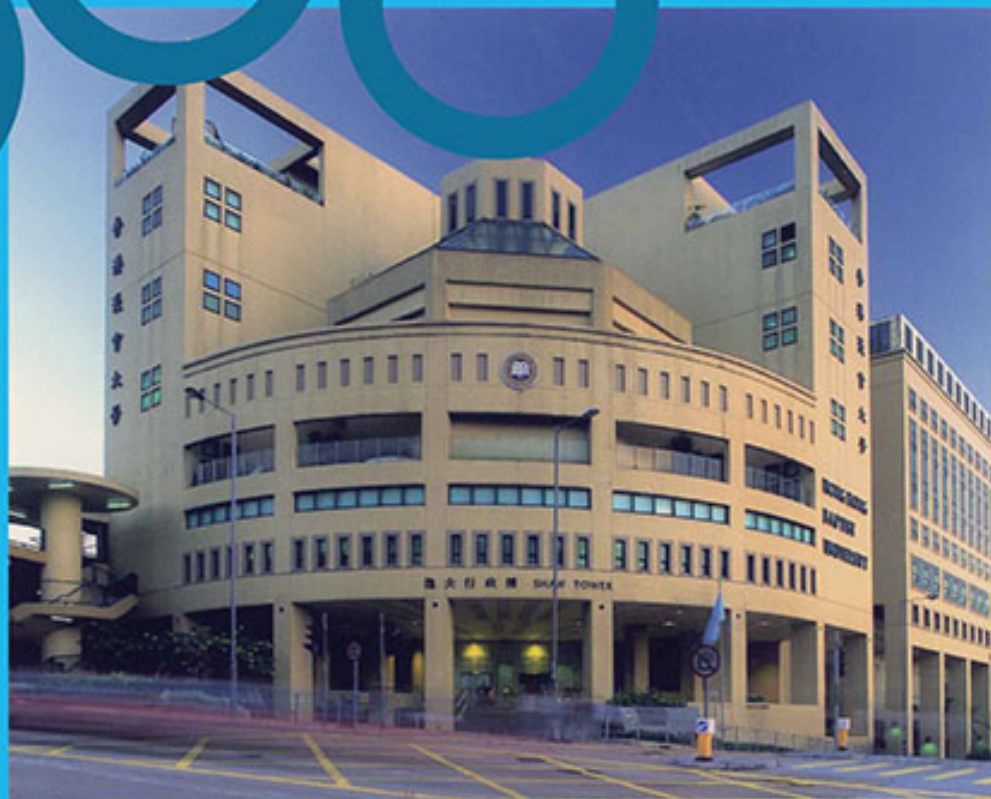


# 2000



## Entering the new century: the 2000s

*The first decade of the new millennium not only saw a great surge in the research strength and postgraduate studies at HKBU, it also witnessed its expansion into childhood, primary and secondary education as well as its reach extending into the Chinese mainland. These impressive developments were undertaken despite harsh cuts in public funding.*

Mid-2001 marked the retirement of President Daniel Tse, bringing down the curtain on a momentous and remarkable period of transformation for the University. President Tse's contributions to the University community were countless, not least his wise leadership of Hong Kong Baptist University (HKBU) as it steered its obstacle-strewn path towards attaining university status.

On 1 July 2001, Professor Ng Ching-fai became the third President and Vice-Chancellor of HKBU.



Professor Ng Ching-fai assumes presidency of HKBU in 2001

After the Asian financial crisis struck in 1997, the Government's recurrent funding of tertiary education entered a downward trend, with the inevitable result that competition for funding from other sources became ever keener. The situation was aggravated by the sudden ravages of the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) in the spring of 2003. In the face of a mounting fiscal deficit, the Government further cut back its subsidies to universities, and also severed the link between university staff's pay structure and that of the civil service. Naturally, the steady reduction of its operating budget presented an enormous challenge to the University's management. Key measures adopted to achieve cost reductions included salary cuts, a reconfiguration of the pay structure and the further streamlining of operational procedures. These were galling decisions to make at a time when HKBU was still basking in the glory of its recently acquired status and anxious to spread its wings as a fully-fledged university.



