

## **Building Research Innovation for Community Knowledge and Sustainability (BRICKS) Conference, September 2019**

### ***Unleashing social innovation to enhance the social impact of higher education institutions***

Date: 12 September 2019, Thursday  
Time: 08:45 – 16:30  
Venue: [Jao Tsung-I Academy](#)

#### **Background**

The increasing complexity of the challenges that societies are facing today demand truly collaborative approaches in attempting to find solutions to them. Whether it is rapidly ageing societies, the future and changing nature of work or the health and well-being of young people, the issues facing society today require bringing together capabilities from a wide range of actors representing all corners of society.

The traditional spheres of society – the state, the private sector and civil society are increasingly blurred, and the roles of traditional institutions are changing. Higher Education Institutions as centres of knowledge and innovation play a critical role in connecting new knowledge and ideas with the social innovators and entrepreneurs who can turn them into practical solutions in our communities. It is in this context that the BRICKS (Building Research Innovation for Community Knowledge and Sustainability) programme was conceived.

BRICKS is an initiative that aims to find innovative solutions to social challenges in Hong Kong by fostering collaboration between higher education institutes, NGOs, social enterprises and other organisations that deliver social impact. It is funded by the Social Innovation and Entrepreneurship Fund (SIE Fund) and is led by the British Council in a consortium with all eight of Hong Kong's publicly-funded universities and higher education institutions, the Good Lab, and the Social Innovation Exchange (SIX), with strategic support provided by Professor Alex Nicholls, Saïd Business School at the University of Oxford.

### Conference Aims

The BRICKS conference brings to a close the pilot phase of the project and will see the launch of a study into the role of Hong Kong's higher education institutions in contributing to social innovation through research, teaching and community engagement. The study explores the emerging research and teaching trends as well as the systemic and institutional barriers that prevent collaboration. It also includes a series of recommendations for how to enhance the role of the university as an engaged, active and impactful institution.

The launch of the study and its recommendations will present an opportunity for dialogue throughout the one-day event and will see leaders from the academic community from Hong Kong, Asia and the UK come together to share approaches and learning from the growing fields of social innovation and social entrepreneurship.

### Conference Themes

- **Research Impact:** How can Higher education institutions build collaborations to enhance the social impact of research? How can research track academics engage with beneficiaries, service/end users and customers in the design and development of research so that knowledge is created in collaboration with and can therefore benefit communities?
- **Teaching Impact:** Are we teaching undergraduates the right skills to be effective at navigating the increasing complexity of society and the social problems that we face? How can we develop the skills of our future leaders to be better able to connect with the worlds of business, government and civil society in addressing the challenges of the future?
- **Community Engagement:** Times Higher Education (THE) have recently launched a league table based on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) which ranks universities according to their contributions to achieving these universally agreed goals. How can the university as a whole play a more active role in contributing to their local communities holistically and utilizing all the assets at their disposal?

## Agenda

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Time	Content	Speakers
08:45 – 09:15	Registration	
09:15 – 09:45	<b>Welcome and Introductions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr Jeff Streeter, Director, British Council in Hong Kong</li> <li>• Ms Lam Shuet Ming, Jess, Senior Program Manager, Jao Tsung-I Academy</li> <li>• Ms Patricia Lau, Deputy Commissioner for Efficiency, Innovation and Technology Bureau, HKSAR Government</li> <li>•</li> </ul>
09:45 – 10:30	<p><b>The Hong Kong Social Innovation Research and Teaching Landscape Survey Launch</b></p> <p>Presentation and discussion of research findings</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr Yanto CHANDRA, Associate Professor, Department of Applied Social Sciences, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University</li> <li>• Dr Norah WANG Xiaolu, Research Assistant Professor, Department of Applied Social Sciences, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University</li> </ul>
10:30 – 11:00	Response and reflections on the research findings: Global comparisons and insights	Professor Alex Nicholls, Professor of Social Entrepreneurship, Said Business School, University of Oxford
11:00 – 11:15	Coffee Break	
11:15 – 12:30	<p><b>Panel Discussion</b></p> <p>Enhancing the social impact of research and teaching: The role of social innovation and social entrepreneurship</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Professor Alex Nicholls, Professor of Social Entrepreneurship, Said Business School, University of Oxford</li> <li>• Professor Hyunsang Shin, Deputy Head of International and Professor of Business School, Hanyang University, Korea</li> <li>• Professor James Tang, Secretary General, University Grants Committee, Hong Kong</li> </ul>

Time	Content	Speakers
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Professor Truong Thi Nam Thang, Associate Professor, Director, Center for Social Innovation and Entrepreneurship (CSIE), National Economics University, Vietnam</li> <li>• Moderator: Ms Ada Wong, Convenor and Founder, The Good Lab</li> </ul>
12:30 – 14:00	<b>Networking Lunch</b>	The eight BRICKS research projects will be presented at the conference venue, along with other SIE funded projects and delegates will be able to eat lunch, network and discuss the research projects with participants
14:00 – 15:30	<b>Dialogue / Discussion on Universities and social impact in the context of the SDGs</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr Jinky B. Bornales, Vice Chancellor for Research and Extension (VCRE), Mindanao State University-Iligan Institute of Technology (MSU-IIT) in Iligan City, Philippines</li> <li>• Dr Mary Ho, Impact Officer, Vertigo Ventures</li> <li>• Dr Dwi Purnomo, Lecturer and Researcher, Faculty of Agro-Industrial Technology Universitas Padjadjaran, Indonesia</li> <li>• Moderator: Ir Dr Alfred TAN, Head, Knowledge Exchange Office, Hong Kong Baptist University</li> </ul>
15:30 – 15:45	Coffee Break	
15:45 – 16:30	<b>Closing Panel and Remarks</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr Timothy Ma, Chief Consultant, Ma Kam Wah &amp; Co. (A Management Consultant Co. for NGO and SE)</li> <li>• Professor Alex Nicholls, Professor of Social Entrepreneurship, Said Business School, University of Oxford</li> <li>• Mr Jeff Streeter, Director, British Council in Hong Kong</li> <li>• Moderator: Mr Tristan Ace, Project Director, BRICKS, Hong Kong</li> </ul>