

CHAPTER 2

领导致辞

MESSAGE FROM
THE LEADERSHIP





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承蒙各级政府在政策与资源上的鼎力支持,以及社会各界的关心与帮助,香港城市大学(东莞)在开局之年顺利启航,迈出坚实步伐。作为港城大响应国家粤港澳大湾区战略、迎接知识经济浪潮的关键布局,港城大(东莞)从诞生之初便肩负着推动教育创新与区域融合的重要使命。

东莞市地处大湾区核心地带,松山湖坐拥中国散裂中子源、松山湖材料实验室等国家级科研装置、实验室,与深圳市、广州市共同形成“一小时创新圈”,为“基础研究—技术转化—产业应用”提供了完整创新生态。在此建校,正是为了将香港的国际化学术网络与东莞的先进制造底蕴深度融合,打造面向未来的产学研协同枢纽。

在香港城市大学的全球发展蓝图中,东莞校区是深化“双城互促”战略的核心引擎。依托“两校一质”原则,我们致力于推动两校区实现课程互认、学生交换与师资共享,确保同步办学质量、资源畅通联动。

City University of Hong Kong (Dongguan) has embarked on a promising journey in its inaugural year, with the policy support and generous resources provided by governments at all levels, as well as the care and assistance from all sectors of society. As a key component in City University of Hong Kong's response to the national strategy for the Guangdong–Hong Kong–Macao Greater Bay Area and its effort to embrace the rise of the knowledge economy, CityUHK (DG) campus has carried from its inception the important mission of driving educational innovation and regional integration.

Situated at the heart of the region, Dongguan, especially the Songshan Lake Science City, hosts national-level scientific facilities such as the China Spallation Neutron Source and the Songshan Lake Materials Laboratory. Dongguan, with Shenzhen and Guangzhou, forms a “The One-Hour Innovation Network,” offering a complete ecosystem that connects basic research, technology transfer, and industrial application. Establishing the CityUHK (DG) campus here is to integrate Hong Kong's international academic network with Dongguan's strengths in advanced manufacturing, creating a future-oriented hub for university–industry–research collaboration.

Within CityUHK's global strategy, the Dongguan campus serves as a central driver for deepening our “synergy between two cities” vision. Guided by the “Consistency in Academic Excellence” principle, we are committed to enabling mutual recognition of courses, student exchange, and faculty sharing across campuses, ensuring aligned academic standards and seamless resource flow.

我们坚信,大学不仅仅是知识的传播者,更应成为创新的推动者。开局之年,东莞校区重点布局计算机科学、智能制造、新能源与新材料等前沿学科,吸引了一批海内外杰出学者加盟。同时,我们高度重视产学研协同创新,积极与企业深度联动,与中国散裂中子源、松山湖材料实验室等国家级大科学装置、实验室建立紧密合作,共同推进具有重大影响力的原创性创新研究。

在传承港城大优秀基因的基础上,港城大(东莞)着力营造跨文化、跨学科的国际化学习环境。通过实施“杰出客座教授计划”,我们邀请国际知名学者驻校开展合作研究与联合教学,拓宽学生的全球视野。同时,我们将港城大标志性的“HK Tech 300”创新创业计划全面引入东莞,鼓励学生从课堂走向创业,将创意转化为解决现实问题的产品与服务,培养既具专业深度、又富人文情怀与社会担当的未来领袖。

展望未来,港城大(东莞)将依托粤港澳大湾区的澎湃动能与港城大的深厚积淀,坚持以创新教育为引领,矢志发展成为卓越研究、教育和创新的世界一流学府。我们诚挚期待与各界贤达携手同行,共同谱写高等教育创新发展的新篇章,为粤港澳大湾区建设提供坚实的人才支撑与智力贡献。

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We believe that a university is not only a place where knowledge is transmitted, but also a force that propels innovation. In its first year, the Dongguan campus has prioritized frontier disciplines such as computer science, intelligent manufacturing, new energy, and advanced materials, attracting distinguished scholars from around the world. At the same time, we highly value collaborative innovation. By forging partnerships with enterprises and working closely with major national scientific facilities such as the China Spallation Neutron Source and the Songshan Lake Materials Laboratory, we strive to advance innovative research with great impact.