Discussions on the government funding cut take place on campus in the early 2000s





HKBU celebrates its 50th anniversary in 2006

The demands of the then straitened financial circumstances meant that painful action was inescapable. To this end, a new pay structure, built on the concepts of rationalised pay scales, closer alignment with the market and a stronger link between performance and reward, was implemented in phases, starting in 2004-05 and completed in 2005-06.

With the funding situation so unstable, the requirement to boost donations from non-government sources became ever more urgent. Whereas government funding covered staff, teaching and other running costs, private donations were needed to help build new facilities, and support the initiatives and innovations that HKBU – never short of ambition – yearned to introduce.



The University organises the Golden Jubilee Forum: Pathways to Creativity with five distinguished panelists, Professor Sunney Chan, Dr Vincent Lo, Dr Wang Shing-ching, Professor Zheng Xiaoying and Mr Xu Bing who share their views on how to stimulate creativity and open up the pathways to success



The University establishes the Hong Kong Baptist University Foundation in 2009 to raise funds to support projects not covered by public funds

On the plus side, from 2003, the University benefitted from the Government's launch of its Matching Grant Scheme under which funds were awarded to match donations received by local higher education institutions. During the decade, four Matching Grant Schemes were conducted and HKBU successfully raised a total of HK\$729 million, comprising HK\$454 million in donations and HK\$275 million in matching funds to support its various projects not partially or fully covered by public funds.

In a key move in 2009, the Hong Kong Baptist University Foundation was established to raise funds for the University to help realise its educational aspirations.

Despite the recurring hardships during this period, the University never compromised on its teaching quality. In the *Quality Audit Report* released by the Quality Assurance Council of the University Grants Committee (UGC) in September 2009, HKBU was commended. The report said the University was achieving its goal of providing a liberal, holistic education through the concept of whole person education, delivered in a caring and supportive environment that was clearly appreciated by students.



## Academic development

In terms of undergraduate programme development, the opening decade of the 21st century was a period of consolidation. However, several new programmes were introduced. In 2001-02, Hong Kong's first Pharmacy in Chinese Medicine degree programme was offered by the School of Chinese Medicine. In addition, a 2+2 programme (combining a specific degree and a diploma in education) opened in various disciplines for students who were targeting teaching as their career.



HKBU's Pharmacy in Chinese Medicine programme is another Hong Kong first



The cultural atmosphere of the campus helps inspire Visual Arts students' creativity

Underlining the high priority placed on the importance of stimulating creativity, HKBU launched an undergraduate degree in Visual Arts in the 2005-06 academic year, quickly followed by the establishment of the territory's first Academy of Visual Arts. In keeping with its innovative spirit, the Academy made its home off the main campus in a former officers' mess of Britain's Royal Air Force, a Grade One historic building constructed in a unique early 20th century architectural style.

In addition, a double degree programme in English Language and Literature and English Language Teaching was also offered. In 2009, the Academy of Film under the School of Communication, also a first in Hong Kong, was established, building on the well-established strengths of the School and its former department of Cinema and Television.

The University again performed well in the UGC's Second-round Teaching and Learning Quality Process Reviews in 2002, which covered research, postgraduate and continuing education.

In 2003-04 a far-reaching curriculum reform was implemented, designed to broaden the three-year undergraduate system and better prepare students with transferable skills and knowledge such as language proficiency, IT know-how, critical thinking, creativity, adaptability and cross-cultural perspectives. In order to stay abreast of the ever-changing requirements of a knowledge-based economy, the weighting between core subjects and general education subjects was reconfigured. Major subjects decreased from 80% to 65% of the curriculum, giving general education subjects a boost, with these classes forming 35% of the curriculum.



The Academy of Film under the School of Communication, the first of its kind in Hong Kong, is established in 2009



A forum on the proposed four-year curriculum is held to collect students' views on the reform



As an important part of the reforms, a new language policy was implemented which made English the official medium of instruction in all teaching except for subjects such as Chinese Language and Literature, China Studies and Chinese Medicine.

The reform was also treated as a preparation for the 3+3+4 educational structure proposed by the Government to expand the three-year undergraduate system to four years in 2012-13. This step required a great deal of preparatory work by the University, which set up task forces to lay the groundwork for introducing the new curriculum following in-depth consultation with colleagues.



