

# Foreword

In 1996, the University Grants Committee (UGC) published *Higher Education in Hong Kong*. In the five or six years since the publication of that comprehensive report, the whole post-secondary education sector has undergone rapid changes. The Government has declared a strategic intent to increase the participation rate to 60% for the relevant age group by the year 2010, as part of the ambitious reforms proposed by the Education Commission. All these initiatives require a major re-think of the sector.

Accordingly, in May 2001, the UGC announced the launch of another review on higher education in Hong Kong commissioned by the Secretary for Education and Manpower. The Review takes into account the Government's policy intentions to increase significantly post-secondary education opportunities, and the reform proposals recommended by the EC that are relevant to higher education. It covers all aspects of higher education provision, including the governance of universities and an administrative framework for a much expanded post-secondary sector.

The Review has been led by the Lord Sutherland, a senior member of the UGC and currently Principal and Vice-Chancellor of the University of Edinburgh, UK. He has been advised by a Steering Committee comprising mainly local UGC members who are directly involved in, or familiar with, higher education in Hong Kong (see *Appendix A*). The Committee has spent the larger part of 2001 considering various ideas and options for the future developments of higher education in Hong Kong, by first of all examining the current landscape within which future challenges of higher education development would have to be met (see *Appendix B*).

Both the UGC and the Steering Committee recognise at the outset the importance of obtaining input from all stakeholders, and Lord Sutherland has consulted widely and listened carefully to the views and aspirations of stakeholders in the course of this review (see *Appendix C* for a list of stakeholders who have been consulted and have contributed to the debate).

The outcome of the consultations and of deliberations by the Steering Committee is encapsulated in this well argued and pragmatic report from Lord Sutherland. The UGC is indebted to Lord Sutherland for his dedication and effort in producing this report. On behalf of the UGC, I commend this report to the Government, institutions, stakeholders and the community so that a wider debate on the issues addressed in this report can continue.

**Dr Alice Lam**  
**Chairman**  
**University Grants Committee**