Carrying forward CityUHK's strong foundations, CityUHK (DG) is committed to cultivating an international learning environment that bridges cultures and disciplines. Through our “Distinguished Lecture Series”, we invite leading global scholars to conduct collaborative research and joint teaching, broadening our students' international perspectives. Meanwhile, CityUHK's signature “HK Tech 300” innovation and entrepreneurship program has been introduced to Dongguan, encouraging students to take ideas beyond the classroom and transform creative ideas into real-world solutions. These nurture future leaders with both professional depth and a strong sense of social responsibility.

Looking ahead, CityUHK (DG) will draw upon the growth momentum of the Greater Bay Area and the solid foundation of CityUHK, remaining steadfast in advancing innovation-driven education. We aspire to become a leading global university, excelling in research and professional education. We warmly welcome partners from all sectors to join us as we write a new chapter in higher-education innovation and contribute strong talent and intellectual support to the development of the Guangdong–Hong Kong–Macao Greater Bay Area.

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时光如川，奔涌向前。回望香港城市大学（东莞）从蓝图到现实的办学历程，我心中充满感慨，亦满怀希望。大学的创立，从来不是简单的规模扩张，而应是一次教育理念的再出发、办学格局的再构建。港城大（东莞）的设立，正是港城大响应国家战略，深度融入粤港澳大湾区建设的关键布局，也是在新时代对高等教育使命的主动回应。

过去一年，我们以“仰望星空”的眼界谋划布局，以“脚踏实地”的步履扎实前行。学校从2024年4月获教育部批准设立，到同年9月约550名学子踏入校门，再到如今教学体系、管理架构逐步完善——这些成果凝聚了无数日夜的耕耘，也承载着社会各界的信任与支持。在此，我谨代表学校，向各级政府、各界伙伴，以及全体师生员工，致以最真诚的感谢。没有你们的托举与耕耘，就没有这片土地上正在发生的教育故事。

我们深知，大学的生命力在于与时代同频、与城市共进。当下，粤港澳大湾区发展进入新阶段；东莞作为国际制造名城，正经历从“制造”向“智造”的关键转型；松山湖科学城汇聚了中国散裂中子源等大科学装置，华为等领军企业也扎根于此。因此，我

Time flows like a mighty river, carrying us boldly toward the future. As I look back on the remarkable journey of City University of Hong Kong (Dongguan), from an ambitious blueprint to a flourishing reality, I am filled with deep emotion and even greater optimism. The establishment of a university is never simply an expansion of physical scale. It is a reinvention of educational ideals and a reimagining of academic possibilities. CityUHK (DG) stands as a landmark achievement. It signifies CityUHK's inspired response to national strategies, bold integration into the dynamic development of the Guangdong–Hong Kong–Macao Greater Bay Area, and forward-looking commitment to the future mission of higher education.

Over the past year, we have charted our course with a visionary gaze toward the stars, while advancing each mile with steadfast determination. Our journey starts from April 2024, when CityUHK (DG) received official approval from the Ministry of Education. By September 2024, our first cohort of about 550 students embarked on their academic journey here. By now, our teaching system and governance structure have been steadily taking shape. These achievements are the result of countless days and nights of dedication, and they reflect the trust and support we have received from the society. On behalf of the University, I extend my heartfelt gratitude to government at all levels, to our partners and friends across communities, and to all our faculty, staff, and students. Your commitment and contributions have made possible the educational transformation now unfolding on this very campus.

