



# The Hong Kong Educational Research Association 香港教育研究學會 (1999-2000)

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## Message from the President - Prof. Arthur K.C. Li



The Hong Kong community has been engrossed for some time in a passionate discussion about educational reform and the opportunities and challenges to our education system brought along by the new century.

Now, three months into a new year and a new century, the general atmosphere of restlessness and dissatisfaction with things as they are has not abated. While all are waiting for reform proposals to be drawn up for public consultation by the Education Commission, heated debate continues over issues such as what should change first, how priorities should be established, and according to which reform agenda.

Indeed the most important education reform in the history of Hong Kong may be in the making. It is unprecedented in scale and on it hinges the future of Hong Kong and the well-being of its people.

For those of us who have a professional stake in the quality of education (teachers, education administrators, researchers, and counsellors) this is a time of call. We are soon to embark on a journey in one and the same vessel. To ensure success we must have all the necessary maps, charts, and statistic ready. We need to work out the best course to take, choose the ports of call, and collaborate as a spirited crew in leading our young students to the fabulous shores that we know of already while discovering new havens along the way.

Let us not hesitate to disagree and debate. Let us not forget to communicate with all the parties involved and draw on our collective wisdom and experience to promote this common enterprise. Those of us whose expertise lies in educational research have the particularly important duty to encourage a rational and scholarly approach to the issues before us to ensure that debate and argument end constructively in well-grounded strategies and policies and not divisively in discord and resentment. Much as we rely on the dedication of frontline teachers and social workers to sail ahead, we also depend on the careful observation and shrewd analysis of researchers to alert us to the rocks and reefs in these potentially dangerous waters. We depend on them to warn and inform us, both about deviations from our original course and the need for mid-course corrections.

No reform can be so comprehensively preconceived that it doesn't need continuous evaluation and assessment. This is where education researchers can contribute most, and I call upon all members of the association to provide loyal support in this arduous journey to reform Hong Kong's education system.

### Biographical notes

#### Prof. Arthur K. C. Li

*M.A., M.D., B.Chir. (Cantab), Hon. D.Sc. (Hull), Hon. D.Litt. (HKUST), F.R.C.S. (Eng), F.R.C.S. (Edin.), F.R.A.C.S., F.A.C.S., Hon. F.P.C.S., Hon. F.R.C.S. (Glas.), Hon. F.R.S.M., Hon. F.R.C.S. (I)*

Arthur K. C. Li has been Vice-Chancellor of The Chinese University of Hong Kong since 1996. He was formerly the Foundation Professor and Chairman of the Department of Surgery as well as Dean of the Faculty of Medicine at CUHK. As an active medical researcher his interest has focussed on hepato-pancreato-biliary problems and gastrointestinal surgery. Consequently, he has published nine books and over two hundred and eighty articles in international refereed journals. Professor Li is also currently the Vice-President of the Association of University Presidents of China.

After graduating from Cambridge, Professor Li undertook rotational surgical

training at Addenbrookes Hospital, Cambridge and St. Mary's Hospital, London. He was then appointed Lecturer in Surgery at the Royal Free Hospital Medicine School, London. Subsequently he was awarded a scholarship to Harvard Medical School and the Massachusetts General Hospital where he stayed for 3 years before returning to the Royal Free Hospital to take up an appointment as Consultant/Senior Lecturer.

Before returning to Hong Kong Professor Li was awarded the European Society for Surgical Research prize in 1980 and the 1982 Moynihan Medal of the Association of Surgeons of Great Britain and Ireland.

Since then he had been granted Honorary Fellowships from a number of surgical colleges and renowned surgical associations. These include the Royal Society of Medicine, the Association of Surgeons of Great Britain and Ireland and the President's Gold Medal of Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh. He has also been awarded Honorary Doctorates by The University of Hull in the UK (Science), The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (Letters), and Soka University, Tokyo. Professor Li has served as the President of the College of Surgeons of Hong Kong and has been awarded Honorary Professorships at many academic institutions especially in China. He has delivered many eponymous lectures at prestigious universities and been invited to give keynote addresses at numerous international congresses.

In addition to his distinction in the field of Medicine, Professor Li has been appointed Hong Kong Affairs Advisor to the People's Republic of China. He has been appointed as a member of the Consultative Committee for the Basic Law, the Preparatory Committee of the Special Administrative Region of the National People's Congress, and the First Selection Committee of the Special Administrative Region. He was also appointed in 1998 to the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC).

Professor Li is on the Board of the Glaxo Wellcome plc., The Bank of East Asia Limited and The China Telecom (Hong Kong) Limited and is Non-Executive Chairman of the Regal Hotel Group plc.

## Message from the Chairman

It is our pleasure and honor to be the Executive Committee (1999-2000) of the Hong Kong Educational Research Association at the turn of the century. It is timely to briefly review the past development of the Association and to look ahead at future challenges.

The HKERA was registered with the Government in accordance with the Society Ordinance in May, 1984 and its inauguration was officiated by the then Chairman of the Education Commission, Dr. the Honourable Q.W. Lee, at the opening ceremony of the first annual conference held at the Chinese University of Hong Kong in November, 1984. Since then, the Association has built a strong foundation with support from various educational institutions and it has been able to assemble educational researchers to participate on a cooperative basis in research activities and scholarly communication. In the past years, members from different institutions worked together towards the improvement of education and they made the annual conferences momentous events every year in Hong Kong.

Through continuous contribution from its membership and the efforts of its executive committees, the Association has established itself as the largest organization engaged in educational research in Hong Kong having wide representation and participation across educational institutions. At present its membership numbers more than 400, most of whom are local.

