fin) 2003; MCon 2004)  
Thomas Tso 曹萬泰 (BSocSc 1975; MSocSc 1984)  
George Yuen 袁金浩 (BA 1966)
Yuen illustrated the interactive relationship between a city’s legal system, its legal infrastructure and its social, economic development, and explained why and how Hong Kong should position itself as a centre and regional hub for both domestic and international legal services, and for alternative dispute resolution (ADR), especially in the Asia Pacific Region.

To achieve this goal, he suggests that Hong Kong should carry out timely and effective law reform and provide an attractive legal environment for lawyers. He also noted that the Government should further enhance Hong Kong’s international visibility and presence, and promote Hong Kong as a centre for legal and ADR services. Legal research on substantive law and legal policy should also command great importance.

Hong Kong as regional hub of legal services

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Make the best use of the “One Country, Two Systems” Concept

He also stressed that this goal can provide long-term benefits for both Hong Kong and China. As Hong Kong, being an integral part of China, should make the best use of the “One Country, Two Systems” concept. To facilitate this unique characteristic, Yuen proposed that Hong Kong should consider how best to improve the CEPA arrangement; how to improve the use of Hong Kong law and Hong Kong dispute resolution services, including arbitration, mediation and other forms of ADR in the Mainland; how to make the best use of the “Early Pilot Measures” (先行先試) approach in respect of cross-boundary business initiated between Hong Kong and Guangdong; and how Hong Kong’s involvement in formulating the next national 5-year plan would help meet the aspirations of Hong Kong and make the most of Hong Kong’s advantages in our country’s development.

When one of the audience members asked for his legal perspective on Edward Snowden’s case, he answered with a strong, firm attitude: “no matter how complicated, how one may regard this as politically sensitive. Again if I may stress, the overriding consideration - the ultimate consideration - must be the legal regime governing the situation. In fact if you ask me, the more controversial the case may be, the more political the case one may think of, the more important it is to act in full accordance with the law. If we respect, if we truly respect the rule of law, then this is the way to do it. Otherwise it would not be conducive to the reputation of Hong Kong as a place that upholds the rule of law.”

At the end of the speech, he advised and encouraged Hong Kong people to treasure the freedom in our diversified society.

“I only adopt one yardstick, the law. If the law is broken, appropriate actions have to be taken.

Hong Kong is the only common law jurisdiction within the entire China, and indeed the entire Greater China region.

Our rule of law, our independent judiciary, as well as our strong legal profession with the ability to provide top quality legal services, are well-recognised by the international community.”