



**Choices and Responsibilities:
Higher Education in the Knowledge Society**

Programme on Institutional Management in Higher Education (IMHE)

“Hong Kong Higher Education Sector – An Interlocking Yet Differentiated System”
Abstract of Paper: By Mr Michael V Stone, Secretary-General, University Grants Committee,

HK SAR Government

Higher Education in Hong Kong needs to move with the rapidly changing economy and our maturing as a society. The University Grants Committee (UGC) has recently embarked on a series of reforms to steer the local higher education sector in meeting the community needs and opportunities as well as competition from Mainland China and the international arena. In this paper, we shall present the main directions and mechanisms mapped out by the Committee –

- I. Role Differentiation: the UGC recently published a Document that sets out how to realize making Hong Kong “the education hub of the region”. The contribution will examine the measures undertaken by the UGC in facilitating the eight local higher education institutions to focus on their roles and strengths, to excel in teaching, and to work closely with the community.*
- II. Institutional Integration : the UGC has looked into several options to build critical mass, academic excellence and efficiency, and has concluded that institutions should, in the medium term, embark on deep collaboration initiatives in all respects (research, teaching, administration and management inclusive) – a strategic direction we shall examine in the paper.*
- III. New Funding Mechanism: A Performance and Role-related Funding Scheme will be instituted to support UGC’s drive for role differentiation and excellence. The complexity of the mechanism will be expanded on in the paper.*

The above have far reaching implications, and have attracted both academic and media attention, which we shall share in our presentation. We shall present a snapshot of how the institutions are responding to the changes mooted.