The *Quality Audit Report* reaffirms HKBU's achievement in providing students with quality whole person education in a caring and supportive environment



The School of Continuing Education signs an articulation agreement with the University of Michigan for associate degree graduates to pursue further studies

To improve the management of the blossoming associate degree programmes, the College of International Education was founded in 2000 under the School of Continuing Education to administer the associate degree and later the self-funded undergraduate programmes. The University signed agreements with a number of overseas universities so that associate degree holders could continue their studies in Australia, Canada, the United States and Britain.

To cater for society's growing demands for higher education and postgraduate studies, the University established the Graduate School in 2002 to coordinate and administer affairs concerning postgraduate programmes.

During the decade, a number of taught master's degree courses were also introduced. They were established in the fields of Strategic Human Resources Management, Applied Accounting and Finance, Corporate Governance and Directorship, Chinese Medicine, Film, Television and Digital Media, Environmental and Public Health Administration,

Information Technology Management, Sport and Leisure Management, Contemporary China Studies, Youth Counselling, Public Administration, Media Management, Translation and Bilingual Communication, Art Administration, Social Work, and Pharmaceutical Sciences in Chinese Medicine.

HKBU's Department of Mathematics in cooperation with the Kent Business School of the University of Kent in Britain also began offering a double master's degree in Operational Research and Business Statistics.



HKBU confers its first Honorary University Fellowships in 2006 on seven distinguished persons: Ms Tsar Teh-yun, Dr Stephen Riady, Mrs Amelia Lee, Mr Bernard Fung, Mr Wong Kam-fai, Dr Yip Wai-hong, and Dr Lawrence Yick, in recognition of their outstanding contributions to the community and to the University



Other postgraduate programmes launched included the Doctor of Business Administration, and the Postgraduate Diploma in Early Childhood Education.

The student population of full-time undergraduate programmes in 2000-01 was 3,990, with 198 in

research postgraduate programmes and 665 in taught postgraduate programmes. In 2009-10, undergraduate student numbers had increased to 4,946, research postgraduates totalled 385 and taught postgraduates 2,931.



## Research expands

The leadership of newly appointed President and Vice-Chancellor Ng Ching-fai saw the further strengthening of the University's research endeavours.

In 2000-01, a total of 598 research projects of the University received research grants from various funding sources. By 2009-10, this figure had risen to 841.

The Research Assessment Exercise 2006 conducted by the Research Grants Council of UGC showed that 75.24% of HKBU academic staff were active in research. Of the 10 areas in which HKBU was reviewed, seven scored higher than the average of all tertiary institutions, with four ranked in the top three. In three areas, namely biology, health sciences and physical sciences, the score in research indices was over 90%.



Members of the Research Grants Council show keen interest in HKBU's research projects during their visit



The Joint Research Institute for Applied Mathematics opens in 2002

Entering the 2000s, the University had already joined hands with Tsinghua University and Beijing University of Chinese Medicine to set up the Joint Universities Projects for Chinese Medicine Research which reinforced the University's well-deserved leading position in Chinese medicine research. This example of cross-institute collaboration continued in 2002 with the Peking University-Hong Kong Baptist University Joint Research Institute for Applied Mathematics plus the establishment of the Joint Institute of Environmental Sciences of HKBU and the Research Centre for Eco-Environmental Sciences of the Chinese Academy of Sciences.



The University also established three new university-wide research institutes in the second half of the 2000s. These were the Advanced Institute for Contemporary China Studies, the Institute for Computational Mathematics, and the Hong Kong Baptist University Sino-Forest Applied Research Centre for Pearl River Delta Environment. By creating these synergies in research expertise, the three institutes have created a superior platform for cross-disciplinary studies of contemporary China, mathematics, science and engineering, as well as environmental issues.



Environmental research is one of the research niches of HKBU as a result of the contributions made by the Dioxin Lab (left) and the Croucher Institute for Environmental Sciences (above)

Inter-disciplinary research in environmental protection is one of HKBU's flagship areas. In 2004, the Croucher Foundation honoured the University's Institute for National Resources and Environmental Management by naming it one of the Croucher Laboratories. The Institute has thus been renamed as the Croucher Institute for Environmental Sciences. The selection was based on the significance of the environmental research conducted by the Institute.



