

**Congratulatory Message to Graduates of Classes 2019 and 2020  
by Professor Mark R Thompson, Head and Professor of Politics  
Department of Asian and International Studies, City University of Hong Kong**

First things first – congratulations to all graduates of Classes 2019 and 2020 of the Department of Asian and International Studies (AIS)! You have studied hard and this is recognition of your achievement. I would also like to thank the AIS faculty members – several of whom have won top teaching awards from the College and the University – for their dedicated teaching.

As you know, AIS combines the study of politics, international relations and social sciences more generally with cultural studies focused on contemporary Asia and the world. With research staff and instructors from **12** countries, who speak **19** different languages, our goal has been to teach you to become global citizens in ‘Asia’s world city’, providing you with wide-ranging knowledge about the region and helping you learn key skills like writing, conducting research, and delivering presentations.

In a global city, there is great demand for students who understand the politics, society and international relations of a rising and changing Asia, who can think critically and independently, and who know how to present information that help others better understand these topics. Whatever it is you choose to do, we hope that you will use what we taught you here – not the details of every course, but the ability to analyse situations, think critically, and express your views persuasively. They say the world is your oyster. We hope and trust you will use this opportunity wisely.

One way to measure accomplishment is through scholarships. Among the graduates of the Classes of 2019 and 2020, **149** received scholarships of different kinds. Also **17** of you received first class honours in our undergraduate programme and **29** received distinction in one of our three taught postgraduate programmes.

We had students who went on exchange programmes to universities around the world, including Curtin University of Technology & Queensland University of Technology, Australia; McGill University, Canada; Peking University and Shanghai Jiao Tong University, China; Charles University (Prague), Czech Republic; Aarhus University, Denmark; University of Turku, Finland; Georg-August-Universität Gottingen & University of Mannheim, Germany; University of Bologna, Italy; Kanagawa University, Nagoya University & Tokyo Metropolitan University, Japan; Korea University & Sogang University, Korea; Erasmus University Rotterdam, Leiden University, NHL University of Applied Sciences, Radboud University Nijmegen, University of Groningen & VU University Amsterdam, the Netherlands; University of Oslo, Norway; Saint Petersburg State University, Russia; National University of Singapore, Singapore; Universidad Pontificia Comillas, Spain; Uppsala Universitet, Sweden; National Taiwan University, Taiwan; University of Birmingham & University of Sussex, UK; San Francisco State University, San Jose State University & University of Texas at Dallas, USA.

Many of you also participated in study tours in New York and Washington (USA), Paris and Reims (France) and Brussels (Belgium), Vancouver (Canada), Bangkok (Thailand), Tokyo (Japan) and Seoul (South Korea).

We are also pleased about the internships in which many of you participated – at Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department, Government of Hong Kong; The Amity Foundation, Hong Kong; Asia Society Hong Kong Center; Asia-pacific Innovation Economic Research Institute of Guangdong; The

Association for the Advancement of Feminism; Census and Statistics Department, Government of Hong Kong; China Minsheng Bank (Jinjiang Sub-branch); Christian Action; Civic Party; Commissioner for Heritage's Office; CSR Asia; Deloitte China; Democratic Party; Designing Hong Kong; E Corporate Travel; Ernst & Young (Hong Kong); Fairtaste; Firetree Asia Foundation HK; Greenpeace East Asia; Hanoi Hotel; Heifer International - Hong Kong; Ho Tak Sang & Co. CPA; Hong Kong Economic Times; Hong Kong Fair Trade Power; Hong Kong Federation of Youth Group; Hong Kong Free Methodist Church; Hong Kong Women Worker Association; Hong Kong Youth Nurture Association; Hyogo Business & Tourism Centre; ImpactHK; International Organization for Migration (IOM Hong Kong Sub-Office); Kadokawa Hong Kong Limited; Kadoorie Farm & Botanic Garden; Liberal Party; Ming Ri Institute for Arts Education Ltd; Miramar Travel Limited; New People's Party; Plan International Hong Kong; Richmond Fellowship of Hong Kong; Rightman Publishing Limited; Roundtable Institute & Its Network; Royal Thai Consulate-General in Hong Kong; Sing Tao News Corporation; Social Enterprise Cambodia; Tae Sports; UNHCR, The UN Refugee Agency; United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization Hong Kong (UNESCO HK); The Wing On Department Stores (Hong Kong) Ltd; The Women's Foundation; World Wildlife Fund (WWF-HK).

On behalf of AIS, I wish you all the very best. Please stay in touch with us. AIS has a Facebook page where we link up with our graduates. We have a very active alumni network which we invite you to be a part of, and ask you to join us in future events. Thank you for being in AIS with us. Please now consider yourself part of the AIS alumni family and please stay in touch through our alumni events. We are proud of you today and hope to be even prouder about what you accomplish in the future. Again, my congratulations to you all!

