



---

**Dr Richard ARMOUR, JP**

Secretary-General  
University Grants Committee

## Preface

Hong Kong's higher education sector has come a long way. Decades ago, it had two universities. Now this city has eight publicly-funded institutions under the aegis of the University Grants Committee (UGC), educating local talents while also contributing to Hong Kong's emergence into one of the higher education hubs of the region.

To fulfil its role in guiding the sector's development, the UGC has neither statutory nor executive powers. It works with the institutions, the Government and the community.

The Committee ensures that at system level, appropriate tools, mechanisms and incentives are in place to assist institutions to perform at an internationally competitive level in their respective roles. It is also our responsibility to ensure good value for taxpayers' money.

Yet in doing the above, the UGC firmly upholds the cardinal principles of respecting the institutional autonomy and academic freedom of the institutions.

In this special publication to mark the UGC's 50th anniversary, we have collected past and present UGC chairmen's and members' recollections of their time spent on the Committee. Their valuable contributions have undoubtedly paved the way for the now diverse, exciting education landscape. Also featured are the messages of the Heads of institutions, and personal sharing from graduates on how they have benefited from their higher education.

We hope you will find this Album interesting and of useful reference in the years ahead.