## New ventures in education

Under the leadership of President Ng, the University launched another ambitious venture: Beijing Normal University-Hong Kong Baptist University United International College (UIC) founded in November 2005 in the Zhuhai Special Economic Zone of Guangdong province became the first full-scale collaboration in higher education between Hong Kong and Mainland China. UIC adopts the HKBU curricula and quality assurance system to ensure that the academic standards of the degree courses conform

to international standards. UIC uses English as the medium of instruction and its graduates are awarded bachelor's degrees by HKBU and graduation certificates by UIC. The 133,000- square-metre lakeside UIC campus officially came into operation in January 2008 and the first cohort of 242 students graduated in 2009. In 2014-15 enrolment of undergraduate and postgraduate students in UIC reached 5,000.



A bird's eye view of the Beijing Normal University-Hong Kong Baptist University United International College in Zhuhai



HKBU has sought to provide education at all age levels, from childhood through lifelong learning. In keeping with this aspiration, the University engaged in a venture to provide a quality through-train educational path, from early childhood to adolescence. In 2000, the Hong Kong Baptist University Kindergarten, the first kindergarten of its type in Hong Kong operated by a university, was established by the HKBU School of Continuing Education on Baptist University Road Campus.

In December 2006, with funding support from the Kam Shing Group, the Hong Kong Baptist University Affiliated School Wong Kam Fai Secondary and

Primary School, located at a 12,000-square-metre site in Shek Mun, Sha Tin, was officially opened after six years of preparation. As the territory's first school managed in conjunction with a university and providing a 12-year through-train primary and secondary education, the Affiliated School, which operates under the Direct Subsidy Scheme, adheres closely to the ideals of HKBU's whole person education. It has become a model of quality education, practising and demonstrating the University's educational philosophy.



Hong Kong Baptist University Kindergarten is established in 2000



The Hong Kong Baptist University Affiliated School Wong Kam Fai Secondary and Primary School provides a 12-year through-train primary and secondary education

## Internationalisation gathers pace

The drive to internationalise the HKBU campus gained impetus in the 2000s. Notably, in 2003, the University established its International Office, responsible for coordinating matters related to student exchange and cooperation with overseas institutions. The University also launched a series of innovative programmes that have become important, tried and trusted features of the University's non-academic calendar.

For example, in 2004 the Faculty of Arts launched the International Writers' Workshop, the first of its kind in Asia. The Workshop invites about eight creative writers from around the world annually to stay on campus for a month, interacting not only with students and staff but also with Hong Kong writers and the general public. The aim is to cultivate literary creativity and enhance the cultural atmosphere within and outside the University campus.

In the same year, the University became the first university in Hong Kong to launch the Consul-General-in-Residence programme. This "bringing the world to the campus" programme invites senior diplomats based in Hong Kong to share with students and staff topics about their home countries.



Foreign students cherish the excellent exchange opportunity provided by the University



Nine creative writers from around the globe join the first International Writers' Workshop in 2004



The Consul-General-in-Residence programme is another first among Hong Kong institutions



In 2005, the University launched the Dream of the Red Chamber Award: The World's Distinguished Novel in Chinese. This is the first prize in Hong Kong awarded to writers of Chinese novels from around the world and promotes the publication of quality novels in Chinese.

In 2007, the School of Communication inaugurated the Pulitzer Prize Winners Workshop, another first for the Asian region. The University invites winners of the Pulitzer Prize, the most prestigious award available for journalists, to come to HKBU to share their experiences and philosophies in journalism through

seminars and forums. These visits make it possible for students to see face-to-face the outstanding international journalists whose names and writings are featured in publications of the world's leading media organisations.

With regard to student exchange, in 2000-01 there were 44 incoming international exchange students in HKBU and 11 outgoing students. As a result of HKBU's internationalisation efforts, these figures jumped. In 2009-10, the number of incoming students increased to 314, and the number of HKBU students travelling abroad on exchange visits increased to 219.



The Pulitzer Prize Winners Workshop offers HKBU students a chance to learn from top journalists in the world



A local student teaches international students how to write traditional Chinese New Year couplets: an invaluable experience to both parties

## Whole person education in the new century

The ideals of whole person education that HKBU has unswervingly upheld since its founding were more than lived up to in the new century through a wide array of curricular, co-curricular and extra-curricular initiatives and activities.

