



FOREWORD FROM
THE CHAIRMAN
主席序言

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Mr Carlson TONG, SBS, JP
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This is my third year as the Chairman of the University Grants Committee (UGC) and I am glad to present to you the Annual Report for the year 2017-18. Again, this year has been a busy year for the UGC. Not only have the UGC-funded universities scaled new heights with four being named top 50 universities in the world, national and regional developments have also provided enormous opportunities, particularly in the area of research, to the UGC-funded sector. I believe that the UGC sector is well-positioned to seize these valuable and challenging opportunities.

It is my pleasure to report that the UGC has made good progress in a number of important areas since last year.

Addressing Society's Needs and Facilitating Effective Communication between the Government and the Sector

Being the Chairman of the UGC for nearly three years, I increasingly appreciate the critical role that the UGC-funded sector plays in the sustainable development of our society. Facing intense international competition, Hong Kong cannot be inward looking. Our future lies in the ability to stay relevant while the wider region undergoes dramatic transformation. It is of fundamental importance that our universities can continue to help nurture the right talent who can address the needs of Hong Kong and beyond in face of the challenges brought about by the rapid changes taking place around us.

今年是我出任大學教育資助委員會（教資會）主席的第三年，我很高興向大家發表教資會2017-18年報。今年教資會仍然十分忙碌。各教資會資助大學續創佳績，不但有四所大學躋身世界首五十所大學之列，國家和地區的發展也為教資會資助界別，特別在研究領域，帶來巨大機遇。我認為教資會界別具備優秀條件，能夠把握這些寶貴而具挑戰性的機會。

我欣然在此分享，自去年至今，教資會在多項重要範疇取得的進展。

促進政府與業界之間有效溝通以回應社會需求

在任教資會主席接近三年，我越發領略教資會資助界別為社會可持續發展擔當了重要角色。面對激烈的國際競爭，香港不能故步自封。我們的未來繫於能否緊貼大中華地區的轉型，保持適當的定位。而最重要的是，我們的大學繼續致力培育合適人才，以助香港及以外地區應對外圍急速變化而帶來的挑戰。

With the public interest in mind, I am glad that UGC's proactive work in facilitating effective communication between the Government and the sector has yielded very positive results. Responding to the needs of higher education, the Government has provided strong policy support and resources to the UGC-funded universities, including the very much welcomed Hostel Development Fund (HDF) and the 8th round of the Matching Grant Scheme (MGS). With the establishment of the proposed HDF in 2018, we expect that the projected shortfall of student hostel places of concerned UGC-funded universities could be fully met within ten years. In the 2018-19 Budget, the Financial Secretary proposed to allocate \$2.5 billion for launching the eighth round of MGS in the publicly-funded post-secondary education sector to help institutions tap more funding sources, improve the quality of education and foster a philanthropic culture. Over the past six completed rounds, the UGC sector raised some \$14.8 billion in private donations and a total of \$7.4 billion in matching grants has been allocated. Considering the success of the previous rounds, I believe that another round will no doubt help sustain universities' momentum in securing private donations and other sources of funding for the benefit of our students, long-term development of the higher education sector as well as society as a whole.

Key Support and New Initiatives in Research Development

The Chief Executive (CE)'s maiden Policy Address has placed emphasis on research development and promotion of innovation and technology. I am truly delighted by the Government's strong support and commitment of new resources for the sector. In addition to announcing that the financial support for research and development will be doubled by end of her current term of office, she also committed to set aside no less than \$10 billion as additional funding for university research. To this end, the Task Force on Review of Research Policy and Funding set up under the aegis of UGC in October 2017 which is chaired by Professor Tsui Lap-chee has been working hard to review the existing research landscape in Hong Kong with preliminary recommendations for consultation by mid-2018. I look forward to receiving the Task Force's final report in September 2018 and trust the finalised recommendations would enable the research community to flourish, and open a new chapter in Hong Kong's research development. The CE also announced in the Policy Address that the Government would inject \$3 billion into the Research Endowment Fund to generate investment income so as to provide non-means-tested studentships to all local students enrolled in UGC-funded research postgraduate (RPg) programmes. With the approval of funding from the Finance Committee of the Legislative Council, the studentships scheme will commence from the 2018/19 academic year. We hope that this new initiative would encourage more local students to apply for RPg programmes and help foster a wider talent pool locally. Moving forward, we at the UGC will provide full support to the implementation of the recommendations made by Prof Tsui's important report.

