

## Message from the Chairman

The past year has not been easy for the University or for those who care for our *alma mater*. As we continue to celebrate the Centenary of the University, notwithstanding the unfortunate incident in August 2011, it was gratifying to see a record turnout at the Gala Dinner just before Christmas, reflecting the strong solidarity of the wider University family. Behind all these, however, there seems to be an important dimension emerging from this development — the University's positioning in future against its historical roles in this community, in Greater China and in the world, and how the University should go about adjusting to it. While this will take time to evolve, perhaps Convocation could take a lead in starting a discussion in some way. After all, this University does not belong only to the students; it also belongs to the staff, as well as to the many alumni of the University.

In my previous messages, I have often mentioned the purposes of Convocation, our activities and what we are trying to do at the Standing Committee and our sub-committees. This time I would like to update you on some of our recent developments.

In the past year, we started a series of sharing with senior University members among Standing Committee members and alumni leaders on the latest developments at the University. This facilitates an ongoing dialogue between Convocation and the University, and an exchange of views on various developmental matters. We hope to continue the series more regularly in future and to open it to a wider segment of interested alumni leaders.

From time to time, the Standing Committee organises activities through several sub-committees, each with a separate area of focus. This year we have already had several major events as part of the HKU Centenary Celebrations programmes. In January, we had the Convocation Forum on *The Future of The University of Hong Kong*. This was followed by the second

Convocation Forum on *A Dialogue with the New Generation: If I were the Chief Executive* (假如我是特首：年青人的想像與期望) co-organised with the 30SGroup in February. In March, we had a joint conference with the Convocation of The Chinese University of Hong Kong to examine how universities in Hong Kong can contribute more to the development of China. Further down the road, we hope to revive a previous activity of sending Convocation delegations to other parts of the world. Our last delegation went to Tibet nearly a decade ago. We are planning to have one or two delegations to places where the University has major collaborations. Do watch out for our notices.

In the area of University affairs, and against the backdrop of the Centenary Celebrations, we are currently conducting a research project on some of the key issues in the future development of the University. We will continue the dialogue with the University and hope to develop recommendations for the University.

By being more active in organising events, which are not usually the ones organised by over 100 alumni bodies, we hope to build a more vibrant alumni community, and to strengthen our platform for the exchange of views between alumni and the University. I hope we can see some results in the coming years.

From all of us at the Standing Committee, have a nice holiday this summer!

**SY Choi 蔡秀煜**



*Convocation of The University of Hong Kong (香港大學畢業生議會) is a statutory body comprising graduates and teaching staff of the University.*

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## Convocation Forum I

### The Way Forward

#### Convocation members discuss the future of HKU

HKU has risen to many challenges over the past century. What will happen in the next hundred years? The 818 Incident and the expected leadership change in 18 months' time have led to a lot of questions, doubts, comments, reflection and discussion among alumni, staff, students and the general public about the values, roles and future direction of HKU.

It was against this background that a Convocation Forum was held on January 14, 2012, to provide a platform for Convocation members to voice their views. The forum was well attended with around 100 participants.

In their respective welcoming speech and opening remarks, S Y Choi 蔡秀煜 (BSocSc 1972), Convocation Chairman, and Kenneth Tse 謝錦添 (BSc 1973; DipManStud 1980; MBA 1986), Convocation Standing Committee Member and moderator of the forum, invited the participants to share their opinions. Council Chairman Professor Leong Che-hung 梁智鴻教授 (MBBS 1962; Hon DSc 2006) raised some questions for the audience: How should HKU move forward in face of keen competition from other universities? Is HKU giving its students a good education while fulfilling the economic and social needs of society? Is curriculum reform moving in the right direction? How do our alumni and the general public view HKU?

Four invited distinguished speakers shared their thoughts.

Professor Edward Chen 陳坤耀教授 (BA 1967; MSocSc 1971; Hon DSocSc 2008), former President of Lingnan University expressed his strong wish that HKU could restore its tradition of liberal arts, as was the case in its first 50 years. The importance of the arts and the humanities should be emphasised, and focus should be on the well-being of the students.

Professor Sun Kwok 郭新教授, Dean of Faculty of Science, HKU, introduced the new curriculum in the Faculty that will prepare students for the 21st century. HKU should move from its excellence in small science towards big science, should align better with the national priorities of China in research, such as aerospace technology, and contribute to the Mainland's infrastructure.

Mr Antony Leung 梁錦松 (BSocSc 1973), former Financial Secretary and former Chairman of the University Grants Committee and of the Education Commission, pointed out the new features of the knowledge economy: globalisation, the re-emergence of China, and the concentration of capital. He emphasised the importance of the freedom of learning through extra-curricular activities.

Professor Roland Chin 錢大康教授, Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Provost, HKU, shared his understanding of the vision of HKU, as well as the many challenges ahead, especially those arising from the double cohorts of undergraduates and the new 4-year curriculum. HKU should develop to a truly first-class international university.

At the Q&A session, participants agreed that HKU should focus more on the learning of the undergraduates, in addition to seeking excellence in research. HKU graduates should have a critical mind and a heart to serve society. And, HKU should contribute more to the development of China.



