Preface[†]

The academic year 2013/2014 can be considered a rather important year in the history of development of the Macao Polytechnic Institute. As a public higher education institution under the care and direction of the Special Administrative Region Government, supported by the whole society and with the joint efforts of our staff and students, MPI undertook a series of active and prudent measures to implement the higher education policy of the government of "Promoting Accreditation Activities" and to train personnel for the community. We have made important advances in our teaching, research and administration.

Identifying Our Position and Facing Challenges

During the year we have further examined our vision and missions and, through collaboration with our staff, students, the Student Union and the alumni association, devised our strategic plan for 2013-2020, laying out our directions and objectives to develop and face the challenges of the new age.

Quality Assurance Through Reviews

Following our decade-long endeavours, we successfully undertook an Institutional Review by the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education, UK (QAA) – an international and authoritative academic review agency – in November 2013. QAA gave the high award of "Confidence" in the appraisal of our academic standards, quality of our learning opportunities, educational information and enhancement of learning opportunities, which is the same class of appraisal that QAA gave to Oxford University and University of London. MPI thus became the first higher education institution in Asia to successfully undertake Institutional Review by the QAA. This constitutes a major step in ensuring that higher education in Macao maintains international standards.

We also pressed on with the review of our bachelor degree programmes. Our Institute urged all staff and students to move on from past achievements with humility and prudence. Building on the foundations of the Computing Programme having passed its review by the UK Institution of Engineering and Technology, E-Commerce and Accounting Programmes their

respective reviews by the US Institute of Certified
E-Commerce Consultants and Certified Public
Accountants (Australia) and the Association of Chartered
Certified Accountants, we will proceed with the academic
review of all our programmes, so as to implement the
SAR Government's higher education policy of "Promoting
Accreditation Activities", thus helping to realise the
government's administrative policies and training more
able personnel for the community.

Developing Teaching and Research in Tandem

Our Institute continues with its strategic policy of "Emphasising Both Teaching and Research", promoting research by teaching while guaranteeing the quality of teaching by research. Our Institute continued to place emphasis on running practice-oriented programmes, and dedicated a great amount of work to improving and raising the quality of teaching. Our academic staff's publications in international core journals and academic periodicals increased in quantity and quality compared to the same period last year. Dr Lang Bin, Associate Professor of the School of Health Sciences, participated

in the project "Minimally Invasive Surgical Treatment and Fundamental Study on Adrenal Diseases", which was granted the award of Second Class in the State Science and Technology Advancement 2013. Dr Tang Su Kit, Lecturer in the School of Public Administration, was granted a National Patent for Invention for his "Device to Detect Moving Foreign Substances in Pipeline Solution". Dr Dai Dingcheng, Professor of the School of Arts, was awarded the Medal of Merit – Culture 2013 by the Macao SAR Government.

Whole-Person Education for the Society

During this academic year our Institute continued to practise our credo of offering local education that serves the society through whole-person education, keeping close contact with the community. We organised students to participate in a wide range of social activities such as social work, teaching, sales and walking for charity. We have invited tens of enterprises to organise employment seminars and offer job opportunities to our students, broadening the channels for our students to be exposed to professional industries.

Support One Another to Create the Future

Team spirit represents one of our Institute's essential values and guarantees our progress and development. Our staff, students and alumni formed a team to participate in the Macao International Marathon Competition in December 2013. They competed with more than 6,000 contestants from 47 countries and achieved the position of Group Champions. This marks a victory for the team spirit of our whole Institute. We are fully convinced that such a spirit will encourage us to strive for progress and to attain brilliant achievements again!

Lei Heong Iok
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