以公眾利益為本，我很高興教資會積極推動政府與業界的有效溝通，並取得了優良成果。為回應高等教育所需，政府向教資會資助大學提供了強而有力的政策支持和資源，包括推出廣受歡迎的宿舍發展基金和第八輪配對補助金計劃。我們預計在2018年成立擬設的宿舍發展基金後，將可在十年內全數補足教資會資助大學估算欠缺的學生宿位。財政司司長在2018-19年度財政預算案建議撥款25億元，在公帑資助專上教育界別推行第八輪配對補助金計劃，為院校開拓經費來源，提升教育質素，並促進捐獻文化。回顧過去六輪已完成的配對補助金計劃，教資會界別所籌得的私人捐款約達148億元，並獲得為數近74億元的配對補助金款額。有見之前數輪配對補助金計劃的成功，我相信新一輪計劃將為大學籌募私人捐款及開拓其他經費來源的工作提供動力，造福學生，並推動香港高等教育及整體社會的長遠發展。

研究發展方面的關鍵支援及新措施

行政長官的首份施政報告聚焦在研究發展及推動創新科技。政府大力支持並承諾向界別投放新資源，我對此深感高興。行政長官除公布在本屆任期結束前，倍增對研究發展的財政支援外，還許諾為大學研究預留不少於100億元的額外撥款。有見及此，教資會轄下由徐立之教授領導的檢討研究政策及資助專責小組（專責小組）自2017年10月成立起，全力檢討香港目前的研發生態系統，並會於2018年中提出初步建議，作出諮詢。我殷切期待2018年9月專責小組提交最後檢討報告，並深信最終建議能讓科研界更上一層樓，為香港的研究發展寫下新篇章。行政長官亦在施政報告中宣布，政府會透過向研究基金注資30億元，利用投資收入為修讀教資會資助研究院研究課程的本地學生提供免入息審查助學金。立法會財務委員會已批准注資研究基金，助學金計劃將於2018/19學年開始推行。我們期望新計劃鼓勵更多本地學生報讀研究院研究課程，培育更多本地研究專才。下一階段，教資會會全力支持落實徐教授重要的檢討報告的建議。

Research Grants Council Review Phase II

Phase I of the Review of the Research Grants Council (RGC) was completed last year and now we have embarked on the Phase II Review which examines operational matters. I look forward to its recommendations on and also working on the further improvement of the operation of RGC.

Research Impact Fund

The new Research Impact Fund was launched in January 2018 with a call for more impactful and collaborative research proposals. The response was encouraging as more than 160 proposals were received. The funding results are expected to be available by January 2019 after going through a rigorous peer review process. A total of \$150 million have been earmarked for this round of exercise and the UGC is prepared to provide extra funding if more proposals are considered worthy of support after assessment. I hope Hong Kong's researchers and the industry would work closely together and develop projects that will benefit our society.

Preparation of Research Assessment Exercise 2020

The Research Assessment Exercise (RAE) for UGC-funded universities is intended to drive excellence and encourage world-class research. The upcoming RAE in 2020 is the first time that the exercise will include research impact as part of the assessment in order to encourage and promote research with broader social relevance and economic and social benefits.

The Framework which sets out the structure of the exercise was announced in October 2017. In the coming year, the UGC will finalise the Guidance Notes which set out the procedures for submissions by universities and the Panel Guidelines on assessment criteria and working methods for the 13 panels. We are engaging all the stakeholders in implementing RAE 2020.

Another breakthrough for research development was the announcement on the cross-boundary remittance of research funding from the Mainland to Hong Kong. The announcement signifies the Central Government's support for research development of our higher education sector and for Hong Kong to become a global center for innovation and technology. I am very much encouraged by all the efforts which are directed towards equipping the sector in meeting the new challenges and seizing the exciting opportunities for Hong Kong.