## Convocation Forum II

### If I were the Chief Executive: Voices from the New Generation 假如我是特首：年青人的想像與期望

On February 11, 2012, Convocation and the 30SGroup (年青智庫「三十會」) invited nine young university graduates (the post 80s) to share their career experiences and life aspirations at three panel discussions.

At the first panel discussion, the three speakers were Social Activists (社會行動派). Chung Jah-ying 鍾嘉穎 (BBA(IBGM) 2010) founded her own social enterprise "Launch Pilots" immediately after graduation, to enable youngsters to design and execute innovative social projects. Crystal Chow 周澄, a cultural commentator, participated in the 2010 Legislative Council By-elections and served for six months with an NGO in the Philippines. Wong Ho-yin 王浩賢 (BSc 2008) convenor of the Land Justice League (土地正義聯盟) and member of District Council, aims to solve social problems at policy level.

At the second discussion "One Step into the Establishment" (當青年走入建制), the three speakers shared their experience in joining the "establishment". Paul Chan 陳智遠 (LLB 2001; PCLL 2002) was Political Assistant to the Secretary for Food and Health, HKSAR Government. Marcus Tse 謝子祺 and Lo Kin-hei 羅健熙 (BSW 2006) joined political parties and were elected to District Councils. They are full of conviction that their work will contribute to a better Hong Kong. But they found that the current political environment was not attractive to many young people.

The theme of the third discussion was "New Possibilities: My Second Career" (開創第二事業). Rico Chan 陳家亮, a former Administrative Officer in the HKSAR Government, became the coach of the Hong Kong Arsenal Soccer School. Calvin Tse 謝海發, who previously worked for a Big 4 accounting firm, opened a Mexican restaurant. Dr Victor Ng 吳瀚博士 (BEng(EEE) 1999), Senior Consultant, Hong Kong Productivity Council, volunteers his IT knowledge to help youngsters combat their drug problems and finds new meaning of life.

Two main messages were shared by the speakers. First, young people can break away from traditional career paths as they have the time and space to follow their hearts to start their dream careers.

Second, young people must be very clear about their own values. Only with a strong conviction in their beliefs can they cope with the pressure to conform and follow their dreams.

In the final part, each speaker was invited to give a 2-minute speech on what they would do if elected as Chief Executive, after which the audience voted for their Chief Executive.

Video: [www.convocation.hku.hk/2012talk/](http://www.convocation.hku.hk/2012talk/)



## Joint Convocation Conference

### The Roles of HKU and CUHK in China's Development

#### 「港大與中大在中國發展中的角色」

The first-ever joint conference co-organised by Convocation, The University of Hong Kong (HKU) and Convocation, The Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK), was held on March 17, 2012. It was supported by the HKUGA Education Foundation and the CUHKFAA Education Foundation.

The purpose of the conference was to enable the Convocation members of both universities to learn more about the engagement and collaboration of the universities with their Mainland counterparts, and to discuss the roles both universities can play and possible contributions to make to China's development.

Professor Michael Hui King-man 許敬文教授, Pro-Vice-Chancellor, CUHK, spoke of CUHK's vision and mission to bring together China and the West. China Studies was one of the five distinguished fields of academic enquiry in CUHK's Strategic Plan 2006 and serves as a platform for inter-faculty, interdisciplinary, long-term collaborations in research and education in relation to China. CUHK has set up joint research institutes with Mainland institutions, including the Shenzhen Institute of Advanced Technology (SIAT) with the Chinese Academy of Sciences and Shenzhen Municipal Government.

Professor Roland Chin 錢大康教授, Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Provost, HKU, outlined the University's strategy – to nurture talents and leaders for China, to engage mainland in research and innovation, to serve as a focal point of academic endeavour in Hong Kong, China, Asia and the rest of the world, to be an eminent international university within China, and to contribute to the mainland's reform and development, especially in higher education. A number of institutions have been established, including the HKU-Shenzhen Hospital, the Shenzhen Institute of Research and Innovation (SIRI), the HKU Shanghai Study Centre, Zhejiang Institute of Research

and Innovation (ZIRI), and a number of joint laboratories and four State Key Laboratories.

Professor Chin hoped that Hong Kong's experiences of the contemporary university model could serve as a reference for Mainland counterparts. Changes have already begun in China's higher education where institutional autonomy and the separation of the academia from politics are emphasised.

The subsequent discussion and Q&A session were moderated by Chan King-cheung 陳景祥, Chief Editor, Hong Kong Economic Journal, and Tai Keen-man 戴健文 (BSc 1977; MPhil 1983), Deputy Director of Broadcasting (Programmes), Radio Television Hong Kong.

Michelle Li 李美嫦 (LLB 1988), Deputy Secretary for Education, said that in order to contribute more to China, Hong Kong would need to seize the opportunities provided by the Mainland's development in the next five years. Cheung Chi-kong 張志剛, Executive Director of One Country Two Systems Research Institute, was of the opinion that in the last thirty years higher education on the Mainland had not raised its standards sufficiently high compared with China's achievements in economic and infrastructure development. Cheung believed that Hong Kong universities could serve as role models in governance and social resources. Lau Yui-siu 劉銳紹, political commentator, stressed the importance of having a 'heart' for China and a thorough understanding of the country, and expected more exchanges in Chinese and Western (or foreign) values in future.

