

News from Hong Kong Polytechnic University Alumni in Southern California, U.S.A.

October 20, 2006

The alumni and former staff of the Hong Kong Polytechnic University (HKPolyU) in southern California have had a few gatherings in the past few years. The number of people attending these gatherings ranged from about five to ten. During a visit by the HKPolyU President, Professor Poon Chung Kwong to Los Angeles in June 2006, the group was

encouraged to explore further the network of alumni in southern California. With the assistance of the staff of HKPolyU and after a few months of planning, the HKPolyU alumni in southern California had its first organized social event in September 9, 2006. It was a dinner gathering



HKPolyU Alumni and Former Staff in Southern California, Sept. 2006

held in a restaurant in the City of Monterey Park, Los Angeles County, California. An announcement about the dinner gathering was advertised in the region's Sing Tao Daily



Families of HKPolyU Alumni and Former Staff in Southern California, Sept. 2006

Newspaper. Alumni from as far away as Phoenix, Arizona and San Diego came for this social gathering. Alumni graduated as early as 1965 and as late as 1998 met in the same room for the first time in southern California. There were 30 alumni and their family members present. A former HKPolyU staff member was also one of the enthusiastic attendees. During the dinner meeting, there were discussions on whether the group had interest in forming an HKPolyU alumni association in southern California. It was unanimously and eagerly agreed that the idea is worth further consideration. Many alumni volunteered to get together in another meeting to explore the idea of forming a southern California HKPU alumni association.

On October 7th, 2006, the volunteers met at one of the alumni, Mr. Sai Chung Chan's house in Irvine, Orange County.

Alumni and former staff attended the meeting included Sai Chung Chan, Eric Lao, Margaret Lee, Beng Liu, Bill Ng, Ying Keung Poon, Grace So, Sik Y Woo, and K.K. Yeung.



First Meeting of Steering Committee, October, 2006

The attendees discussed the pros and cons of forming an official alumni association, the mission of the alumni association, the official name, Steering Committee members, and immediate tasks needed for the formation of an association. There was preference towards forming an official non-profit organization registered legally in the California.

After some discussions about the goal and mission of the organization, the attendees came up with the following draft ideas:

- a. Maintain a network of HKPolyU former staff and alumni in the region
- b. Promote academic exchange
- c. Encourage student and academic activities
- d. Assist exchange students, new arrivals to LA adjacent areas
- e. Support fund raising

The attendees then discussed and decided to use *Hong Kong Polytechnic (Southern California) Alumni Association* as the name of the alumni group in southern California.

Tentatively a Steering Committee for the HKPolyU (Southern California) Alumni Association was formed with the following members:

Convener: Ying Keung Poon (潘應強)
Co-Convener: Sai Chung Chan (陳世忠)
Secretary: Sik Y Woo (吳錫榕)
Treasurer: Beng Liu
Membership: Eric Lao (劉賢成)
Public Relation: Margaret Lee (李鳳璣)
Activity Coordinators: Bill Ng (吳樹標), Grace So and Shirley Yeung (楊雪娜)

Tasks of the Steering Committee included:

1. Establish an official entity of the Alumni Association
 - Legally register association as non-profit organization
 - Prepare bylaws
2. Work on expanding alumni network in southern California
3. Plan for the next major activity: Chinese New Year Gathering, February 24th 2007.