

Preface

The 2010/2011 academic year has been an unusual one for Macao Polytechnic Institute –

In March 2011 Professor Raymond Chan Wai Man, our former Secretary-General, passed away unexpectedly while on a business trip to Wuhan for discussions in preparation for “The Fifth Cross-Strait Forum on Higher Education Campus Safety” to be hosted by MPI. The entire MPI community grieved at the loss of a good man and a dedicated worker.

In May 2011 the Commission Against Corruption (CCAC) of Macao released “A Comprehensive Report on the Problems Concerning the Structure and Operation of Macao Polytechnic Institute”, which deemed that various problems had existed in the structure and internal management of MPI. Approaching criticism in a positive light, we took immediate steps to address the issues raised. Three working groups in the academic, administrative and legal areas respectively were set up to review the existing MPI statute and check for problems as referred to by the CCAC. Adopting the constructive parts of the CCAC’s recommendation, we have undertaken a major organizational restructuring and streamlined our operations, under the principle of “Adjust the pace, set the goal, and advance again”. Our commitment to lawful administration and integrity of management has been reinforced; we will continue to strive for excellence in teaching and research so as to fully contribute to Macao’s development.

As an institution with a dual emphasis on teaching and research, MPI has all along placed the enhancement of teaching quality at the centre of all its endeavours. In 2010/2011, we have implemented a four-year Bachelor’s degree curriculum structure in all our programmes. One key feature of the new structure is that more general education courses and elective courses are offered in line with the global trend in higher education; in addition to our regular curriculum, more emphasis has been put on social practice and exchange with local and overseas institutions to widen student exposure and broaden horizons. It is believed that the restructured programmes will benefit students by providing a more flexible, student-centred, holistic professional education. This has been attested to by the fact that we have received positive feedback on the performance of our graduates from both parents and employers.

To ensure that the academic standards of our higher education programmes are on a par with international standards, MPI has continued to implement its external evaluation system by inviting scholars and experts of international stature in related fields to evaluate MPI provision. These external examiners include amongst others Professor Xie Dongming of the Central Academy of Fine Arts, Professor Huang Kuang-Nan, President of Taiwan University of Arts, Professor Li Mingqiang of the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts, Professor Liu Xinxin of Tsinghua University, Professor Laurie Cuthbert of Queen Mary, University of London, Professor Shaw Chonghai from the Chinese Culture University,

Taiwan, and Professor Gwen Sherwood from the School of Nursing, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, US. Their evaluations and recommendations have proved invaluable in upgrading MPI's teaching and research.

Over the past year, the performance of MPI in research has been impressive. 195 articles were published in formal academic publications, an 8.9% increase when compared to last academic year; 38 articles were published in publications listed in prominent citation indexes such as SCI, SSCI, AHCI, and EI, a 36% increase over last year; with some being published in the top 30% of journals as seen from a disciplinary perspective ranked by impact factors (such as *American Journal of Human Biology*, *Current Medicinal Chemistry*, *Energy*, and *International Journal of Nursing Studies*); 55 articles were published in key journals in Mainland China, a 12% increase over last year; 32 books were published by MPI, while 20 books were published by external publishers, including prestigious publishers such as the People's Publishing House, the Social Sciences Academic Press (China), and the Commercial Press. In terms of patents, MPI faculty, together with collaborators, has developed a system enabling the spray-freeze-drying process to be done in a single step operation. With a utility model patent successfully filed last academic year, this academic year the system was granted an invention patent by the State Intellectual Property Office of China, the highest level of patents in the country.

In 2010/2011, our partnership with Portuguese institutions has been further strengthened and expanded in various fields such as student exchange, and cooperative projects in Portuguese teaching and research. In addition to existing joint Master's programmes with prestigious Portuguese universities, a joint PhD programme will soon be launched. These collaborative programmes are designed to broaden students' international perspectives, cultivate more high-quality Portuguese talent, and enhance Macao's role as a platform between China and the Portuguese-speaking countries.

In support of the Macao SAR Government's policy of promoting gaming-led tourism and making Macao one of the world's "tourism and leisure centres", MPI has strengthened gaming-related teaching and research in recent years, through cooperation and exchange with overseas institutions. MPI has long maintained a vibrant partnership with the University of Nevada, Reno, the world's premier provider of gaming management education. MPI has won international recognition as a tertiary institution with unique strengths in gaming-related curriculum and research.

This year is the 12th year since Macao's return to the Motherland as well as the first year of implementing the National Twelfth Five-Year Plan and the Guangdong-Macao Cooperation Framework Agreement. To accomplish the goals for Macao and the whole country's development, the Macao SAR Government has put improving the quality of its population high on its agenda. Macao's Chief Executive, Dr Fernando Chui Sai On, while officiating at the MPI 2010/2011 graduation ceremony, announced that the SAR Government was working on the Higher Education Act and related regulations. The new Higher Education Act is expected to provide local higher education institutions with stable and adequate support in enhancing teaching and research attainments by allowing them greater autonomy and flexibility, so that their staff and students may progress together.

In anticipation of the new Higher Education Act, we have conducted a series of relevant studies and will solicit opinions from MPI staff and faculty regarding the revision of MPI's existing Charter under the new law, so as to be better positioned to serve the community in its various social, economic and cultural undertakings.

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