We understand that a university draws its vitality from moving in step with its era and growing alongside its city. Today, the Guangdong–Hong Kong–Macao

们自创办之初，便将自身发展深深嵌入这片土地的创新脉搏之中。首批开设的专业都紧紧围绕产业需求展开布局；学校积极依托大科学装置开展前沿研究，如支持吴桢舵教授团队攻克折叠屏铰链材料难题；学校举办了第三届“HK Tech 300”创新创业大赛（东莞赛区），让创新的种子在此萌芽。这些实践，不仅让学生在真实场景中锤炼能力、在协作攻坚中涵养胆识，更拓宽了“校园边界”，推动学校积极融入地方发展。

科学的世界是由一群“傻子”创造的。这里的“傻”，不是愚钝，而是一种不计短期得失的专注、一份不畏艰难险阻的执着。科研如此，办学亦如此。我们既鼓励学生心怀远方、抬头看路，敢于“从物理思路跃向数学表达”，在跨学科协作中寻找突破；也引导他们扎根现实、低头深耕，在实践中锤炼“把问题拆解到底”的功夫。这种“顶天立地”的追求，正是我们办学不变的初心。

我们期待，这里不仅能走出具有扎实专业能力的工程师、科学家，更能培养一批心怀家国、视野开阔、敢闯敢创的卓越人才。最后，愿我们不负时代所托，不负教育初心，在这片充满生机的热土上，并肩前行，书写下一个篇章。

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Greater Bay Area is entering a new stage of development. Dongguan, a city famous for manufacturing globally, is undergoing a critical transformation from “manufacturing” to “intelligent manufacturing”. Songshan Lake Science City is emerging as a powerhouse of innovation with major national research facilities such as the China Spallation Neutron Source and leading enterprises including Huawei. From the very beginning, we have rooted our development within this dynamic ecosystem. Our first academic programmes were purposefully designed to align with regional industry needs. The University actively leverages the capabilities of large-scale scientific facilities to conduct frontier research, for example, supporting Professor Wu Zhenduo's team in addressing key material challenges related to foldable-device hinges, and hosting the third HK Tech 300 National Start-up Competition (Dongguan Division), which helped germinate new ideas and ventures on our campus. These initiatives enable our students to sharpen their skills through real-world engagement, strengthen their resolve through collaborative problem-solving, and expand the boundaries of what a campus can be. At the same time, they demonstrate our commitment to contributing proactively to the region's development and to becoming a vibrant driver of innovation for the Greater Bay Area.

The world of science is often shaped by unconventional minds. This “unconventional” quality is not about being impractical, rather it is the willingness to pursue knowledge without calculating short-term gains, and the resolve to press on despite uncertainty and obstacles. Scientific inquiry demands this spirit, and so does education. We encourage our students to look up and think boldly, to turn intuition into precise thinking and to seek breakthroughs through interdisciplinary collaboration. At the same time, we guide them to stay grounded, to cultivate the discipline of “solve the problem as thoroughly as possible,” and to sharpen their abilities through hands-on practice. This pursuit of both the lofty and the practical, looking up to the universe while remaining rooted in the earth, embodies the founding vision that has always guided our institution.

We aspire for this university to nurture not only engineers and scientists with solid professional competence, but also a generation of outstanding talents who carry a sense of responsibility for the nation, possess a broad global vision, and have the courage to explore and innovate. As we look ahead, may we remain true to our educational mission and rise to the expectations of our time. On this vibrant and promising land, let us move forward together and write the next chapter of our shared journey.

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一所诞生于粤港澳大湾区的合办大学，应当以何种姿态立足，又以何种路径生长？创校元年，我们在探索中逐渐清晰了答案——既要深深扎根于这片创新热土，也要始终保持与世界同频的开放胸怀。

香港城市大学（东莞）既是一所崭新的大学，也传承着香港城市大学深厚的基因。这种基因，首先体现在其国际化的基因里。港城大连续两年获评“全球最国际化大学”，而我们正致力于将这一国际化优势融入东莞的土壤。今年，我们不仅面向全国招生，还招收了19名港澳台学生、3名国际学生；我们积极从全球延揽优秀师资，助力学生在松山湖畔拓宽国际视野，在本地就能体验跨文化的学习环境。

国际化不是简单照搬，我们更看重“在地融合”。东莞作为世界级制造业基地，正全力向“先进制造”转型升级。为此，我们的专业设置精准对接地方发展需求，持续与本地龙头企业开展合作，让师生深度参与研发，推动课堂知识与产业前沿无缝衔接。我们校园没有围墙，隔壁的国家大科学装置、材料实验室，都是我们延伸的课堂。

For a university created through partnership between Hong Kong and the Chinese Mainland and born in the Guangdong–Hong Kong–Macao Greater Bay Area, how should it strike root, and how will it grow? In our founding year, we have gradually found the answer through exploration: we must be firmly rooted in this vibrant engine of innovation, while maintaining an open outlook that keeps us closely connected with the world.

