

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

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Dear All,

Welcome to all HKUST members to our campus after a long summer, especially to those of you who are newly joining this big family.

When walking onto the campus, you will surely notice significant face-lifting being done to the University's Piazza area. In the past year or so, we have sequentially completed a whole series of renovation projects over the semi-circular ground-level zone with different new features and functionalities. Our intention is to create a one-stop environment with user-friendly services to our students, staff, faculty, alumni and also visitors. New facilities include a renovated Souvenir Shop, a Starbucks, a face-lifted Commercial Press Bookstore and a new student services counter.



Academic facilities have also been renovated. The Cheng Yu Tung Building (a.k.a. the Research and Academic Building) near south entrance of the campus is now completed, and while the laboratory retrofitting work is being carried out, more teaching spaces will be put into use starting from this academic year. The new Conference Lodge, next to the IAS Building, is now open with a provision of 130 guestrooms for our visitors coming for various academic and research activities and events. I will have more to share with you in future e-letter issues on updates to our overall campus master plan and other infrastructure projects in the pipeline.

Many of you may already know that this is also going to be a special academic year for HKUST. Stepping into the fall of 2015, the University will embark on a series of activities and events to celebrate our 25th anniversary. More details will be shared with all of you soon.

On its 25th anniversary, the University has taken time to reflect on who we are, to assess what we have achieved and, above all, to strategize how we should reposition ourselves in the face of the coming challenges and opportunities. In this regard, the University has defined five Core Values which will guide us forward as a world-class academic institution. Many members of the HKUST community have contributed their opinions through multiple rounds of consultations. The five Core Values are:-

1. **Excellence, Integrity, and Academic Freedom** - commitment to excellence in teaching, research and people, while placing utmost value in the freedom to conduct academic activities, subject to the highest standards of academic integrity and honesty.
2. **Global Vision and Local Commitment** – to be a global leader in research and providing global perspectives for our students, while upholding our responsibility to our local community.
3. **Can-do Spirit** – cherishing and embodying the spirit of risk-taking, willingness to overcome challenges, innovativeness, creativeness, and confidence.
4. **Inclusiveness, Diversity, and Respect** – valuing and respecting the differences of individuals and striving to embrace these diverse forces to foster an inclusive and caring environment.
5. **1-HKUST** - the entire HKUST family works together as an integrated and holistic team with a view to making the whole of our University's mission bigger than the sum of its parts.

I appeal to all of you to embrace these values which help us build HKUST into a world class University. In the coming months, we will roll out different initiatives to carry forward the Core Values.

Stay tuned!

Prof Tony F Chan
President

1 September 2015