

Preface



Macao Polytechnic Institute Annual Report 2016/2017 is coming soon.

Next year is my retirement year, and therefore I will fulfill my duties as the President in writing the preface of the MPI annual report for the last time. At this moment, I am overcome by emotions.

Compared with the same period in 2016, the Macao Polytechnic Institute in 2017 undoubtedly has achieved remarkable results. Looking back to 1999, before Macao's handover, when the Portuguese-ruled Macao Government appointed me as the President of MPI, the development of the Institute has been earthshaking.

The campus is the shelter of a school. On the eve of Macao's handover, MPI moved to the current site on Rua de Luís Gonzaga Gomes. The ruined old Liceu de Macau secondary school was transformed into the elegant and unique campus of today.

The academic programmes are the foundation of a school. MPI has abandoned the old three-year college diploma system and adopted a more practical four-year bachelor's degree system. As of 2017, a total of 22 bachelor's degree programmes have been set up at our Institute, an increase of 18 since 1999. In addition, 12 master's programmes, as well as 3 doctoral programmes have been established jointly with well-known universities abroad.

The faculty members are the strength of a school. MPI takes various measures, not only gradually acquiring the teachers needed, but also prioritizing the upgrading of the academic standards of teachers. As of 2017, there are 249 full-time teachers and researchers at the Institute, an increase of 120% over 1999. Among them, 71% hold doctorates, an increase of 67% over 1999.

The students are a sign of the value of a school. Following the relocation of MPI to the current site, there was a period of very low student enrollments, when the campus was very quiet during the day and slightly busier in the evening.

Some courses had to resort to recruiting students a few times in order to obtain enough enrollments to open classes. By contrast, in 2017, the number of local students enrolled at MPI has been ranked the highest in Macao for seven consecutive years. Moreover, at present, more than 500 students from over 10 countries study here, which was unimaginable in 1999.

Quality is the lifeblood of a school. As of 2017, the enrollment rate and employment treatment of MPI graduates have been greatly envied. Among those employers and higher education institutions who have hired or accepted MPI graduates for further studies, more than 90% are satisfied with our graduates.

I have been repeatedly asked this question: How did you make such remarkable progress in MPI in the past 18 years as the president?

I would like to invite everyone to share the experience:

1. Running the school in compliance with laws. I uphold the belief that “the demeanor of staff and students in the entire school should be in congruence with the relevant laws and regulations such as the Basic Law of Macao” and that leading by example and managing according to law is important. In view of the promulgation of the Macao Higher Education Act in 2017, the Board of Management of MPI promptly made revisions to the MPI Charter (including the “Personnel Charter”) which were officially published by the former Portuguese-ruled government (the revisions have now been submitted for higher-level approvals) to lay down the legal basis for the normal / proper operation of the Institute under the new circumstances.

2. Institute-wide rules and regulations properly implemented. Along with the management team of the Institute, I have tried to adhere to the management direction of “small and refined, small and beautiful” in designing a

campus construction blueprint, which has created both a pleasing and a practical campus for MPI. Looking back, it seems that we did just the right thing (This is further evidenced by the fact that during Typhoon Hato in August 2017, the MPI campus was unharmed). It is our philosophy of “taking root in Macao, being backed by our motherland, facing the world and striving for excellence” that has determined the direction of the Institute and helped to ensure enrollments of local / overseas students. It has also helped to attract a number of elite universities and maestros to come to the Institute to carry out academic exchange activities including lectures and jointly offered master’s / doctoral programmes.

It is our management philosophy of “internationalisation of teaching standards, standardisation of scientific research, digitalisation of campus facilities and legalisation of administrative work” that has given MPI order, harmony and tenacity. It is our management strategy of “dual emphasis on teaching and research, whereby teaching stimulates research

and research supports teaching” that has maintained the standards of teaching and the continuous improvement of scientific research; it is our execution of the belief in “decade-long endeavours” that has enabled MPI to assure and promote the quality of education, taking the initiative to accept the assessment of the world’s authority in academia and becoming Asia’s first higher education institution to be academically reviewed by the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education from the UK. In 2017, an additional 6 courses of our Institute passed international quality assurance agencies curriculum review.

3. Seeking for support. It is of course necessary to win the support of the Macao government, Macao society and teachers, students and the staff in order to facilitate the management of an institute like the MPI, which is a public institution of higher education in Macao. Otherwise, everything would be impossible. We should sincerely thank all the above three parties for their strong support. Without their support, MPI would not be the MPI of today. We would

not have otherwise been able to materialise the idea of transforming the auditorium of the Institute, constructing the new multi-purpose sport pavilion and the Meng Tak Building, and purchasing advanced teaching equipment / information technology equipment. In 2017, we stepped up the utilisation of government funding for the construction of the new building of MPI as a supporting force for the future development of the Institute.

4. Keeping pace with the times. In the past 18 years, the Institute has always adhered to the principle of keeping pace with the times and closely meeting the needs of the society in all realms of work and management, especially in the setting up of the curriculum. The Institute not only took advantage of, and continued to refine, the 100-year-old Chinese-Portuguese Translation experience, but also added Chinese-English Translation, Sino-Lusophone Trade Relations, Gaming, International Chinese and many other Bachelor's degree programmes. Today, 17,428 graduates have been trained in the community. In 2017, while continuing to

operate the existing joint master's / doctorate programmes, MPI has also started to prepare itself for the launching of master's / doctoral degree programmes independently, which will increase the channels for cultivating talents in Macao, thus showing the Institute's determination in advancing with the times and the promotion effects from the implementation of the Macao Higher Education Act on the development of MPI and other higher education in Macao.

5. Insisting on dialogue. Over the years, we have always insisted on dialogues with staff and students. Through this two-way communication, we are able to exchange our thoughts with each other so as to achieve mutual understanding / compassion and provide opportunities and possibilities. I have always believed that dialogue is an important and necessary work method for deploying democracy in resolving conflicts and contradictions and ensuring the normal operation of the Institute.

2018 is imminent. The execution of the Macao Higher Education Act will usher higher education in Macao into a new historical stage. My only wish will be for MPI to comply with the policy direction of the Macao SAR Government, to help make Macao a platform for exchanges between China and Portuguese-speaking countries, to build Macao into a world-class tourism and leisure centre, and to make due contributions to achieving and realising the "Belt and Road Initiative" without stopping even in the face of obstacles!



President Lei Heong Lok