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**The Research Grants Council of Hong Kong
Prestigious Fellowship Scheme under the Humanities and Social Sciences Panel
Completion Report**

(for completed projects only)

Part A: Project and Award Holder

1. Project Title:

**Rejuvenating Chinese Higher Education: Juggling Internationalization,
Institutional Autonomy, and Educational Sovereignty**

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Part B: The Report

5. Workplan

5.1 Workplan as per original application

1. Identify the reasons for the popularity of cross-border university partnerships in China, the expected payoffs, the directions in which partnerships have developed, and the challenges to establishment of a unique Chinese model of higher education.
2. Assess the extent to which cross-border university partnerships have helped to improve student access and equity, the caliber of academic staff, instructional delivery, curriculum development, institutional governance, graduate employability, and research capacity.
3. Evaluate the opportunities posed by cross-border partnerships and how cross border partnerships pose unanticipated problems that would call into question the value of specific forms of cooperation or their long term sustainability.

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5.3 Realisation of the workplan

(maximum 2 pages; please state how and to what extent the work as stated in the workplan has been achieved; give reasons for under-achievements and outline attempts to overcome problems, if any).

The workplan, supported by the unused \$74,000, has been fully achieved as noted in the documentation below of journal articles, books, book chapters, invited press and media articles, keynotes and related appearances. A simple summary of results follows. The detailed analysis can be found in the published work.

- The reasons for the popularity of cross-border university partnerships in China are:
 - The 2003 Sino-foreign law on cooperation in the running of educational institutions;
 - Top tier foreign universities on Chinese soil are favored by middle class parents;
 - The aim of foreign universities to expand their brand in China.
- The expected payoffs are:
 - By the Chinese government – improved quality and experiment for innovation potential;
 - By foreign university – to better respond to educational changes in China;
 - By parents – to have a prestigious, economical and safe alternative for their children.
- The directions in which partnerships have developed:
 - Expanded from a few to over 2,000 Sino-foreign programs, incl. about 10 campuses;
 - Increased the diversity and range of institutional programs;
 - Promoted liberal studies to drive innovation and economic restructuring.
- The challenges to establishment of a unique Chinese model of higher education are:
 - The strong influence and global isomorphism of the Western model;
 - The race to build world class universities as ranked by Western standards;
 - Insufficient valorization of indigenous culture, including classical Chinese academy.
- The extent to which cross-border university partnerships have helped to improve
 - student access and equity
 - very little
 - the caliber of academic staff
 - insufficient sustainability of overseas academic staff
 - instructional delivery
 - improved through modernization of information technology
 - curriculum development
 - increased flexibility in student choice and degree program requirements
 - institutional governance
 - variance form case to case with some cases of shared governance
 - graduate employability
 - improved employability by design
 - research capacity
 - Most Sino-foreign programs are undergraduate or master programs
 - Sino-foreign campuses have built up a significant research culture.
- The opportunities posed by cross-border partnerships are:
 - Experimentation with curriculum, student engagement, and governance
 - Increased intercultural understanding
 - Useful preparation for the One Belt and One Road Initiative

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- The unanticipated problems of cross border partnerships that question the value of specific forms of cooperation and long term sustainability.
 - Maintaining high quality academic staff
 - Misunderstandings over resources
 - Internet access

6. Dissemination plan

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6.3 Realisation of the dissemination plan

(maximum 2 pages; please state how and to what extent the output as stated in the dissemination plan has been achieved; give reasons for under-achievements and outline attempts to overcome problems, if any)

Dissemination plan has been fully achieved as noted in the documentation above of journal articles, books, book chapters, invited press and media articles, keynotes and related appearances

7. **Other impact** *(e.g. award of patents or prizes, collaboration with other research institutions, knowledge transfer, etc.)*

Collaborations

Sino-foreign campuses in China:

NYU Shanghai on Liberal Studies

Duke University Kunshan on Liberal Studies – helped build their curriculum

Media:

Interviewed about higher vocational education policy in China, *China Radio International*, March 23, 2016.

Interviewed on university governance, *RTHK Radio*, February 24, 2016.

Interviewed on “Equity issues in top-tier Chinese universities,” *China International Radio*, Beijing, April 16, 2015 (while at AERA Conference).

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Quoted in "During G. E. deal, Blackstone's Schwarzman focused on a scholarship fund," *The New York Times*, April 15, 2015.

Consultant, to the China Reform and Development Commission, Human resource transformation for a high income economy: The role of education in moving the People's Republic of China to a knowledge society, with Asian Development Bank, at Diaoyutai Hotel, Beijing, October, 2014