City University of Hong Kong (DG) is both a brand-new institution and an extension of the City University of Hong Kong's strong academic heritage. This heritage is reflected first and foremost in its deeply rooted international character. CityUHK has been named the “Most International University in the World” for two consecutive years, and we are committed to bringing this global outlook into the soil of Dongguan. This year, in addition to enrolling students from across the Chinese Mainland, we welcomed 19 students from Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan, as well as 3 international students. We are also recruiting outstanding faculty from around the world, enabling our students to broaden their horizons right here by Songshan Lake and experience a truly cross-cultural learning environment without leaving Dongguan. Yet our internationalisation is never a matter of simple transplantation. It is about local integration. As a world-class manufacturing hub, Dongguan is accelerating its transition toward advanced manufacturing. In response, our academic programmes are closely aligned with regional development priorities, and we continue to deepen partnerships with leading local enterprises. This allows our faculty and students to engage directly in research and development, ensuring that classroom learning connects seamlessly with the cutting edge of industry. Our campus has no walls as the

当前，国际形势复杂多变，大湾区高等教育的“双向奔赴”却展现出蓬勃的生命力。香港长期积累的国际化教育优势与内地完善的产业链深度结合，为科研成果转化提供了独特而广阔的应用场景，这正是我们培养具备国际竞争力创新人才的重要根基。我们正在构建一个开放、跨学科的教育、研究及知识转移平台，致力于将国际化教研体系与大湾区发展机遇有机结合，将港城大的全球网络与松山湖的创新资源紧密联动，积极探索“香港所长、湾区所需”的融合发展之路，为粤港澳大湾区建设国际教育示范区与国际科技创新中心提供有力支撑。

我们深信，一所大学只有深深扎根于所在的城市，才能真正获得生长的力量；只有保持与世界的同频共振，才能赢得未来的空间。港城大（东莞）愿做一座桥梁，连接粤港澳，联通世界，更承载每一位师生的梦想，共同奔赴大湾区的未来。

展望未来，我们走得踏实，也充满期待。在大学理事会的英明领导与专业治理下，我们将坚守初心与使命，推动港城大（东莞）发展成为卓越研究、教育和创新的世界一流学府。

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major national research facilities and materials laboratories next door forming an extension of our learning space.

Amid today's complex and rapidly evolving global landscape, the higher-education collaboration in the Greater Bay Area continues to demonstrate exceptional vitality. The integration of Hong Kong's long-established strengths in international education with the Chinese Mainland's comprehensive industrial ecosystem provides a uniquely fertile environment for translating research into real-world applications, serving as an essential foundation for nurturing innovation-driven talent with global competitiveness. We are building an open, interdisciplinary platform spanning education, research, and knowledge transfer, one that bridges our international academic framework with the development opportunities arising across the Greater Bay Area. By linking CityUHK's global network with the innovation dynamism of Songshan Lake, we are actively exploring a model of integrated development that aligns Hong Kong's strengths with the region's needs. Through these efforts, we aim to contribute meaningfully to the Greater Bay Area's vision of becoming a world-class hub for international education and scientific innovation.

We firmly believe that a university can only draw real strength when it is deeply rooted in the city it inhabits, and can only embrace the future when it remains attuned to the wider world. CityUHK (DG) aspires to serve as a bridge linking Hong Kong and Guangdong, connecting China with the world, and carrying the aspirations of every member of our community. Together, we look forward to advancing toward the shared future of the Greater Bay Area.

Looking ahead, we advance with steady purpose and strong anticipation. Under the visionary leadership and professional governance of the University Governing Board, we will remain true to our founding mission and continue striving to build CityUHK (DG) into a leading global university, excelling in research, education, and innovation.

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