

## Manchester Business School Alumni Association (China) Ltd

### Chairman's Report 2019/20

Dear Members,

2019-2020 is an exceptional year for Hong Kong and the world. The effects of the social movement last year and the current Covid-19 are tremendously affecting the daily life of people in Hong Kong. As a member in the community, the alumni association has also faced a great challenge. Inevitably, the line of events and activities in the splendid plan were trampled and forced to make drastic changes. The two most longed for events, the Annual Dinner and the Spring Dinner were put to a halt. We appreciate your great patience and understanding of the circumstances.

Despite the fate, the Board has striven to connect with our members and build closer relationship. During the year we were able to host one face to face event and a few online forums and achieved a couple great milestones.

#### **Treasure face to face gathering**

With a swift adjustment to the situation in Hong Kong, the Board was able to organize a Christmas Party in last December. About 40 alumni and friends attended the party and treasured the one and only in-person event. Deeply thank Mr. Martin Keil for sponsoring all the wines and Alpine spring water for the evening, especially the traditional warm Glühwein made the highlight for a cosy Christmas. Great place, great food and great people constituted a lasting memory for all participants.

#### **Turn challenge into innovation**

The Board visioned disruption would be affecting the plan of activities and events for a period of time. Despite the adverse environment, flexibility became the motto and the Board has broken new ground to event mode. With the available conferencing technology, we held our very first online forum in March. It had an encouraging good turn out with participants connected from Hong Kong, Japan and Singapore. In this forum, we greatly thank Mr. William Lee, Dr. Justin Cheng, and Mr. Wilfred Leung for sharing their fruitful stories from the previous epidemic SARS experience in 2003 and brought forward the insight of opportunity in relation to the current pandemic and economic turmoil. Thereafter, another online forum was successfully held in April. In this forum Mr. William Lee continued to share his in-depth experience in risk management for corporates; Mr. Kino Fu shared the critical risks to business in the current crisis; and Ms. Donna Buckland shared the corporate risks regarding the insurance industry. We are grateful for the heartfelt contribution of our alumni speakers and the loyal patronage of our members.

## **Caring Company Award for the East Asia Centre**

In the recognition of the contribution in charity work of our students and alumni plus the environmental consciousness and employee caring policy in the office, the East Asia Centre has received its first Caring Company Award issued by the Hong Kong Council of Social Services. It is an important milestone deserved for the East Asia Centre that has been carrying out social responsibility and demonstrating a good corporate citizen in the society for so many years. It is the great honour of the Board in catalysing such achievement in 2019.

## **Caring for University students in financial difficulty**

Due to Covid-19, internships have been cancelled and part-time jobs have closed, many University students in Manchester are struggling to make ends meet. The University's Emergency Hardship Fund (EHF) has extended a helping hand to students with financial difficulty. Each of us was once a student who understand the stress. Therefore, a campaign of fund raising was initiated to support the EHF by giving complimentary MBSAA Membership to donors. This campaign was made successful by 41 generous donors that raised £1,490 in donation to the EHF within 4 weeks. A big hug and thank you to all donors.

## **United the students and alumni globally in a charity run cum the Guinness World Record attempt**

The University of Manchester Worldwide Charity Run in September was a great success. We have participants came from 51 cities in 24 countries across 16 time zones, as East in Sydney, Australia (9pm, UTC +11) to the West as far as Florida, United States (7am, UTC -4).

This event is a good demonstration of our care and social responsibility for the society. Locally, we have raised more than \$27,000 HKD for the Senior Citizen Home Safety Association. The global involvement enabled charity benefits for NGOs in different countries along with supporting multiple sustainability development goals.

This world record-setting global online charity run was initiated by the Board as a response to the Manchester Day of Action; however, which has been strongly supported by the various Manchester alumni associations from 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 great outcome.

We were grateful to have Gatorade and Urleiten by Yeh Shen Ltd. sponsoring the energy sport drinks and the pure Alpine spring water for Hong Kong participants.

It is the first time the Board organized a worldwide event in such scale and it is a good experience to unite the Manchester alumni family across countries. We hope the unity of Manchester alumni family will continue to grow.

### ***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 to work with us covering meetings and coordination out of business hours.

I would also like to thank our advisors, Ms. Pauline Lai, Mr. Godwin Ng, Mr. William Chan, Dr. Ronald Kong, Dr. Justin Cheng and Mr. Aron Leung for their precious time and advices for the Board. 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 Professor Elaine Ferneley.

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 resources to the association, namely the Vice Chairman, Mr. William Lee, the Honorary Secretary, Mr. Stefan Lam, the Honorary Treasurer, Mr. Kino Fu, and Board Members: Ms. Stephanie Hui, Ms. Priscilla Mok, Ms. Karen Yeung, Mr. Nathan Lee, Mr. Harry Lit, and Mr. Arthur Lau.

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 our alma mater as well as the wider society.

Janny Shum  
Chairman  
For and on behalf of the Board of Directors (2019/20)  
The Manchester Business School Alumni Association (China) Limited