

Message from the Chairman of the Council in 1996 to the Chairman of the Council in 2019

28th May, 1996

Dear Chairman,

Today we celebrate the laying of the Foundation Stone of the Institute's new campus. Officiating at the ceremony is the Governor of Hong Kong and the President of the Institute, His Excellency The Right Honourable Christopher Patten.

This letter, together with other documents and articles of historic significance relating to the establishment of the Institute and the building of the new campus, will be placed in a time capsule. The time capsule will be located in a prominent position on campus as a reminder of today's ceremony. The present Council has decided that the capsule will be opened in 2019, on the 25th anniversary of the founding of the Institute.

I hope that as you open this letter, you will have around you as many of the staff and students of the Institute as possible who have the good fortune to share your sense of pride and achievement.

As I write this letter, I am allowing my imagination to take flight. I am trying to envision the state of teacher education in the year 2019. I apologize if I should be proven wildly wrong. If that should be the case, then I hope it is only because progress has been much more rapid than I could possibly have expected.

By 2019, teaching in Hong Kong will have become an all-graduate and all-trained profession. All teachers will belong to a self-regulating professional organization, perhaps by the name of the General Teaching Council, with an

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accepted Professional Code of Practice. To remain in the profession, teachers will need to satisfy continuing professional training or development requirements. Teaching will, without question, have acquired the status of a profession judged by any definition of that term, however strict its formulation. Terms and conditions of service in the public and private sectors will have improved proportionately with the enhanced qualifications and status of teachers.

By 2019, the Institute will be regarded as the University of Education, possessing a strong team of highly qualified academic staff up to professorial level, all engaged in high quality teaching, a wide range of research, professional consultancies and school support services. It will be known throughout the world as a centre of excellence in teacher education and professional training. It will have Master Degrees in Education and Philosophy and a significant number of doctorate programmes.

The campus itself will have expanded into the valley to provide more academic, administrative, residential and other facilities to cater for a trebling of the numbers currently studying at the Institute as Hong Kong becomes the major business city of China south of the Yangtze River Basin.

I hope that the ceremony to open the capsule proves to be as enjoyable and memorable as today's ceremony at which it was sealed.

May I wish the Institute the very best of luck for the next 25 years from 2019.

Yours faithfully,



Simon S.O. Ip, OBE, JP
Chairman