

Manchester Business School Alumni Association (China) Ltd

Chairman's Report 2020/21

Dear Members,

I am delighted to welcome you all to the 17th Annual General Meeting of “The Manchester Business School Alumni Association (China) Limited”, being held today at the East Asia Center and via Zoom. It is wonderful to see many of you joining in person and on Zoom tonight. A heartfelt thanks to you and I gratefully acknowledge your continued trust and support extended to MBSAA.

It is my honor on behalf of the esteemed members of the Board for the opportunity to report to members on the achievements of MBSAA in the past year.

In doing so, there's no escaping the issue that has over-shadowed all else for the past twenty-two months. The COVID-19 will be remembered as one of the most unsettled and difficult years in living memory. The impacts have been significant to the world and will continue to reverberate for a period of time. However, our members adapted amazingly well to our changed circumstances when we had to organize workshop and activities virtually.

We are grateful for being in Hong Kong, a city with low number of infections and has been in single digit with imported cases since May. We can see the daily life and activities of most people are back to normal with a new norm for the government restrictions. We were also able to organize a few face-to-face activities in the last few months complying to the social distancing rules.

Knowledge, Sustainability, Charity and Wellness

I remember in the beginning of our term, we promised to bring knowledge, sustainability, charity and wellness to you in the activities we organize. We kick started by hosting the Extreme Negotiation Workshop at the Center and over Zoom for learning the negotiation skill in a life-or-death situation from a former hostage negotiator in the Police Force. We then celebrated the Spring with a food and sustainability related seminar. This is also the first time we played Trivia during the online event for fun and prizes.

For charity, we had organized a Worldwide Manchester Run in the action for re-attempt of the Guinness World Record pursuing the title of Most People Running/Jogging Online Simultaneously. We had people joined from all over the world across 42 territories; Sydney to Memphis, Buenos Aires to Tokyo, and the number of participants at peak were 223 people, including alumni, students and staff of the University. The global involvement enabled charity benefits for NGOs in different countries along with supporting multiple sustainability development goals. Locally, we raised \$21,827 Hong Kong dollars for “Helping Hand”, a non-profit organization focus on providing elderly cares. This event is a good demonstration of our care and social responsibility for the society which is well supported by the Manchester Business School Alumni Associations in Hong Kong, Singapore and Malaysia; and made possible with the kind coordination of the East Asia, South East Asia, Middle East, Latin America Centres, as well as the Division of Development and Alumni Relations of the University. Without their support, the event would not have such a great success.

We understand the disappointment and frustration of not being able to attend graduation at the University in UK due to the travel concern during Covid-19, so we organized a Grad Photo Session with Tea Party to provide a bit of formality and hopefully to fulfill the completeness. At the session, we saw many happy faces in graduation gown posed for a memorable photograph that betokens a bright future ahead.

For the wellness, we knew our alumni longed for face-to-face activity and we had many days of very hot weather in Hong Kong this Summer. What a good opportunity for going out together, jumping in the water for some water sports! We chose something new, recently getting popular and not too many people have tried before. The Stand-Up Paddle is so cool when you managed the balance and stand on it. We ended up having 4 sessions on different days to cater for the busy schedule of our alumni and friends. At the end of the day everyone in the different groups were confident in the new skill and be proud themselves for the distance they paddled while standing on the board.

Caring Company Award for the East Asia Center

During our terms in the Board, we have assisted the East Asia Center to achieve the Caring Company Award for 2 consecutive years. In September, the Center has just been nominated by Helping Hand for this Award again in the coming year. It will be an honor for the East Asia Center to continue be recognized and it is also an encouragement for us and our alumni to do more in looking after our community. We will need all of you, your continuous full support in this matter.

New Offer for Members

I would like to take this opportunity to announce the member's new offer. We will be starting very soon to have special coupons benefits for our current members. We have partnered with Mezzofy for the online vouchers platform that will enable us to have access to many privileged discount and benefits for our members. We are finalizing the setup and updating the latest membership list. Please ensure to keep your membership active and look forward to the AA communication in the near future.

Statement of Compliments

I would like to take this opportunity to express earnest gratitude for the assistance from the Director of the East Asia Centre, Ms. Christina Siu and her team for their generous provision of office space for our meetings and events, and their tireless efforts, especially Miss Phoenix Yan who worked with us covering meetings and coordination in the odd hours. Please accept my salute.

I would also like to thank our advisors, Ms. Pauline Lai, Mr. Godwin Ng, Mr. William Chan, Dr. Ronald Kong for their precious time and advices for the Board this year. Special thanks go to Pauline as the Founding Chairman who has given up time from her busy business to facilitate the Career Forum in July for our alumni. We appreciate your selfless contribution. Next, please allow me to extend my sincere thanks for valuable guidance from the senior management of our school, including Professor Dame Nancy Rothwell, Professor Fiona Devine and Mr. Richard Cotton.

Last but not least, I must say “many thanks for the great team work” to my board members for your passionate volunteering with leadership, time and resourcefulness to the association, namely the Vice Chairman, Mr. Jeffrey So, the Honorary Secretary, Miss Aurelia Li, the Honorary Treasurer, Mr. Simon Hui, and Board Members: Ms. Stephanie Hui, Ms. Priscilla Mok, Miss. Ruby O, Mr. S Y Chan, and Mr. Chapin Chak.

At the end, I sincerely wish all of us good health and high spirits. May we as privileged alumni continue to bring positive impact and contribution to the society and our alma mater.

2020/21 Activities Timeline

December 2020 – Extreme Negotiation Workshop

February 2021 – Greeting video for the Lunar New Year from the University of Manchester

March 2021 – Food for Good, Food for Thoughts in Spring Celebration

June 2021 – Worldwide Manchester Run (Fundraising for Helping Hand)

June 2021 – Grad Photo + Tea Party

July 2021 – Career Forum

August & September 2021 – Stand Up Paddle x 4

Janny Shum

Chairman

For and on behalf of the Board of Directors (2020/21)

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