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FUNG SCHOLARS NETWORK NEWSLETTER

LEADERSHIP

INTERNATIONAL VISION

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Fung Scholars Leadership Conference 2012

Fung Scholars Leadership Conference 2012 was successfully held on Saturday 20 October in Hong Kong at PwC Executive Conference Centre. The theme of the year was "Leading and Managing Change: The Role of a Young Leader". The Conference attracted over 100 Fung Scholars and Fung Fellows from 25 different universities all over the world.

The Conference comprised three sessions. In the first session, we were honoured to have Dr. Victor FUNG, Chairman of the Victor and William Fung Foundation and Professor Behnam TABRIZI, a Consulting Professor in the Management Science and Engineering Department at Stanford University sharing their experiences and expertise on how to lead and manage changes. Professor TABRIZI also rendered useful and practical methods on how to equip ourselves to be a true leader in the second session. Participants were overwhelmingly inspired by his life-changing workshop.

The Conference was concluded with the Local Chapter Session, in which committee representatives of the Chapters in Hong Kong, Singapore, Oxford and the Mainland China elaborated their visions, missions and plans in their upcoming tenures. Suggestions and comments were made by the audience, ending the fruitful and rewarding conference in a meaningful discussion.

Now you can login to the "Members Area" of the Fung Scholars website www.FungScholars.org to revisit the Conference.



Leadership Conference Summary Xi LI, Oxford University, FS 2011-12

Having the pleasure to get the invitation from the Victor & William Fung Foundation, I went to Hong Kong on 20 October to attend the Fung Scholars Leadership Conference 2012. I am a fresher D Phil Student in Clinical Medicine, Nuffield Department of Medicine, in Dr. Tao DONG's group at Weatherall Institute of Molecular Medicine, in University of Oxford. Last year, I was awarded the Fung Scholarships, sponsored by the Victor & William Fung Foundation, to be a medical intern at Oxford.



This year, the foundation organises the Fung Scholars Leadership Conference in Hong Kong, inviting Professor Behnam TABRIZI from Stanford University as the speaker. Professor TABRIZI is a senior advisor to the U.S. president's transition team and the President's health and technology initiatives. He shared his own understanding of leadership and illustrated the effective changes to be an outstanding leader. His lectures are thought-provoking, with vivid stories and personal life experiences, encouraging all Fung Scholars to be future leaders, making contributions to the society.

As one of the Fung Scholars, I should especially thank the Foundation for its generosity in providing numerous opportunities in medical education. Fung Scholars Program broadens my realization of medicine research in which I obtain crucial career experiences.

Leadership Conference Summary

Jose BARCENA, MIT, FS 2011-12

My name is Jose BARCENA and I am a graduate from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in the Department of Materials Science and Engineering. I was awarded the Fung Scholarships for German Studies in Berlin, Germany for the summer 2011. When I knew I could take part in the Conference in Hong Kong, my heart was filled with joy yet anxiety. Not only would this be my first time in Asia, but it would also be the first time I meet the person responsible for the whole organisation and scholarship in person. I was elated to meet the whole team behind the organisation and be able to network with fellow scholars who share the same passion as I do. The Conference helped me to notice some people who are willing to let go and sacrifice things in life to follow our passion. All of us share a common point of view - we all believe a strong, mature, and understanding leader is someone who can relate to different cultures and be able to adapt to many different situations. While many of us might have an idea about how different cultures might work, the best way to integrate and learn more about a culture is to personally feel, taste, and see the culture. Through this trip to Hong Kong and my time in Germany as a Fung Scholar, I become more interested in the world. I never considered Asia for my Master studies or work. However, after visiting Hong Kong, I can personally testify it was a wonderful experience and I cannot wait until I am given an opportunity to live or work there for a while. The mix of eastern and western cultures can definitely be seen while walking on the streets of Hong Kong. I was intrigued to see how interested students in the Conference were to learn more about the U.S., or even learn more about my personal background. Even though I am an American citizen, I represent the new type of American - the fastest growing minority in the U.S., Latinos. I lived in an island for 10 years - the Dominican Republic. I also had the opportunity to live with my parents in Mexico and moved to the U.S. for high school and university. I was glad to represent a different type of culture and background and be able to share that with many of the fellow Fung Scholars. Not only can I relate to the U.S., but also relate to Latin America as my mother tongue is Spanish.

