

## President's Review and Vision

IFT has been pursuing a diverse and international development of our curriculum to enhance the quality of our programmes. In the design of our Bachelor degree programmes, we profit from the strong ties with the World Tourism Organization (WTO) and a number of higher education institutions all over the world to be able to benchmark our programmes against international standards. Last year, IFT and the University of Professional Education in the Netherlands (NHTV) came into agreement and established a Dual Recognition Degree Programme, enabling our first group of six students to travel to the Netherlands and spend their final year of study at NHTV under this Programme, for which they were awarded DELTA scholarships by our partner University. In addition, the collaboration between IFT and Purdue University in USA also came into fruition in the form of student exchange, and joint research and teaching.

In the international arena, IFT has been invited to be a founding member of the Asian Academy for Heritage Management. The Academy was established under the support of UNESCO and the International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property (ICCROM). The first Asian Academy Field School with the theme of "Conserving Asia's Built Heritage: An Integrated Management Approach" was held at IFT. Besides, the Institute has recently been appointed as the Executive Committee member of the Association for Tourism and Leisure Education (ATLAS) in Europe and participated in an international research in cultural tourism.

In order to improve the quality of human resources and diversify programme offerings, the Institute has launched two certificate and diploma programmes for professionals in response to industry needs. Meanwhile, we continue our effort in promoting the Macao Occupational skill Recognition System (MORS) to enhance general service quality in the industry. To cope with the anticipated demand for human resources in the gaming business after its liberalisation, the Macao Polytechnic Institute and IFT have jointly established the Macao Tourism and Casino Career Centre that has already been providing different types of training programmes.

In the exploration of new knowledge, our faculty members are actively participating in international conferences, seminars, and regional projects to keep abreast in pedagogic content and philosophy. We recognise the significance in building up a solid base of research, and last year the Institute invited a number of overseas scholars through the Residential Research Grant scheme to participate in research and teaching activities together with our faculty members. Thus far, we have received scholars from renowned institutions such as University of Surrey in UK, Purdue University in USA, the University of Hong Kong, the City University of Hong Kong, and Huaqiao University in Mainland China.

We have been fortunate to have the Government's support in the construction of a new academic wing. This will provide a better learning environment and increase our capacity for future development and intake of students. The total number of registered students in our Bachelor Degree Programmes has increased to 404 over the years, and over 9000 participants have attended various training and assessment programs provided by our Professional And Continuing Education School.

Learning from past experience, we will strive to attain better and more diversified development in the coming year. With the support of our Government and the industry, we shall continue to devote our effort to nurture high-calibre human resources and pursue more academic and pedagogic innovations.



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President