

## CHAIRMAN'S FOREWORD 主席序言

# MOVING WITH THE TIMES RISING TO THE CHALLENGES

## 迎接 時代挑戰



“ My re-appointment as Council Chairman of The Hong Kong Polytechnic University for another three-year term is much more than an honour ... it is a challenge to work even harder for this highly respected institution so that together we can achieve even greater success for the benefit of Hong Kong and the world.

我再度獲委任為香港理工大學校董會主席，為期三年，深感榮幸的同時，更覺任重道遠，要讓這所享負盛名的院校能為香港以至世界作出更多貢獻，我必須盡心竭力，迎接挑戰。”

### Changing pedagogy in times of challenges

In these times of astonishing advances in so many fields, we are well aware of the community's rising expectations and are determined to contribute even more to society through education, research and knowledge transfer. At the same time we must be aware of stumbling blocks on the road to progress.

In the cover story of TIME magazine's special college report titled "What Colleges will Teach in 2025 – America must resolve the conflict between knowledge and know-how", the writer details some alarming facts about US tertiary education. It is noted that 36 percent of college graduates did not show any significant cognitive gains from their four years of study, and half of American employers say they cannot find qualified graduates to hire. Let this be a lesson for us.

### 與時並進 目標清晰

在這瞬息萬變的年代，事物發展一日千里，我們理解社會各界的期望不斷提升。理大一直致力透過教育、科研與知識轉移貢獻社會。與此同時，我們也要時刻保持警覺，應對沿途荊棘。

《時代》雜誌一篇題為「大專院校到了二零二五年將教授什麼 — 美國必須解決知識與技能之間的落差」("What Colleges will Teach in 2025 – America must resolve the conflict between knowledge and know-how") 的大專教育專題報告中，作者列舉了美國專上教育一些令人憂慮的現況。文章指出百分之三十六的大專畢業生完成四年課程後，認知能力沒有顯著的增長。另一方面，美國半數僱主表示難以招聘勝任的畢業生。殷鑑不遠，我們必須以此作為警惕。



Knowledge, not only in science and technology, changes rapidly. Pedagogy must change as well. The present trend in pedagogy places emphasis on critical thinking, discussion and expression of one's viewpoint as well as active planning for lifetime learning; i.e. students must explore knowledge for themselves rather than being passively absorbing what is taught. Training in insightful analysis and introspective study is what enriches brains and expands young imaginations.

### Do well in professions, do good for the world

At PolyU, we have designed a curriculum that provides a broad-based education to complement the strong professional orientation of our programmes. The University works on widening students' horizons by providing a wide array of "broadening subjects" in fields that include the humanities, history, culture, science and technology, so that they can explore the world beyond their chosen professions.

By providing a wide spectrum of choice for undergraduates, we nurture the creativity of our students, who will eventually become professionals with knowledge-enriched and broadened minds. Not only will they do well in their chosen professions; they will also be mentally equipped to take up their roles as responsible global citizens.

Our Dean of Students Office organizes seminars and activities that aim to enrich our students' experience outside the classroom. In September 2013, I took part in the "Planning Your Way of Life" series and shared with some 200 students my university life experience under the theme "What I Wish I Knew when I Studied in University". I must say that I was glad to see the overwhelming response of the students.

### Students learn through serving the underprivileged

At PolyU, education is not only about imparting knowledge but also applying that knowledge to make the world a better place. In pursuance of this idealistic concept, this summer several hundred PolyU students travelled out of Hong Kong to take part in service-learning programmes in Cambodia, Rwanda, Indonesia, Vietnam and the Chinese mainland.

Students brought a new dimension to orphans' lives by teaching them how to use software for digital story-telling and animation programming, thereby bringing into their lives the exciting element of hope for a better future. When it was found that some children could not continue their studies at night as darkness settled over their villages, our students helped them set up solar panels and so brought into the children's lives the boon of light by which to study at night.

Through serving the needy with their professional knowledge, our students have not only broadened their own horizons as responsible global citizens but also brought back many unforgettable memories. What a rewarding and heart-warming experience for them...