A non-credit bearing Arts and Cultural Education Programme was launched in 2001-02 aimed at enabling students to rediscover their intrinsic motivation for learning, increasing their self-confidence and helping them to establish life goals through the provision of a wide selection of seminars and workshops. The areas covered ranged from Chinese culture, drama, music, to science and creative thinking.



Co-curricular and extra-curricular activities are essential components of HKBU's whole person education



A nine-member student delegation successfully scales the 6,206-metre Mount Kyizi in Tibet in 2006 to celebrate HKBU's 50th anniversary, setting a record by becoming the first local university team to achieve this feat



Founded in September 2002, the Cultural Literacy Programme was another innovative initiative to enrich cultural ambience on campus. The Programme was initiated under the Department of Cinema and Television and Humanities Programme as a platform to provide students with opportunities to attend artistic and cultural activities such as media workshops, museum visits and film and performance appreciation sessions in order to enhance their understanding of national, regional and global cultural issues.

To provide more diversified opportunities for student development, the Community Based Instruction Programme was set up in 2002. This emphasised the growth of both teachers and students through problem-based learning. For students, it was an invaluable opportunity to learn through providing community service to ethnic minorities, underprivileged families, homeless people and marginalised young people.

The Centre for Holistic Teaching and Learning was established in 2005-06. The Centre works in partnership with academic colleagues to foster continuous quality learning and teaching. It leverages the latest e-learning technology and combines it with innovative pedagogies to advance good practices in teaching and co-curricular activities. It aims to reinforce the student-centred, whole person- and outcome-oriented ethos of learning and teaching.



The Cultural Literacy Programme brings artistic and cultural ambience to campus



Four students from the School of Business scoop the global championship in the Global Investment Research Challenge held in New York, USA in May 2008 and are invited to preside over the closing bell of the NASDAQ trading day. The team grabbed championships in the Greater China region and Asia Pacific region prior to winning the global championship.

## Hall life enriches campus experience

Hall life is an important component of whole person education. By enabling students to live together and share common facilities, and by requiring them to resolve conflicts among themselves and to cooperate with each other in a wide range of events and situations, hall life contributes immensely to students' character formation and personal growth.

Founded in 2002, HKBU's four undergraduate halls, each named after a prominent personality in contemporary Chinese history – Cai Yuanpei (education), Soong Ching-ling (social affairs), Yang Chen-ning (science) and Zhou Shuren (literature) – collectively accommodate some 1,600 students.

Each hall has developed its own culture. Bearing the Hall motto "Hall with a Heart," residents of Yang Hall endeavour to develop a spirit of sharing and learning. Driven by the spirit of "aide sans frontières", Zhousians (Residents of Zhou Hall) are committed to perpetuating this vision for personal growth and community services. Soong Hall strongly emphasises well-rounded hall education that develops residents' mind, body and social skills. Known to be creative, outgoing and outspoken, residents of Cai Hall have created a lively community whose activities and impact have extended far beyond the campus.



The student hostel is a wonderful place for learning, sharing and living



Nobel laureate Professor Yang Chen-ning visits Yang Hall which is named after him



## Caring for the community, environment and heritage

As a caring institution, the University considers itself as bearing a heavy responsibility and having a unique opportunity to contribute to the well-being of the community which sustains it, especially in an increasingly interconnected age.

A significant example of HKBU fully living up to its responsibilities as a caring body came during the battle against SARS in 2003. During the crisis, the University was proactive in its initiatives and contributions in a diverse range of voluntary services.

These included the transfer of information to the public about the benefits of Chinese medicine as well as community care through the involvement of medical professionals. There were also SARS-related newspaper article placements, exhibitions, seminars and conferences, free consultations and distribution of free Chinese medicine herbal packs. An on-line interactive e-learning platform was established which was a great help to primary and secondary schools and their students who could continue their classes on the Internet during the suspension of classes throughout the city. These actions earned wide recognition.



HKBU staff and students demonstrate their care to the community with professional expertise during the SARS period: (from left) School of Chinese Medicine offers free medical consultations to the public; Department of Education Studies helps primary and secondary schools to carry on classes during class suspension via an Internet e-platform; students of HKBU organise a Smiling Campaign with pupils of HKBU Kindergarten

In 2008, the University launched the Caring for Sichuan programme to set up a social work station with Southwestern University of Finance and Economics on the Mainland to provide long-term service to victims of the massive Sichuan earthquake. HKBU volunteers also organised visits to provide psychological support for victims of the earthquake.

