

Biographical Note of Professor Edmund Siu-tong KWOK

郭少棠

Professor Edmund S.T. KWOK is the Chief Academic Advisor to Beijing Institute of Technology, Zhuhai (ZHBIT) and founding president of its Honors College. The Institute has an undergraduate enrollment of 27,000 students, one of the leading private independent universities in Southern China. Presently, he is Senior Advisor to International Chinese Academy Education Foundation with Professor Ingrid Lunt of Green Templeton College, Oxford University as Honorary President. He has been a Bye-Fellow of Robinson College, Cambridge University since 1984.

Since July 2017, he has started to set up a new Honors College for Beijing Institute of Technology which is championing a simple and yet innovation educational model based on three principles: virtuous, self-responsible and social service leadership. The College emphasizes experiential learning in the physical context of the Maritime Silk Road with students designing their own general educational programs focusing on cross-cultural understanding, postmodern sustainable ecological civilization construction integrating with Chinese cultural values, creativity, innovation and entrepreneurship for future educational development. In the new Honors College, one of the four centers to be built is on cultural heritage and sustainable leadership education for corporate social responsibility. Because of his commitment to this educational direction, he was invited to represent the Chinese academia in the United Nation sponsored Global Compact for sustainable development China-Japan-Korea Roundtable Conference in Tokyo on August 22, 2017. Consequently, he is continuing to provide advice to the Asia Chapter of the UN Global Compact aiming to promote sustainable goals of development in the region.

In 2015, he was commissioned a research project to study the trends of future educational development up to year 2050. As a result, he designed a new ecological community building model with a college town and educational hub as its core for towns in China. His design was presented at the Alfred Whitehead conference organized by Center for Process Studies, at Claremont, California under Dr. John Cobb, Jr., during May 2015. With positive responses from the conference, he was invited once again back to Claremont for a more focused group discussion in October of the same year. In 2016, the Center for Process Studies worked together with Professor Kwok to setup a joint center for the promotion of postmodern ecological civilization in Hong Kong. The project is being now studied to be extended to the Honors College of Beijing Institute of Technology, Zhuhai with a strategic alliance with another leading academic sharing similar interest in China together with a listed company in Suzhou for the promotion of sustainable development goals.

After having completed his bachelor degree from New Asia College of the Chinese University of Hong Kong, Professor Kwok received a Harvard-Yenching Fellowship to finish his master and doctoral studies at University of California, Berkeley with a double major in modern

European and Chinese intellectual history. His doctoral dissertation on Weimar intellectual history of Germany.

Since 1977, he taught comparative modern European and Chinese history at Chung Chi College of the Chinese University of Hong Kong, later developing new areas of history including history of comparative urban cultures, cross-cultural migration, cyber culture and postmodernity, and cultural creative industries. He has published 27 books and more than 80 journal articles. During his 27 years of teaching history at the University, he also served as Director of General Education and Dean of Students of Chung Chi College, he helped the College and the University to develop general education including the establishment of an Integrated Basic Studies Resource Center for the College. He was Dean of Faculty of Arts and University Dean of Students for the University developing strategic academic relationship with Mainland China and innovative student development programs for the whole university.

In 2005, he joined Hong Kong Baptist University to set up the first joint venture university between Hong Kong and the Mainland in Zhuhai, serving as the founding Executive Vice-President for Beijing Normal University—Hong Kong Baptist University United International College. In order to innovate a new kind of liberal arts education for Mainland China, he created a new model of “Four Point Education” by developing a pyramid network of College-Parents-Society to provide a holistic student self-development education. He also created a new 8-semester credit bearing whole person education program. Both models form the foundation of the new college in Zhuhai and are still in place after his return to Hong Kong in 2011.

Professor Kwok is deeply committed to development of liberal arts education. His efforts to implement these educational ideals were highly assessed by the *Chronicle of Higher Education*. In June 2011, Augsburg College of Minnesota conferred an honorary doctorate degree of humanities on him, first in its 142 years of history to a Chinese academic, in recognition of his contribution in the promotion of liberal arts education in China.

He is the founder and Chairman of the Hong Kong International Education Development Foundation, a charitable foundation aiming to promote innovative educational ideas and practices in China. In 2013, as its founding president, he helped Xing Wei College in Shanghai to have successfully applied to become a full scale liberal arts college in Mainland China.

During 2013-2014, he served as the vice-chairman to Board of Peter Drucker Academy Group (China) in developing management as a liberal art in its executive education programs in China. During 2014-2015, he helped Centennial College to set up its school of management including the design of its curriculum for accreditation. In 2015 he also advised Gratia College in HK and Wuhan College in the Mainland in designing their general education programs. In 2017, he served as special consultant to advise Tricor HK Consulting Limited of East Asia Bank on the payment and salary system review for Open University.

In the last six years he served as a member of management committee of Confucius Hall Secondary School and vice-chairman to Confucius Hall, a charitable foundation with a history over 70 years. As its honorary president, he has re-positioned New Asia Arts and Business College as a lifelong learning institution in the integration of culture and management,

especially in a new leadership model based on culture and value. The College was first founded in 1982 running a four year degree program from Taiwan.

In the past thirty years, he served in different government advisory boards including Antiquities and Monument Board, Early Release Board, Stamp Advisory Board and Museum Advisory Committee. As visiting scholars to leading Mainland universities, including Tsinghua University, Peking University and Fudan University, he created a wide network of HK and Mainland academic exchanges. He was a visiting researcher for Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences between 1995-2002. He has been advisor to Shenzhen Academy of Social Sciences since year 2000 up to the present, especially in the area of cultural creative industries. He was advisor to HK Association of Designers and HK Association of Industrial Designers.