科技固然日新月異，知識亦不斷更新，因此教學必須與時並進。現今的教學趨勢強調主動思考、討論和表達己見，以及積極計劃終身學習。學生必須主動探索知識，而非被動地教授知識。培養精關分析技巧和個人內省能力，均有助提升學生的思維能力和想像空間。

### 專業精英 社會棟樑

理大一直以提供專業培訓見稱，我們重新設計課程，以期為學生提供全面的教育，藉著開辦一系列有關人文、歷史、文化、科學及科技等「拓寬視野通識科目」，使學生得以放眼其專業以外的世界。

理大又透過提供廣泛多元的本科課程，致力培育學生的創意，使他們日後成為見多識廣的人才，既能在本身專業大放異彩，亦足以肩負世界公民的責任。

理大學務長辦事處經常舉辦研討會及活動，藉此鼓勵學生汲取課堂以外的經驗。我也曾參與二零一三年九月舉行的「生涯規劃」系列活動，以「我但願在大學時期已學懂的事」為題，與近二百名學生分享我的大學歲月。同學反應熱烈，教我驚喜不已。

### 改善世界 豐盛人生

理大除教授學生專業知識，亦期望他們能以知識改善世界。今年暑假，數百名理大學生遠赴柬埔寨、盧旺達、印尼、越南和中國內地，參與「服務學習」計劃，實踐理想。

參與計劃的學生教導當地孤兒利用電腦軟件說故事和製作動畫，為小孩帶來美好明天的希望；當他們發現學童在晚上因為沒有照明而不能溫習，即協助設置太陽能燈板，供學童晚上溫習之用。

學生除了利用專業知識協助有需要的人外，本身亦擴闊了視野，履行了世界公民的責任，並且為自己的人生增添不少難忘回憶和寶貴經歷。







### Industry and community support for new initiatives

This year, my heart is gladdened to see so many new initiatives taking shape across the campus. Some of the larger scale ones include the establishment of the Research Institute for Sustainable Urban Development, to lead the way on urban sustainability; the Aviation Services Research Centre, in collaboration with the Boeing Company, to boost the growth of the aviation industry; and the Jockey Club Design Institute for Social Innovation, to effect changes in society through design. All these would have been impossible without the great support of business and industry as well as the wider community.

In particular, I am delighted that highly encouraging philanthropic support has continued to flow in throughout the year. This has enabled such advances as the establishment of eight Endowed Professorships, and the building of the Innovation Tower and the establishment of the Design Institute for Social Innovation supported by the Hong Kong Jockey Club. With further community support, we will certainly be able to achieve more in the future.

### Realizing our vision for a brighter future

I am confident that PolyU will continue to stay at the forefront of educational development and innovative research, turning vision into reality for a better future not just for Hong Kong, but for the world as a whole.

Finally, my special thanks to Council Members for the trust that they have so generously given me over the past four years. With their continued support, as well as that of the University management, staff, students and alumni, I am sure PolyU will be able to achieve even more for the benefit of mankind.

Marjorie Yang, GBS, JP  
Chairman of Council

December 2013

### 同心同德 屢創新猷

年內，理大落實了不少新計劃，令我深感高興，其中規模較大的包括成立「可持續城市發展研究院」，藉此帶領城市的可持續發展；與波音公司合作籌辦「航空服務研究中心」，致力推動航空業界的發展；成立全港首間「賽馬會社會創新設計院」，藉著推行創新設計，造福社會。以上各項發展有幸獲得商界、業界與社會各界鼎力支持，才能順利開展。

對於年內理大獲得的捐獻，我更特別感恩：善長的支持令大學得以成立八個勵學教授席；香港賽馬會的慷慨捐款，亦令創新樓和社會創新設計院兩大項目順利開展。社會各界的資助捐獻，是理大持續發展的重要支柱。

### 前景遠大 高峯再攀

我深信理大將繼續推動教育發展和創新科研，致力實踐願景，為社會及至世界創造更美好的將來。

最後，我在此衷心感謝各位校董會成員過去四年鼎力相輔。深信透過校董會成員、大學管理層、同事、學生及校友的同心同德，群策群力，理大定必邁步向前，造福世界。

校董會主席  
楊敏德, GBS, JP

二零一三年十二月