

CHINESE UNIVERSITIES ARE ON THE MOVE

Hong Kong Polytechnic University and the China Institute of Education Policy sponsor “Summit on University Social Responsibility”

November 13-14, 2012, over 200 representatives of universities in Hong Kong, Mainland China and other countries met at Hong Kong Polytechnic University to exchange about current practices and future directions for university social responsibility. Supported by the ZeShan Foundation, the gathering demonstrated impressive momentum in the recent growth of Chinese university community and social responsibility programs. Beijing Normal University already has committed to hosting the next annual conference on university social responsibility in 2013.

(http://www.polyu.edu.hk/cpa/polyu/index.php?press_section=&press_category=All&press_date=&mode=pressrelease&Itemid=223&option=com_content&press_id=2401)

TN Executive Director Rob Hollister presented a keynote address on “Moving Beyond the Ivory Tower, Educating Leaders for Change.” He saluted PolyU’s pioneering initiative in organizing the conference and also in establishing as a new graduate requirement that all undergraduate complete a community service learning course.

(<http://talloiresnetwork.tufts.edu/wp-content/uploads/Moving-Beyond-the-Ivory-Tower.pdf>)

Hollister notes, “Several Chinese universities are taking exciting, fresh initiatives to support student volunteering and service learning in their curricula. Chinese institutions of higher education are poised to exert major leadership in building our global movement.” As a result of his presentation, several additional Chinese universities are the process of joining the Talloires Network.



Earlier this year, PolyU was announced to have received third prize in the 2012 MacJannet Prize for Global Citizenship for “PolyU Has a Heart,” a university-wide program through which students and professors from 15 academic departments, partnering with 20 NGOs, serve disadvantaged groups in Hong Kong’s Sham Shui Po district. On the occasion of the Hong Kong conference, Hollister personally presented the MacJannet Prize to PolyU Professor Stephen Chan and Ms. Winnie Lee, student leaders, and several of their community partners.

Left: Hong Kong PolyU Professor Daniel Shek and TN Executive Director Rob Hollister