I thought the Conference was well-organised and targeted on creating a community for the Fung Scholars. I loved the sense of pride, yet humbleness, everyone carried. A true leader should be able to be honest and be able to be proud of who they are. One of my favourite quotes of the whole Conference was "if you have never failed, you have never lived." I can personally testify this is a touching quote that, fortunately, I can relate to. Leaders should be able to learn from their mistakes and be able to adapt to new situations. Giving up is not an option, and should never be. We are all living for a reason, and, as part of a new generation who shoots for the stars, literally and metaphorically, it is our job as the leaders of tomorrow to try to learn from the past and fix the mistakes of this fast developing world. The Conference was life-changing and I can say one of the most life-changing lessons I learned from Professor TABRIZI was to always be grateful. Grateful to what you have and to all those who have helped you get there. Just like Professor TABRIZI suggested, I am now writing an email weekly to someone who has helped me in the past. I thank them for everything they have done to me and to let them know that without their help and dedication, I would not be able to be where I am right now. This short statement is a thank you to the whole organisation, Dr. Victor FUNG and Dr. William FUNG. I thank everyone for having taken the time to read my application for the Conference and be able to help me get to Hong Kong. Thank You from the bottom of my heart!



FOUNDATION SCHOLARS COMMUNITY



Welcoming Gathering for Mainland Fung Scholars

The Welcoming Gathering was held on Saturday 13 October 2012 at The University of Hong Kong (HKU). It served to welcome those new Fung Scholars from the Mainland China universities who would be having an exchange semester or one year at HKU. There were altogether 75 Fung Scholars from Fudan University, Harbin Institute of Technology, Nanjing University, Peking University, Renmin University of China, Shanghai Jiao Tong University, Sun Yat-sen University, Tsinghua University, Xiamen University and Zhejiang University.

WANG Lin (FS2010-11) originated from Xiamen University, HUANG Jinqing (FS2007-08) and LI Yuan (FS2008-09) both originated from Sun Yat-sen University, held a sharing session in the gathering which proved very informative to the newcomers.

Great appreciation went to the Hong Kong Chapter committee members who organised a series of ice-breaking game in this Welcoming Gathering. They created a cheerful and pleasant atmosphere, which everybody enjoyed much.

The Learn, Live and Intern in China (LLIC) Program 2012 Closing Ceremony



The Learn, Live and Intern in China (LLIC) Program 2012 Closing Ceremony was held on Saturday 19 August 2012 at The University of Hong Kong (HKU) to celebrate the successful conclusion of the Program. LLIC is a summer internship program organised by HKU, which consists of a 2-week course at HKU followed by a 6-week internship in Hong Kong or Shanghai. This year, 19 Fung Scholars were funded by Victor and William Fung Foundation to participate in the Program.

Mr. KM WONG, Director of the Victor & William Foundation presented certificates to the Fung Scholars. Through this program, the Fung Scholars had the opportunity to gain valuable experience as well as a better understanding of Chinese culture.

Pre-departure Gatherings for Hong Kong & Zhejiang University Fung Scholars

In June 2012, two Pre-departure Gatherings were held in Hong Kong and Mainland China respectively. The Pre-Departure Gathering for Hong Kong Fung Scholars Year 2012-13 was held on Saturday 30 June 2012 at the auditorium of Li & Fung Cheung Sha Wan office. It was attended by more than 100 Fung Scholars from 8 tertiary institutes in Hong Kong. Ms Katherine MA, Director of Communications, Communications and Public Affairs Office, HKU talked about self-actualization and 4 Fung Scholars awarded the Scholarship in the Year 2011-12 shared their valuable exchange experience with the new batch of Fung Scholars.

Another Pre-departure Gathering for Fung Scholars from Zhejiang University was held on Thursday 21 June 2012. The event was attended by 11 Fung Scholars. 3 Fung Scholars in the Year 2011-12 shared their wonderful exchange experience in Hong Kong with the new Fung Scholars.

The Gatherings offered fantastic opportunities for the newly-selected Fung Scholars to prepare themselves for studying abroad, meeting and making connections with other Fung Scholars before embarking on the exciting journey. We wish the new Fung Scholars the best of luck and look forward to meeting them at our next Fung Scholars gatherings.



Hong Kong

Zhejiang University



Hong Kong Chapter – Introduction of the Second Standing Committee

Fung Scholars (Hong Kong Chapter) 2.0!

Hello Fung Scholars! Fung Scholars (Hong Kong Chapter) has continued moving forward this year with the 2nd standing committee on board. In addition to regular events, namely Pre-departure Gathering, Reunion Gathering and Leadership Conference, we plan to expand our community so as to build up a close and collaborative bonding among Fung Scholars, locally and globally.

Who we have?



What we are going to do?



