

The Hong Kong Declaration
18 May 2010

We, the Vice Chancellors/Presidents of the universities of the Hong Kong SAR, wish to add our voices to those of the many leaders in higher education around the world who have pledged their commitment to responding to the challenges posed by climate change and sustainable development.

Universities have a vital role to play in contributing to solutions and mitigating strategies in response to this multi-faceted crisis. Acknowledging the importance of coordinated efforts involving governments, business, and civil society, representatives of the universities of the Hong Kong SAR met in January and April 2010 to discuss ways to address these challenges and to serve as models within our community.

As signatories to this Declaration, we recognize:

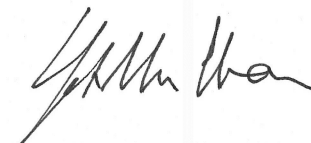
- the important role and responsibilities of the higher education sector to provide appropriate responses to the challenges of climate change and sustainable development through our core missions of research, teaching, and knowledge exchange;
- our ethical obligation, as educators, to provide students, as the future leaders and decision makers of society, with a thorough understanding of the nature of environmental, social and economic sustainability challenges, for their benefit and the benefit of future generations;
- as a matter of high priority, the opportunity and imperative of universities to serve as models within the community with regard to these issues through the prudent utilization of natural resources;
- our responsibility to work together with government, the private sector, the NGO community and other community stakeholders toward these aims.

With a view to encouraging university-wide focus and attention to these issues, we pledge:

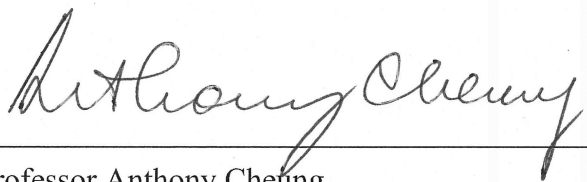
- to review our own policies and institutional operations and to establish targets for the reduction of energy consumption, greenhouse gas emissions, water use and waste;
- to make the adjustments necessary to substantially increase the operational efficiency of our campuses and buildings to meet those targets in a timely manner;
- to fully utilize the opportunity available to our institutions, through the transition to a four-year tertiary system in 2012 and other means, to enhance students' understanding of the inter-related environmental, social and economic challenges of climate change and sustainable development across all faculties and major fields of study;
- to report regularly on our progress with regard to key operational targets, on an individual basis and through the establishment of the common platform of the Hong Kong Sustainable Campus Consortium.



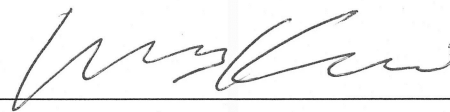
Professor Tony F Chan
President, The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology



Professor Yuk-Shee Chan
President, Lingnan University



Professor Anthony Cheung
President, The Hong Kong Institute of Education



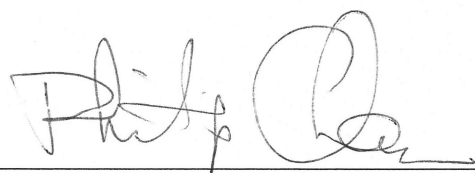
Professor Way Kuo
President, City University of Hong Kong



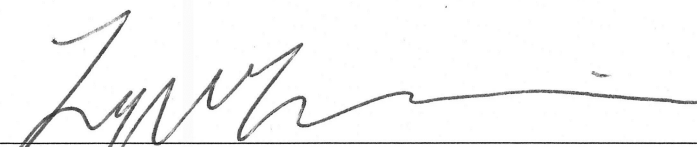
Professor Lawrence Lau
President & Vice-Chancellor, The Chinese University of Hong Kong



Professor C F Ng
President & Vice-Chancellor, Hong Kong Baptist University



for Professor Timothy W. Tong
President, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University



Professor Lap-Chee Tsui
Vice-Chancellor and President, The University of Hong Kong