



# HKMU LiPACE Celebrates 30 Years of Service to Learners

## “Advancing Vocational Professional Education and Training (VPET) and Promoting Lifelong Learning”

Established in 1992, the Li Ka Shing School of Professional and Continuing Education of the Hong Kong Metropolitan University (HKMU LiPACE) has made its mark in providing three decades of service to the learner community in Hong Kong. HKMU LiPACE is now an established VPET provider of full-time post-secondary education and part-time professional and continuing education as well as corporate training. It is also a leading champion of non-formal learning in Hong Kong through its two flagship programmes for women and seniors, the Capacity Building Mileage Programme (CBMP) and Elder Academy at HKMU (EAMU).

As a full-fledged academic school of HKMU, LiPACE not only bears the trademark qualities of the University but has also evolved its own character. Dean Dr. Benjamin Chan explains that programmes and courses in LiPACE are distinguished by creativity, novelty and the creation of value for learners at different stages of life to meet their learning needs. The School is outward looking and aims to be always a step ahead in what it offers to learners. Dean Chan emphasizes the meaning of the School’s work in creating valuable learning experiences and broadening horizons for students. Similarly, academic staff are encouraged to connect with like-minded peers overseas to advance the scholarship of teaching and learning. As part of its 30th anniversary celebration, the School run a year-long Academic Forum series that fully engaged its academic partners and international experts in thematic topics of mutual interests.

### Excelling through nurturing learners

There are three defining features of LiPACE’s full-time Higher Diploma programmes. First is the good pastoral care provided by programme leaders which gives a personal touch to the education we provide, remarked Dean Chan. Second, we place great emphasis on tracking the outcomes of graduates and have engaged an independent third party to conduct the annual graduate exit survey. Needless to say, we are delighted by the results which show that many students have articulated to their preferred degree programmes in the 8 UGC universities, overseas universities or in our own university HKMU. Third, our students are expected to learn not just from formal classroom teaching but also through a rich combination of extra- and co-curricular learning which add up to what we refer to as the “Total Learning Experience”. Among which, the Three-I initiative to raise awareness about Internationalization in Place, Intercultural awareness and Inclusion is very well received by students. As a result of participating in the Three-I activities, we have engendered a sense of community among our local, ethnic minority and mainland students. The School highly values diversity in its academic team and in the student body where eight nationalities are represented and mainland students from 16 provinces and autonomous regions in China are currently studying in LiPACE and calling it home.



### Innovating programmes to provide better prospects for learners and cater to diverse interests

Our motivation comes not just from providing learners with the best learning experience but also in giving them a head start in future employability and career readiness. We firmly believe that innovative programmes in VPET can give the younger generation a better prospect as they maneuver through the new economic landscape and changing job market. Our list of unique full-time programmes include higher diplomas in criminology, pet care and animal assisted intervention, applied gerontechnology, and health and molecular testing.



Our part-time programmes have enjoyed a niche position in responding to specific areas of interests such as stage performance, Chinese temple management, traditional architectural craftsmanship, teaching of Chinese operatic singing, community museum management, etc. With such a wide variety of learner interest being catered for, LiPACE is clearly on track to become the lifelong learning provider of choice.



### Seeking synergy with mainland and international partners

Going international is in the School’s genes as well as expanding its linkages with the mainland. The School boasts an impressive list of 30 active international and mainland partners. Institutions in the list include two top Grade A and B “Double High Level” polytechnics in China, three Top Global University Type B in Japan, some top ranking specialist universities in the Czech Republic and Taiwan, universities of applied sciences in Finland, and polytechnics & colleges in Canada. To stay current with developments in vocational education, continuing education and elderly education worldwide, HKMU LiPACE is an

international member of the World Federation of Colleges and Polytechnics (WFCP), the Universities Association for Lifelong Learning (UALL), University Professional and Continuing Education Association (UPCEA) and an affiliate member of the International Association of the Universities of the Third Age (IAUTA). Nationally, it participates in network activities of the continuing education section of the China Association of Higher Education. Staff in the school writes regularly in the Times Higher Education Campus column to share insights on teaching methods, student support and other educational practices.



### Sailing into the 4<sup>th</sup> decade

On the basis of what we have achieved, we are ready to move to the next phase of development and extend LiPACE’s activities into the Greater Bay Area, says Dean Chan. This will include joint programmes, collaborations on joint teaching and learning activities and conjoint academic conferences related to VPET.

“*The School has adopted the motto of “Transforming Learners and Innovating” and this will be its guiding light for the future.*”

Dr. Benjamin Chan  
 Dean of HKMU LiPACE



**HKMU LiPACE**

**Email:** lipace@hkmu.edu.hk

**Tel:** 3120 9988

**Website:** www.hkmu.edu.hk/lipace/