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You are important to us! Let's get connected!
Search keyword: **Fung Scholars Hong Kong**

SINGAPORE CHAPTER

Bonding Session

By Yvonne CHIA, FS2010-11, Singapore Management University

On Saturday 11 August 2012, Fung Scholars from the Singapore Chapter headed off for our inaugural bonding session, which comprised of a bonding meal and a learning journey (also known as the Be Open Learning Journey). During the meal, our Scholars discussed possible plans for the development of the Chapter. Afterwards, through the Be Open Learning Journey, we looked around the streets of Little India (a place where many foreign workers reside), exposing ourselves to interesting and new facets of the area, which even Singaporeans have yet to explore. The learning journey aims to create awareness that discrimination is an expression of our prejudices and also introduce other options we can possibly take when we have prejudices. The learning journey provides a thought-provoking platform for critical thinking and team interaction, which could serve as inspiration for future events.

During the learning journey, our scholars were brought to foreign workers' dormitories as well as areas where foreign workers often gather after their meals (e.g. Lembu Square). Fellow Fung Scholars took the courage to initiate a conversation with them, understanding more about their work and family. This helps correct a lot of our previous perceptions and prejudices.

Given the experiential nature of the learning journey, fellow Scholars not only enjoyed themselves, but also got to know each other better through sharing their views. Openness and trust within the Scholars (as displayed during the sharing sessions) are perhaps important factors, which will bring the progress and development of the Singapore Chapter to a higher level.

Overall, the response for this bonding session was very positive. We definitely look forward to the next bonding activity.



Pre-departure and Networking Session 2012

By KHOO Gek Han, FS 2010-11, Singapore Management University

The Fung Scholars (Singapore Chapter) successfully held its second Pre-departure and Networking Session on Saturday 21 July 2012 at Singapore Management University's Lee Kong Chian School of Business Seminar Room 3.1. It was an event to gather Singapore-based Fung Scholars to interact and get to know other Fung Scholars so that we can build a strongly-bonded team. There were a lot of sharing, fun and food throughout the event.



During the event, the new batch of Singapore Fung Scholars was able to have a better understanding of the Foundation and its activities. They were excited to learn about the upcoming events organised by the Foundation, most notably, the Leadership Conference on 20 October 2012. Also, a number of Fung Scholars were preparing to embark on their overseas exchanges. They got useful tips and advice from the earlier batches of Fung Scholars who had been through the exchange.



The event was a great success. The participants stayed behind to chat with each other even after the event was officially ended. Many participants approached the organisers to thank them for planning the event. Through this event, the newly-minted Singapore Fung Scholars were able to better understand the Foundation and appreciate the opportunities opened up to them by the organisation. The response was very positive, with many Fung Scholars indicating their interest in the Foundation's activities in the future.

Muhammad UDDIN

FS 2011-12, Oxford University



Having experienced a 24-hour journey and an 8-hour time shift on the 20 of June 2012, I was finally on the promised land, Hong Kong (HK). I was joining students from across the world, from Sao Paulo to San Diego, to take part in the Live, Learn and Intern in China Program (LLIC). The program involved a 2-week study on a business course in HK, followed by a 6-week internship in China. Upon my arrival in HK, I had forgotten the two things that bothered me, the distance from HK airport to my bed in the new and extremely busy city and the nervous butterflies that accompanied the trepidation of meeting new people whom you were meant to be spending a lot of time with. Needless to say my fears were for naught, HK's superb transport system and the friendly and jovial nature of the LLIC cohort (which included what we later cheekily called a romantic walk by the river at my first night—yes they did not let me sleep!) made sure that I had a fantastic experience.

The 10 days that followed were extremely exciting, which included a trip to the infamous electronic shopping malls, a long bus journey up to the Peak, a visit to the New Territories and yes, some studying. Learning about China's economy, how to do business in China and the complex relationship between HK and the Mainland China was fascinating. The business course helped to contextualise our interaction with people from HK and the Mainland and therefore had direct practical impact on our experience.

I spent the following 6 weeks in Ninghai, Ningbo with a fellow intern Jarred MAHALIK. We worked for a hotel tycoon on a project arranged by the UN. Our work involved doing marketing research, evaluating ideas and providing recommendations for a luxury development project with special facilities for elderly care. The project had an estimated completion date of 2025, and involved making three artificial lakes, 6 blocks of flats and several villas. The experience to work with a successful entrepreneur near the inception of the project idea on such a high-profile project was fantastic.

Apart from work, Jarred and I had the opportunity to visit Shanghai, Hangzhou and Anji. During this period, we had the opportunity to celebrate the birthdays of several members of the LLIC cohort, see pandas, visit iconic buildings and build lasting friendships with people from Mainland China and HK. One of the most interesting experiences we had was a business dinner with our boss and his government associates. There were frequent toasting, a strict attention to protocol over 27 different courses and a swapping of gifts. The experience showed me the importance of "guan xi" and gave me a taste of what business in China was like.

