



**Foreword from
the Chairman
主席序言**





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Mr Carlson TONG, GBS, JP

(Appointed as Chairman on 1 January 2016)

唐家成先生, GBS, JP

(2016年1月1日獲委任為主席)

The year 2020-21 turned out to be another most difficult year for Hong Kong's higher education with successive waves of COVID-19 resurgence. Once again, the UGC-funded sector has risen to the challenge in overcoming the far-reaching socio-economic impact of the pandemic on our society and disruptions on our university campuses. Throughout this challenging time, the UGC has worked closely in partnership with our universities. I am most encouraged that our universities have demonstrated their resilient in addressing the adverse circumstances. In fact, colleagues at the universities not only managed to fulfill their core mission in delivering first-class teaching and research with the swift adoption of innovative virtual learning strategies, but also made significant contributions to Government's infectious diseases prevention and control efforts from promoting vaccination-related initiatives to applying their research and expertise to the battle against the pandemic.

In support of the sector during this most difficult time and in partnership with the universities, the UGC rolled out a series of new initiatives in 2020-21 to promote virtual teaching and learning, research, as well as support services for students in anticipation of the new higher education landscape under

新冠病毒疫情一波未息一波又起，令 2020-21 年成為香港高等教育界極具挑戰的另一年。教資會資助界別需再次迎難而上，克服疫情對社會經濟以及大學校園造成的影響。雖然如此，教資會在艱難當前一直與大學保持緊密合作。在這段期間，大學百折不撓，靈活應對逆境的精神，亦實在令我鼓舞。事實上，大學同仁不僅迅速以創新的虛擬學習策略，堅守其核心使命，維持高質素教學和研究水平，更為政府的傳染病防控工作作出重大貢獻，包括推進疫苗接種相關的措施，以及活用其研究成果和專業知識抗擊疫情。

為了支援業界渡過這艱難時刻，教資會在 2020-21 年度與大學合作推出了一系列新措施以促進虛擬教學及研究，並為學生提供支援服務以適應新常態下高等教育的新景象。教資會與質素保證局（質保局）合



the new normal. Working with the Quality Assurance Council (QAC), the UGC allocated an additional funding of \$165 million to promote the strategic development of virtual teaching and learning. We also allocated another special grant of \$50 million for universities to strengthen their student support services, such as counselling and career development services. I am pleased to learn about the positive and encouraging feedback from universities on these initiatives.

On research, the UGC and Research Grants Council (RGC) injected \$350 million to support the UGC-funded sector for research related to COVID-19 and other novel infectious diseases under two collaborative research funding schemes. These bespoke measures have been introduced in an expeditious and targeted manner to ensure that our universities receive timely support for their most meaningful work in fighting the pandemic.

Notwithstanding the challenges, the year 2020-21 remained a fruitful year to the UGC and our universities. We achieved significant progress for a number of major exercises. On the Planning Exercise for the 2022-25 triennium, we issued the “Start Letters” to the universities in January 2021 to formally commence the new round of Planning Exercise. After months of intensive assessment and deliberation, the exercise has subsequently achieved fruition in October 2021 upon submission of our recommendation on the allocation of student places and recurrent grants to the Government. Furthermore, the UGC did not slow down the pace of the work of Research Assessment Exercise (RAE) 2020. With the dedicated effort of over 360 assessment panel members, we have taken forward the complicated assessment process through virtual settings while maintaining the robustness and credibility of the exercise.

Looking forward, notwithstanding the challenges ahead, we have faith in the UGC-funded sector and will spare no efforts in helping them contribute to the ongoing battle against the pandemic while embracing the mission of nurturing the

作，額外撥款 1 億 6,500 萬元，以推動虛擬教學的策略性發展。我們亦為大學提供另一筆 5,000 萬元的特別撥款，供大學加強學生支援服務，例如輔導和職業發展服務。我欣悉大學對相關措施反應積極正面。

研究方面，教資會及研究資助局（研資局）共撥出 3 億 5,000 萬元，透過兩個協作研究撥款計劃，資助教資會資助界別進行與新冠病毒及其他新型傳染病相關的研究項目。教資會迅速且有針對性地推出這些特定措施，確保大學抗擊疫情的重要工作得到及時支援。

儘管身處逆境，2020-21 年對教資會和大學而言，仍是成果豐碩的一年。我們在幾方面均取得重大進展。在 2022-25 三年期規劃工作方面，教資會已於 2021 年 1 月向大學發出《開始籌備信件》正式展開新一輪規劃工作。經過連月緊密評估及討論，教資會最終於 2021 年 10 月取得成果，向政府提交了八所教資會資助大學的經常撥款及學位分配建議。此外，教資會亦未有放慢「2020 年研究評審工作」的步伐。在超過 360 名評審小組成員的共同努力下，我們通過視像會議形式順利完成艱巨的評審工作，並確保評審工作保持嚴謹及公信力。

展望未來，雖然前路充滿挑戰，但我們對教資會資助界別充滿信心，並將不遺餘力地幫助業界履行培養未來人才的使命，同時為持續抗擊



future talents. We will continue to support the universities in enhancing Hong Kong's strengths as an international education hub and I&T hub.

During the year we also bade farewell to RGC Chairman Professor Joseph Lee who departed to serve as President of the Macau University of Science and Technology and welcomed Professor Wong Yuk-shan as the new chair. Finally, I would like to express my appreciation to all my fellow Members for their dedication and unfailing support under such unprecedented circumstances, especially non-local members who participated in UGC's work virtually from around the world across multiple time zones during our hybrid mode meetings in September 2020 and January 2021. I would also like to thank everyone who served on our sub-committees, working groups and task forces, as well as RGC and QAC, for their wholehearted guidance, valuable advice and continued support to the Committee.

Please stay safe!

Carlson Tong, GBS, JP
Chairman

疫情作出貢獻。我們亦會繼續支持大學提升香港的實力，致力建設為國際教育及創科中心。

年內，我們話別了因出任澳門科技大學校長一職而卸任研資局主席的李行偉教授，並迎來新一任研資局主席黃玉山教授。最後，我衷心感謝教資會成員在這前所未有的情況下的奉獻和不懈支持，特別是一眾非本地成員跨越多個時區，在世界各地遙距參與會議，透過網上及實體方式同步參與在 2020 年 9 月和 2021 年 1 月舉行的會議。我亦感謝為各小組委員會、工作小組、專責小組、研資局和質保局服務的每一位，感謝他們誠摯的指導、寶貴的建議和對教資會一直以來的支持。

祝大家健康安好！

主席
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