

# Hong Kong Institute of Economics and Business Strategy

## Faculty of Business and Economics, The University of Hong Kong

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The Hong Kong Institute of Economics and Business Strategy (HIEBS) is a research centre of the Faculty of Business and Economics at The University of Hong Kong. It is an *Area of Excellence* (AoE) designated and funded by the University Grants Committee. The AoE funding programme was developed to encourage institutions to build upon their existing strengths and nurture them into world-class research programmes.

The mission of the Institute is to become the leading international centre for the study of economic policy and business strategy on Hong Kong and its role in China and the Asia-Pacific region. Since its establishment, the Institute has gained a reputation as one of the premier research centres for economic policy and business strategy in Hong Kong, especially among local policy-makers. It has also established a strong presence in the academic network, generating numerous high-quality research output and activities. Since its inception in December 1999 to the completion of the AoE project on December 31, 2006, the Institute generated well over 400 pieces of research output which consisted of books, book chapters, conference papers, manuscripts/reports, newsletter articles, published articles, teaching cases, working papers, and conference presentations. The Institute also held 42 events which consisted of international conferences, distinguished public lectures, lunch talks, public lectures, seminars, symposia, etc.

The Institute has also been playing a role in providing research-based answers to important policy questions. This is of particular importance because of the rapidly evolving business landscape. Policy research is critical to the formulation of sound economic policy, and articulation of policy alternatives to the private sector is important for companies to adopt appropriate strategies. For example, the *Made in the Pearl River Delta* project undertaken in conjunction with the Hong Kong Federation of Industries has generated a wealth of information on the extent and nature of interaction between Hong Kong and the Pearl River Delta, barriers to closer integration, and the division of labour between the two regions. This study has proved to be influential, with its main findings adopted by official bodies and cited repeatedly in the media.

Furthermore, the Institute has been developing innovative educational programmes to train researchers and practitioners for Hong Kong, China and the Asia-Pacific region. Over time, the Institute introduced various initiatives for the enhancement of teaching at the Faculty. For example, 35 teaching cases on competitiveness and economic policy have been published. These teaching cases are distributed world-wide by the Harvard Business School and the European Case Clearing House. They provide context-rich materials that are grounded on research of relevant issues, and are used extensively in the courses offered by the Faculty of Business and Economics at the University. Also, the Institute has trained 25 research postgraduate students of which 13 of them graduated prior to the project completion date.

UGC funding for the AoE project ended on December 31, 2006. However, with the initial strong support, the Institute is now able to operate on a self-funding basis. It continues to pursue its mission and objectives with greater fervour.