



Submission to LegCo Panel on Education

Future Developments in the Higher Education Sector

The Hong Kong Polytechnic University (PolyU) shares the broad vision of the UGC (as outlined in its recent document *Hong Kong Higher Education - To Make a Difference, to Move with the Times*) that Hong Kong's higher education can serve as the 'education hub' of the region, and give support to the economic and social development of Hong Kong and our neighbouring region. We also believe that, with the implementation of the Closer Economic Partnership Arrangement (CEPA), there is an even more urgent need for the higher education sector in Hong Kong to produce graduates of the highest calibre, who are not only competent in their professions, but are highly versatile and have a global outlook, to be able to support Hong Kong's development into a knowledge-based economy and our nation's integration with the world economy.

The PolyU also agrees with the UGC that this broad vision can best be realized through the collective efforts of Hong Kong's higher education institutions, each playing different (but complementary) roles according to their specific missions, and fully utilizing their strengths to achieve good performance both in teaching and research.

As we have emphasized in our submission to the UGC's Report 'Review of Higher Education in Hong Kong' published in March 2002 (the Sutherland Report), we do not subscribe to a simple demarcation of institutions as being research-oriented or teaching-oriented. We believe that the principle of selectivity should be applied to subject areas rather than to the institution as a whole. We are therefore pleased to see the UGC coming round to the approach of role differentiation between institutions, each with a specific set of role statements.

The PolyU's role statement is, by and large, a continuation and re-affirmation of our previous role, namely to strive for academic excellence in a professional context through the offer of study programmes that are application-oriented, and the conduct of applied research relevant to industrial, commercial and community needs. We believe we have closely adhered to this role and our performance in this regard has been well recognized by the UGC.

To contribute to the broad vision of Hong Kong serving as an 'education hub' of the region, the PolyU will put greater emphasis on providing high value-added education, through offering more broad-based study programmes to our students. We hope they will graduate as all-rounders with professional competence. We will also build upon our traditional strengths in applied research. In this regard, we envisage that our research efforts, in particular those at mid-stream level, can provide useful support to the relevant industries in the Pearl River Delta region, and help them to move up-market in their products and branding. We are also confident that our niche areas of strength in *Design and Fashion*, *Hotel and Tourism Management*, and *Logistics*, can continue to support the pillar industries of Hong Kong which the SAR Chief Executive identified in his recent Policy Address. As the key provider of *Accountancy* education in Hong Kong for the past several decades, our programmes serve to support Hong Kong's development into the finance centre of the region. Our various programmes in the areas of *Construction*, *Engineering*, and *Health Sciences* are similarly well-established and have their distinctive features. We will update their contents and adopt

an interdisciplinary approach as far as practicable, in order to achieve greater synergy and offer a more broad-based education to our students. We will also continue to explore opportunities for collaboration, both in teaching and research, with our partner institutions in Hong Kong and in the Mainland.

In conclusion, the PolyU remains committed to offering 'preferred programmes' and producing the 'preferred graduates' that can serve the macro-interests and needs of the Hong Kong community and of our neighbouring region in their future development.

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