The experience was a fantastic opportunity to learn about China and Asia in general. It gave me the opportunity to make friends and contacts with whom I expect to stay in touch with long after this trip.

LIANG Bo

FS 2011-12, Zhejiang University

I am enjoying my tea break, my new workspace and free coffee here. This is the second month of my internship in Baidu Campus, the global headquarter of Baidu, Inc. Although the air quality in Beijing is poor, I really appreciate the days here just like I appreciate the days in Hong Kong (HK).

One year ago, in a hot summer evening, I stepped onto the land of HK, and began my unforgettable experience here, the days in HK with delicious dim sum and all of my dear friends.

My dear friends, I cannot forget we lost our way together in the perplexing maze of HKU campus. I cannot forget we were so amazed by the beauty of Victoria Harbor. I cannot forget we got up before the sun rose to try the special morning tea. I cannot forget the weekend spent together in Tai O with the friends of local chapter.

The year of being a Fung Scholar (FS) changed me quite a lot. Before my life in Zhejiang University, my circle was in Changchun, my hometown. Before my life in HK, my circle was in Mainland. When I began my life as a FS, I started to connect with people all around the world. I learnt Cantonese from local friends. I listened to speeches in LiFung Tower. I co-operated with students from Norway in class. I had meals with French exchange students. During the networking with them, I did not only experience different cultures, but also became an outgoing and confident boy.

The experiences in HK helped me a lot with my interview of Baidu's internship. The interviewer noticed my exchange experience in HK, and the honour of being a FS. She asked me some questions about the year in HK. My answers confirmed her of my good study record and communication skills. Finally, I passed the hard interviews and got a position as an engineer in my dream company.

The life in Baidu is tough. Nearly all of the employees here are workaholics! On my first day at Baidu, I asked my mentor, a senior Baiduer, "When could I go back home today?" She said, "We do not have a fixed working time here, you could leave whenever you like." At 6pm, I felt like it was time to go home, but I looked around and found nobody leaving. At 8pm, I found only half of the seats were empty. When I finally finished my task at 9pm and really got off work, there were still 20% of Baiduers at their seats. Since then, I got used to discussing in the meeting room until 10pm. Things are not so bad. Working with the best engineers in the mainland is amazing enough to make me energetic. I believe that "Endurance will pay off", as said by Yaki WO (FS 2007-08).

Work is only part of the life in Beijing. I also developed a "bad habit" in HK, which is travelling! I walked along the route of the tram. I swam between Hong Kong Island and Kowloon. Oops, I mean, I imagined that I was swimming when I was in the ferry. I will continue my travelling in Beijing, visit the Tian'anmen Square, and eat in the National Stadium...



Junyao SONG, MIT, FS 2011-12

This summer, I embarked on a journey to go back to the country I was born, China. It was really great to have this opportunity to go back to the country after 10 years. For the first 7 weeks of my stay in China, I interned in the University of Technology and Science of China (UTSC) in Hefei, which is my hometown. I worked on *c. elegans*, which are small worms that can only be seen under microscopes. I studied the process of RNAi and the enzymes involved in the process. The other people in the lab were very nice. We always went to take lunch in the cafeteria, karaoke and movie theatres over the weekends together. I am glad to have had the chance to work in research labs in China. I learned about the research process in China, which is pretty similar to that in the U.S. However, one big difference was that there is no clothing restriction in labs in China, whereas in the States, you have to wear close toed shoes in labs.

For the second part of my summer in China, I went to the countryside with my advisor and stayed at a hospital in rural area for about 3 weeks. The hospital was located in a small town and had very limited equipment. Every day, there were people coming to the hospital for emergency cases due to accidents occurred during farming or working. I witnessed how a hospital is run in a rural area. Sometimes, people came knocking on the door at 5am or 10pm for emergency cases and the doctors in the hospital had to wake up (the doctors and nurses all lived on the second floor in the hospital) and took care of the patients. Seeing the dedications of the doctors despite the harsh environment, I was inspired to be as passionate and dedicated as them. Furthermore, I had the chance to help out in the hospital and talk to new patients who were waiting for the doctors. If I have the chance to go back to China, I will definitely go visit the hospital again and help out.

In summary, I really enjoyed my summer in China. Not only did I see the fast development that occurred in China since I immigrated to the States in elementary school, but I also got the experience of working and interacting with people in China. Everyone was very nice to me and asked me about what it is like studying in the U.S., especially at MIT. I am glad to have had this opportunity.





Upcoming Activities

8 December 2012

Fung Scholars Singapore Chapter 2012 Year End Gathering

25-27 January 2013

Youth Leadership Development Forum in Hong Kong, "Make a Difference (MaD)" Forum

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If you would like to make a contribution to this newsletter, please contact us.

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