

## PREFACE

2009 is a year of celebration for Macao. With the successful completion of its historical mission by the first Macao SAR Government, a new government was sworn in, promising to usher in a new era. The 2009/2010 academic year is also an important threshold in the development of Macao Polytechnic Institute. With the steadfast support of the last government, we have made unremitting efforts along the arduous path, and prospered and flourished over the past decade; now, with the care and guidance of the new SAR Government, we are determined to strive for greater heights in our future endeavours. At the beginning of a new academic year, the tone has been set for the work to follow: the Management Board and heads of the various departments shall continue to manage the Institute in accordance with the law, and perform their duties with integrity and sincerity; all academic staff shall work in concert to strive for greater achievement in teaching and research, and contribute to an organisational culture of diligence and harmony. After another ten years' development, MPI will offer a new look to the local community, a high-level teaching and research institution of higher education keeping in step with the times.

MPI has always put quality teaching at the core of its mission. The latest development in its programme teaching is that the Institute has obtained the Macao SAR Government's approval to replace its "3+1" programmes with 4-year degree programmes recruiting freshmen from Form 6 high school graduates starting from the 2010/2011 academic year. The programme restructuring is in tandem with curriculum reform aimed at enhancing education quality. The redesigned curricula of MPI academic programmes conform better to international trends, with the addition of new General Education and elective courses as the focus of change, while continuing to stress professional education. The new programmes provide students with knowledge outside of their specialties, widen their horizons, and enable them to better meet the needs arising from Macao's social and economic development; they also increase the students' opportunities for participation in international exchange programmes and the pursuit of further studies. The new Bachelor's degree programmes are much more than just an "upgrade" of the old programmes; they are designed as such to reform the old curricula in accordance with the trends of related disciplines. For instance, Dispatch No.29/2010 of the Secretary for Social and Cultural Affairs issued in March 2010 (published in Macao SAR Official Gazette on March 15th, 2010) approved the MPI proposal to offer the Bachelor of Social Science in Gaming and Recreation Management programme. This new programme, the duration of study of which is 4 years, will recruit freshmen from high school graduates who have completed 12 years of school education and obtained a high school diploma. With the new Macao SAR Government's commitment to support MPI, MPI's future looks very bright indeed.

In the new academic year MPI will change all its "3+1" programmes into four-year degree programmes. Through unremitting efforts to enhance teaching quality over the past decade, MPI has won the trust and praise of graduates, parents, and employers. MPI's teaching has been widely recognized and acclaimed by the

Macao community. For an institution of higher learning, one proof of the recognition of its teaching quality is its enrollment. For the 2010/2011 local student intake, although the number of secondary graduates this year decreased according to the figures provided by secondary schools in Macao, the number of applicants for MPI's programmes has not fallen. Over 68% of graduating students chose to apply for admission to MPI, reflecting once again that the nature and quality of the programmes offered by the Institute have been widely acknowledged by local students. There were over 5,000 applicants for MPI's programmes, the highest among local higher education institutions for several consecutive years.

Ever since the handover we have been determined to build MPI into a small but unique institution of higher learning. A small boat turns easily. Similarly, it is easier for a small higher education institution to focus on academic areas in which it boasts comparative advantages, to adjust itself according to the needs of the local community, and establish its primary product. How a small MPI can be unique and academically strong is a question worth serious consideration. An emphasis on research is undoubtedly a key aspect. Following careful analysis, we have identified four priority areas in the Institute's work: Portuguese language teaching and research, gaming teaching and research, English language teaching and research, and computer teaching and research. Specialized committees have been established in each of these areas. A review of the research achievements by MPI academics illustrates the significant progress that has been made. The number of papers published by MPI academics in formal academic publications reached 179, a 31.6% increase when compared to last year. 28 papers were published in publications listed in citation indexes such as SCI, SSCI, AHCI and EI, with some of them published in journals rated as being in the top 30% in terms of academic influence, such as *Health and Social Care in the Community*, *International Journal of Eating Disorders*, *Separation and Purification Technology*, *IEEE Internet Computing*, and *Journal of Pharmaceutical Sciences*, etc. 49 papers were published in core journals in Mainland China such as *Chinese Journal of Nursing*, *Chinese Music*, *Chinese Translator*, *China Higher Education Research*, etc., a 63.3% increase when compared to last year. 19 research outputs received awards, including 14 Outstanding Macao Research Awards, a "CASS Institute of Sociology Award for Outstanding Research Output", and 4 best paper awards presented by authoritative conferences or journals.

The world today is an open world. For any higher education institution to carve out its unique position and thrive it must open its eyes to the outside world; it must open its doors and windows to let in fresh air in order to keep its vitality; it must go out and display itself to the outside world, so as to win a bigger say on the international stage. The internationalization and globalization of higher education has become an irresistible trend across the world. Over the course of the past year, MPI has again vigorously explored means of cooperation with other universities and research institutes. It jointly established a gaming research centre

with Sun Yat-sen University on the Chinese Mainland and the Language and Culture Research Centre of Macao together with Beijing Language and Culture University and the Institute of Applied Linguistics of the Ministry of Education. The Institute organized a Conference on “One Country Two Systems” and the development of a constitutional government; it hosted another meeting on the collection of materials for compiling a “Macao Historical Materials Catalogue”, inviting over 30 experts from Germany, France, Italy, the Chinese Mainland, Taiwan, Hong Kong and Macao to exchange their experiences of collecting historical materials about Macao with a view to promoting research on Macao’s history and thus laying a solid foundation for the compilation of the Macao Local Records. At the invitation of the president of the Conselho Coordenador dos Institutos Superiores Politécnico (CCISP), an MPI delegation went to Portugal to attend the annual meeting of CCISP, and visited partner institutions in Portugal for discussions about teaching and research cooperation projects. All these measures have significantly enhanced MPI’s international standing.

This year MPI will continue with its self-enhancement endeavours to ensure the best academic quality in terms of teaching and research, while drawing upon the experiences of advanced institutions. MPI will pay close attention to current economic and social problems in Macao in order to provide policy recommendations to the SAR Government for development strategies and scientific decision-making. MPI will vigorously engage itself in preparation for its upgrading to “Macao Polytechnic University”, thus making even greater contribution to the local community.

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