The University is whole-heartedly committed to the preservation of the environment, not only in its research but also in its non-academic efforts and policies. The Better Environment Endeavour, formed

by a group of enthusiastic staff and students in 2000, ran promotional and educational activities to increase environmental awareness among staff and students. Through this effort, the University became the first local tertiary institution to adopt environmentally friendly food containers at campus catering outlets.

The University's greenhouse was awarded a Silver Medal in the Outstanding Green Project Awards 2000 scheme, organised by local architectural professional groups.



HKBU students show their kindness and sympathy through disaster relief campaigns: Caring for (left) victims of the 2008 Sichuan earthquake and (right) survivors of the Indian Ocean tsunami of 2004





As a service to the community, HKBU was heavily engaged in heritage conservation in the 2000s. In 2005, the Government leased the historic former British Royal Air Force officers' mess in Kwun Tong, Kowloon to HKBU as the base for the newly founded Academy of Visual Arts. In 2009, the site, renamed as HKBU's Kai Tak Campus, won an Honourable Mention in the Asia-Pacific Heritage Award for Cultural Heritage Conservation organised by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO).



In September 2008, the Jockey Club Creative Arts Centre, located in Shek Kip Mei, Kowloon, was established. A community art project led by HKBU with the renovation work funded by the Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust, the Centre was the first project of its kind to convert a decommissioned industrial building into a popular arts hub, housing more than 100 local artists or arts and cultural organisations.



In 2009, the Government commissioned HKBU to revitalise the historic building of Lui Seng Chun as a Chinese medicine and healthcare centre. The Grade One historic building built in 1931 in Sham Shui Po, Kowloon, was officially reopened in 2012 under the name of Hong Kong Baptist University School of Chinese Medicine – Lui Seng Chun.

HKBU contributes to heritage conservation and revitalisation: (above) The Kai Tak Campus; (middle) The Jockey Club Creative Arts Centre, and (below) Lui Seng Chun



## Campus development

In the context of HKBU's continuous growth both in student population and academic endeavour, expansion of the campus became a vital priority. One of the key developments in this era was the establishment of the nine-storey, 8,500-square-metre Jockey Club School of Chinese Medicine Building in 2001.

To accommodate residency for local and overseas students, the four residential halls warmly opened their doors in 2002. In September 2006, the 30,000-square-metre HKBU Shek Mun Campus for the College of International Education was unveiled. The Campus houses a library, a heated indoor swimming pool, an auditorium, two indoor gymnasiums as well as language, multi-media, media communication, psychology, creative science, bio-eco and food and nutrition science laboratories.



Jockey Club School of Chinese Medicine Building



Student residence halls



In March 2007, the University announced an extensive five-year campus expansion plan taking in the requirements of the four-year undergraduate system being introduced in 2012. The plan was divided into four phases: first, construction of an 11-storey building for the School of Communication and the Academy of Visual Arts; second, construction of a new floor for both the Wing Lung Bank Building

for Business Studies and the David C Lam Building; third, building a four-storey wing at the Joint Sports Centre's parking lot and a new 13-storey building to replace the seven low-rise buildings for academic teaching and administration purposes; and fourth, building an open area to serve as the entrance plaza of the Baptist University Road Campus.



The Shek Mun Campus in Sha Tin houses the College of International Education of the School of Continuing Education

## Man Lung Garden

Man Lung Garden was first unveiled at the Li Promenade of HKBU Shaw Campus in July 2000 to promote the Chinese heritage of Chinese artistic pot plants (*penjing*) through the display of 20 *penjing* generously donated by Dr Wu Yee-sun, who is widely acclaimed as the “sage of *penjing*”.

The garden was relocated to the Kam Shing Road Entrance of Ho Sin Hang Campus in February 2005. Designed by renowned architect Professor Patrick Lau, the new garden is even more accessible to *penjing* appreciators, allowing passersby to enjoy the relaxing and peaceful feelings that the art of *penjing* presents. With the support of the Sha Tin Bonsai Association and the Hong Kong Bonsai International Society, a collection of over 30 *penjing* of Lingnan School style are on display in this exquisite and spacious garden.