Regardless of the strengths established through its early growth and development, over the past few years the Association has been facing great challenges due to changes in the external environment. When compared to the 1980s and early 1990s, there are now far more institutes and centres for educational research. Competition

between institutions is stronger than ever before. In addition, most academics are under greater pressure to raise productivity and increase their publication rate. Consequently they are too busy with their own research to have much time to give to collaborative work or joint ventures across disciplines and/or institutions. Each year there are increasing numbers of large-scale local and international conferences vying for the attention of educational researchers and practitioners. All of which compete directly with the Association for audience share.

Threats by nature may mean opportunities. This year's ExCo members deliberated on and discussed these challenges in the first executive meeting and determined some objectives for the future. In the short term, the Association intends to aim at maintaining high visibility and providing quality services to its members and the community at

large. It also intends to continue promoting collaborative research among institutions and to remain active in publicizing research findings. In the long run, the Association hopes to promote its role and standing in the international academic circle by advancing the quality and standard of educational research in Hong Kong and by seeking international collaboration with overseas educational research associations.

The Association will never succeed in its efforts without your continuous participation and professional support. To that end I sincerely invite all of you to take part in the various activities organized during the year and call upon all educational researchers to make an effort to gather together to explore new horizons for the Association.

**Dr. PANG Nicholas Sun Keung**

### Soliciting Information on Research Needs

The Executive Committee of the HKERA is planning to initiate a research support service for members who are in need of advice with respect to various activities related to the conducting of research projects (e.g. selecting research methods, proposal writing, action planning, budgeting, interpreting data, etc.). In order to address members' needs more accurately, we would like to hear from you. Please take a moment to tell us about the kinds of support you would find most useful. You can send us your suggestions by visiting our web-site at [WWW.HKERA.ORG.HK](http://WWW.HKERA.ORG.HK). We greatly value members' input on this matter, as it will facilitate our planning for the provision of better services in the future.

**Dennis Chan**

*Research and Development Co-ordinator*  
HKERA

# Report on the 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the Hong Kong Educational Research Association (HKERA)

The 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the HKERA, entitled Exploring New Frontiers in Education, took place on 20 & 21 November 1999 and was hosted by the School of Foundations in Education, the Hong Kong Institute of Education.

**The program was successful.** Over 100 paper presentations, 11 symposia, and 8 workshops were held during the two-day conference, which attracted 370 participants. It was a great honor to have hosted several renowned scholars as keynote speakers. These included Prof. Michael Connelly from the University of Toronto, Prof. Lu Jie from Nanjing Normal University and Prof. John Biggs from the University of Hong Kong. The conference was concluded by an international forum chaired by Prof. Ruth Hayhoe. The invited speakers for this event included Prof. Thongthaw Sumlee from Chulalongkorn University (Thailand), Mr Sou Chio Fai from Direcçao Dos Servicos, De Educacao E Juventude (Macau), Mr. Andrew Poon from the Education Department (Hong Kong). Other highlights of the conference included five dialogue sessions focussing on economic, green culture, health, technology, women and education, a youth forum, a parent forum and a media forum. Well-known figures in different fields were invited to dialogue with educators. Among those invited were Mr. Michael Tin from G2000 Group, Dr. Lo Wing-lok from Medical Society of Hong Kong, Dr. Priscilla Chung from Equal

Opportunities Commission, and Mr. Yuen Kee-wang from Ming Pao.

**The fund raising was satisfactory.** Substantial sponsorship was received from the Hong Kong Institute of Education along with contributions from the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology and the Hong Kong Baptist University. The fund raising sub-committee were also successful in securing donations from Sik Sik Yuen, Victoria Educational Organization, Kingston Children Center, Simon K Y Lee Foundation Limited, New Asia Publishing House Limited and Mr. Alan Chan Kin Chung. Further financial support also came from exhibitors, including Eduserve International Limited, Edu Media Limited, Vassar International Limited, Ultra Active Technology Limited, Corel Corporation and Alphatek Global Pte Limited. Basically all expenses were covered by the contributions received (ref. Financial Report).

**Reflections on the conference.** The Organizing Committee made a great effort to invite well-known scholars or experts from other fields to speak at the event. Though there were smaller audiences in some sessions, the total number of enrolments was 370. However it appeared that quite a number of paper presenters only attended their own sessions and gave up the opportunity to exchange ideas with other scholars. The

need to encourage educational researchers to participate more actively and extensively in the conference is a serious issue that the HKERA ExCo will have to tackle in the future. One of the breakthroughs in this conference was the organisation of dialogue sessions linking up parents, tertiary students and educational researchers and experts from diverse fields. Feedback from the participants in these new sessions was very good which served to highlight the issue of who, besides educators, should be invited to participate in this annual event; another issue that the HKERA ExCo might have to explore in future.

**Publications.** The Organising Committee of the Conference also prepared two sets of reference materials for use during the Conference. One of them was an abstract book that consisted of submitted abstracts of all accepted presentations. Another was a programme book used for participants/presenters on information related to various activities/programmes in the two-day Conference. Moreover, additional leaflets and information sheets for specific programmes and activities were also designed to provide further notice to interested parties before and during the Conference.

**Dr CHAN Pui Kai, Dr HUI Kwok Fai, Phillip and Mr CHOI Cheong, Ben**  
Conference Organising Committee  
HKERA

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## Membership Information Update Form

Please fax this form to Dr. Anna Kwan at (852) 2788-8210 or send this information by e-mail to pdkwan@cityu.edu.hk

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Postal Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Organisation: \_\_\_\_\_

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Pager/Mobil Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_