

President's Review and Vision

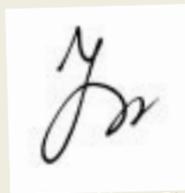
The tourism industry of Macao is in a stage of rapid development. This brings along plenty of opportunities as well as challenges. All these years, IFT has been enhancing the quality and internationalisation of our programmes. We profit from strong ties with international tourism and travel associations and are able to benchmark our programmes against standards of prestigious institutions. Regarding quality assurance of our programmes, we are proud to announce that IFT has been able to renew the World Tourism Organization TedQual Certification until 2008, opening wider avenues for our students and graduates. The TedQual Certification is an internationally recognised accreditation for tourism programmes. This will further contribute to promoting Macao as a regional centre for quality education in tourism.

With the glorious fact that "The Historic Centre of Macao" has been officially inscribed into the UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) World Heritage List, it is necessary to provide relevant programmes to nurture professionals in the field of conservation and management of cultural heritage. One recent achievement of IFT is its being invited to be a founding member of the Asian Academy for Heritage Management. The Academy was established under the support of UNESCO and ICCROM (International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property). Based on this connection and our expertise, the Institute is introducing two new Bachelor Degree Programmes - Heritage Management, and Tourism Event Management.

In the aspect of continuing education, IFT has been offering various technical training programmes to tourism practitioners in order to improve the general quality of service. Last year, the Professional And Continuing Education School (PACES) offered a number of specialised courses for employees of tourism related operations and people who were interested to join the tourism industry. The Institute will keep up its good work by effectively deploying resources to fortify its training and education, in terms of both quality and quantity.

In the exploration of new knowledge, we have increased our research budget to encourage faculty members to participate in international conferences, seminars, and regional projects to keep themselves abreast in pedagogic content and philosophy. We recognise the significance of building up a solid base of research. Therefore, in the past two years, the Institute has been inviting a number of overseas scholars through the "Residential Research Grants For Overseas Scholars" scheme to participate in joint research and teaching with our faculty.

Established in 1995, IFT celebrated its 10th Anniversary this year. Throughout all these years, aside from nurturing tourism professionals, we are glad to see that IFT has brought tourism education of Macao up to an internationally recognised standard and contributed to the strategic development of the tourism industry and tourism education. Learning from past experience, we will strive to attain better and more diversified development in the coming years. With the support of our Government and the industry, we shall continue to devote our effort in the nurturing of high-calibre human resources and the pursuit of more academic and pedagogic innovations.



Fanny Vong, Ph.D.
President