



香港城市大學
City University of Hong Kong

University Announcement

Dear colleagues and students,

According to the lunar calendar, today is the very beginning of spring. I sincerely hope you all remain in good health during these challenging times.

The past few weeks have been extremely difficult for the University and Hong Kong. Immediately after the disruption resulting from the social unrest in the latter half of 2019, the appearance of novel coronavirus continues to create anxiety, with the spread of the disease deeply shaking our cherished society.

Despite these successive challenges, we stand firm. Enhanced campus security and safety systems have helped to ensure we maintain a peaceful learning environment, whilst the effective anti-virus measures we have implemented have helped ensure our teaching, learning and research activities continue through alternative and innovative ways and means. My heartfelt thanks go to colleagues and students who demonstrate consummate professionalism by stepping up and assuming responsibility to help resolve difficult situations.

Over the years, we have grown to become a globally recognized university with highly professional faculty and staff, and exceptionally capable students. According to the latest *Times Higher Education World University Rankings*, CityU is considered the “most international university.” Let’s not forget that our mission is to nurture and develop the talents and future skills of our students and to create applicable knowledge.

Maintaining academic activities at such a challenging time requires extra effort and the utmost professionalism from each of us. I call on every member of the University community to uphold a spirit of unity and cooperation so that we can meet and defeat this new challenge. I trust we will work hand in hand to pursue our mission and identify innovative solutions whilst ensuring safety for everyone.

I have continuously communicated with staff and students over the past months, believing that every effort from our community counts. My understanding is that some staff and students are naturally worried about the current situation. I fully understand the concerns that many of you have and want to ensure you are supported. Consequently, should you need any assistance at work or during studies, please contact the following colleagues/units as appropriate:

Teaching and academic matters – Professor Alex Jen, Provost

Student matters – Professor Horace Ip, Vice-President (Student Affairs)

Research, graduate studies and related matters – Professor Jian Lu, Vice-President (Research and Technology)

Anti-virus measures – Emergency Response Unit co-chaired by Mr Sunny Lee, Vice-President (Administration), and Professor Horace Ip, Vice-President (Student Affairs)

Unfortunately we cannot yet predict when this public health emergency will come to an end. But tough times don't last; tough people do. I know that our collective endeavours will enable us to prevail. Together we will overcome this challenge as we have overcome past challenges.

May the Year of the Rat bring you joy, good health and good luck!

Way Kuo
President and University Distinguished Professor

4 February 2020