



東亞研究型大學協會  
東アジア研究型大学協会  
동아시아연구중심대학협의회  
The Association of East Asian Research Universities

January 4, 2010

Dear AEARU members,

This message comes to you with my warmest greetings as your incoming chairman of our AEARU Board of Directors. As the New Year is upon us, it also comes with my best wishes for you and your families at this festive season.

Ours is a unique regional union that has brought our member universities closer together over the years. It has also brought our students and staff many good things. Now that the chairmanship falls to me, I am determined to be a worthy keeper of the flame. Over the years, our fraternal feelings have been translated into many beneficial happenings for our member universities. In the coming two years as chairman, I hope membership in the organization will take on an even prouder and deeper meaning.

Following the 15<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting last year, some important decisions have been reached, including an increase in the membership of the Board and the introduction of a membership fee. In my new role, it is my undiluted pleasure to welcome our new Board Members—Osaka University, Peking University and Seoul National University (superseding POSTECH). With more money at our disposal, and more board members to drive our common objectives, I hope we can do more for our common good.

We are grateful to Kyoto University for the splendid chairmanship it provided in President Emeritus Kazuo Oike and his successor, President Hiroshi Matsumoto during the past two years. They have given us more reasons to be proud and pleased about our organization.

My assumption of this rotational chairmanship coincides with my ascension to the HKUST presidency, giving me a double dose of happiness. I look forward to making AEARU a special inter-university union that is admired and emulated in circles of higher education around the world—an association and allegiance based on a commonality of culture, quality and sense of mission.

Sincerely,

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