研究資助局檢討(第二階段)

研究資助局（研資局）第一階段檢討於去年完成，我們已展開第二階段檢討，檢視運作事宜。我期待檢討建議，探討進一步改善研資局的運作。

研究影響基金

新的研究影響基金於2018年1月正式推出，接受大學提交更具影響力和合作性的研究建議書。我們共收到超過160份的研究建議書，反應令人鼓舞。經過嚴格的學者評審程序後，預料撥款結果將於2019年1月公布。教資會共投放1.5億元，以應付首輪申請的需要。如果有更多建議書在評審後被認為值得支持，教資會會考慮增加撥款。我希望本港的研究人員和業界能夠緊密合作，開展有利於我們社會的研究項目。

研究評審工作2020

各資助大學進行研究評審工作，旨在推動學者追求卓越，進行世界級的研究。於2020年舉行的研究評審工作將首次把研究影響納入評審，以推動更多與社會相關、具高經濟及社會效益的研究。

是次研究評審工作的框架已於2017年10月公布，框架訂定了研究評審工作的結構。在未來一年，教資會將就大學相關的工作指引作最後定稿，並就13個小組的評審準則及工作方法擬定指引。我們會與界別的所有持份者保持溝通，以推展2020年研究評審工作。

另一個研究發展的突破，是容許研究經費由內地跨境撥付至香港。這代表中央政府支持我們高等教育界的研究發展，與及支持香港成為世界創新及科技中心。這些努力皆致力協助界別，從而幫助香港應對新挑戰及好好把握良機，對此我深感鼓舞。

Teaching and Learning & Internationalisation

Apart from research, “teaching and learning” is a core mission for all universities. We value good teaching and have provided continuous support for the further improvement of the learning experiences for our university students. The majority of the Block Grant allocated to universities is for good and effective teaching. Specifically, the Teaching Development and Language Enhancement Grant within the Block Grant is designated for enhancing teaching quality and language proficiency of students. The annual UGC Teaching Award honours those who excel in teaching in the UGC sector. The UGC also provides additional funding through the “Funding the Scheme for Teaching and Learning Related Proposals in the 2016-19 Triennium” for competitive allocation, to incentivise universities in exploring and developing further in the sector-wide strategic areas of teaching and learning, language enhancement and internationalisation. Under the Scheme, 38 proposals were supported with a total project cost of about \$256 million.

The Quality Assurance Council (QAC)’s second round of quality audits on first degree and above programmes of universities has been completed, and the outcomes are generally positive. We are pleased that the universities have effective systems in place to ensure quality student learning experience. The sub-degree audit cycle has been in full swing since QAC took up the role of audit operator on sub-degree operations of UGC-funded universities in 2016. We will continue to strive to assure that the quality of the educational experience in UGC-funded universities is sustained at an internationally recognized level.

Internationalisation and External Promotion

I am glad to learn from the universities that the additional funding of \$12 million for setting up of a Hong Kong Pavilion at major international education conferences has been greatly beneficial in promoting the UGC sector collectively to our international audience. With the Hong Kong Pavilion, our universities have an additional platform to explore new partnerships with institutions from around the world.

「教與學」及國際化

除研究外，「教與學」是所有大學的核心使命。我們重視良好教學，並一直提供支援，為我們的大學生改善學習體驗。我們撥予大學的整體補助金大部分皆用作推行良好及有效教學，並指定當中的「教學發展及語文培訓補助金」用作提高教學質素及提升學生的語文水平。年度頒發的教資會傑出教學獎嘉許教資會界別中教學表現卓越的教師。與此同時，透過「2016-19三年期教與學資助計劃」，教資會向各大學提供額外的競爭性撥款，推動大學進一步研究及發展涉及整個界別的策略性範疇，包括教與學、提升語文能力及國際化。該計劃資助的38個項目計劃總開支約為2億5,600萬元。

質素保證局（質保局）就學士及深造學位課程的第二輪質素核證工作已完成，有關結果總體正面。我們樂見大學備有有效系統，確保學生學習體驗的質素。隨著質保局在2016年成為教資會資助大學副學位部門核證的執行機構，副學位課程質素核證周期已全面展開。我們會繼續努力確保教資會資助大學維持教育質素，具國際認可水平。

國際化與在外推廣

我很高興從大學得知，教資會提供用作在國際重點教育會展中設立香港館的1,200萬元額外撥款，有效地向國際社會推廣整個教資會並取得良好效果。設立了香港館，使我們的大學有額外的平台與世界各地的機構探討新合作。

In support of the efforts of universities in building stronger international partnerships, the UGC has endorsed the relaxation on the use of the Block Grant outside Hong Kong starting from the next academic year. We believe that the new policy will further facilitate the pursuit of internationalisation by our universities for the benefit of our local students. There will be appropriate monitoring arrangement to ensure responsible use of Block Grant outside Hong Kong.

Planning Exercise for 2019-22 Triennium and Accountability Framework

Over the past few years, a task force under the leadership of Sir Howard Newby worked closely with the universities on the implementation of the recommendations of the UGC Governance Report. With the earnest support of and extensive consultation with the universities, the University Accountability Agreement (UAA) was endorsed by the UGC earlier this year. Since universities have a critical role in the sustainable development of society, the community naturally looks to our universities for their contribution to a better Hong Kong. The UGC fully agrees with the wider community's expectation that our universities should contribute to societal needs. The UAA was established to assure the public that our universities are committed to continuous improvement and are accountable.

In the same vein, the 2019-22 Triennium Planning Exercise is the first one which is aligned with the newly introduced UAA that enables forward planning by taking into account institutional performances and challenges, policy direction of the Government and Hong Kong's development.

I believe that by working closely together with our universities as illustrated by the UAA and new Planning Exercise, we would ensure public confidence in the UGC sector as well as maintain the institutional autonomy of the UGC-sector universities which are two cornerstones underpinning the success of Hong Kong's higher education.

為支持各大學加強國際合作，教資會贊同從下學年起放寬容許大學在香港以外使用整體補助金。我們相信這項新政策將進一步促進大學國際化，並讓我們的本地學生得益。新政策亦包括適當的監察安排，確保大學在香港以外善用整體補助金。

2019-22三年期規劃工作及問責框架

過去數年，Howard Newby爵士領導的工作小組與各大學緊密合作，以落實教資會管治報告的建議。透過廣泛諮詢及各大學的支持，我很欣慰教資會在年初通過了大學問責協議。有鑑於大學對社會持續發展的重要角色，大眾自然期望我們的大學貢獻社會，令香港更好。對廣大社會期望大學回應社會需求，教資會深表同意。大學問責協議正是旨在向公眾確保大學致力精益求精，並向公眾問責。

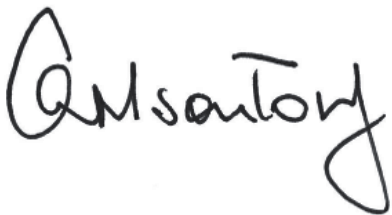
同樣地，2019-22三年期規劃工作是首份與新設的大學問責協議相互配合的規劃工作，考慮到院校的表現、面對的挑戰，政府的政策方向和香港的發展，讓規劃更具前瞻性。

我相信，藉着教資會和各大學共同合作，落實大學問責協議和新的規劃工作，我們可以確保公眾對界別的信心及鞏固院校自主，亦正是香港高等教育成功的兩大支柱。

UGC Strategic Plan

Our engagement exercises and proactive communication with stakeholders over the past years have allowed me to gain a better understanding of community expectations. As we conduct a wide array of strategic reviews and given the exciting developments as well as new opportunities for the sector, the UGC considers it opportune to prepare a strategic plan to clearly articulate again our vision, mission and strategic priorities. It is my firm belief that critical self-reviews will help improve the Committee's performance.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all UGC Members and members of all the sub-committees and task forces as well as members of the RGC and QAC for their hard work and dedication to the Committee. I also appreciate the continued support of the Government, members of the universities, all our partners and friends, and the UGC Secretariat to the Committee. The UGC will continue to serve as the bridge between the Government and the universities; as the independent expert advisor to the Government and the enabler to facilitate the universities in contributing to our society.

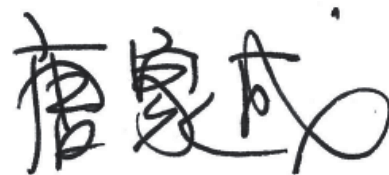


Carlson TONG, SBS, JP
Chairman

教資會策略計劃

過去幾年與各持分者的接觸和積極溝通，讓我能夠更好地了解公眾的期望。我們在多個範疇進行策略檢討的同時，相關令人振奮的發展亦為業界帶來新機遇。因此，教資會認為此時制定策略計劃正合時宜，再深思我們的願景、使命和重點工作。我堅信，恆常的自我省察有助委員會表現再進一步。

我想藉此機會感謝所有教資會委員，各小組委員會、工作小組、以及研資局和質保局成員的辛勤工作和奉獻。我也感謝政府、大學界別的每位成員、所有良朋好友和教資會秘書處一直以來對教資會的支持。教資會會繼續擔當政府與大學之間的橋樑，為政府提供獨立專業意見，同時協助大學貢獻社會。



主席
唐家成, SBS, JP