

STUDENT HUB



Student Achievement

PPOL PhD Students Join Editorial Teams of Two Leading International Public Policy Journals

We are delighted to announce that our PhD students Chunyan Ran and Prithish Anand have joined the editorial teams of two leading international public policy journals: Policy Design and Practice (PDP) and The Journal of Asian Public Policy (JAPP). This outstanding achievement reflects their strong academic expertise and rising reputation in the global policy community, and we extend our warmest congratulations to them.

Policy Design and Practice (PDP) is an open-access, peer-reviewed journal that connects academic research with real-world policymaking, publishing theoretically informed and practically relevant analysis to address global governance challenges. The Journal of Asian Public Policy (JAPP), established in 2008, is a major platform for high-quality research on public policy, governance, and development across Asia, with a focus on comparative, cross-regional, and interdisciplinary studies. These appointments highlight the quality and impact of our PhD students within the international scholarly community.



3rd Champion of DW-SPORT.HK BASKETBALL LEAGUE Women 20th DIVISION

We celebrate the DW-SPORT.HK BASKETBALL LEAGUE Women 20th DIVISION women's basketball team, featuring Eryu Pan, a Master of Public Policy (MPP) student from HKUST's Division of Public Policy. This victory testifies to the team's dedication and camaraderie—including Eryu's integral role— reflecting the MPP program's spirit of collaboration.



Throughout the league, Eryu joined her teammates in rigorous training and thrilling matchups, embodying resilience, collaboration and determination—qualities of both outstanding athletes and future public policy leaders. As champions, the team honors Eryu and the university community.



PPOL Students Earn Second Prize at Global Sustainability Challenge (Asia-Pacific Final)

We are delighted to share that two students from the Master of Public Policy (MPP) Program of the Division of Public Policy (PPOL) at HKUST—HU, Lingyi and LIU, Yangyang—have achieved outstanding success in the 2025-2026 Global Sustainability Challenge (Asia-Pacific Regional Final).

Hosted by Zhejiang University and HKUST (in partnership with Stanford Doerr School of Sustainability), the competition took place in Hangzhou, China, gathering interdisciplinary teams across the Asia-Pacific to develop actionable sustainability solutions. Their team's project—“Climate-Ready Megaprojects: Decoupling Urban Expansion from Carbon Loss via Strategic Eco-Conscious Planning”—used GIS tools to map Greater Bay Area rural-urban carbon flow, standing out for its data-driven spatial design.

The team was awarded the Second Prize, a recognition of their ability to merge public policy expertise with spatial analytics to tackle complex global sustainability challenges.

This achievement reflects PPOL's commitment to nurturing tech-enabled policy leaders and reinforces HKUST's role in cross-regional sustainable development collaboration. We are proud of our students' success and look forward to their continued contributions on the global stage!



Student Activities



PPOL Students' Perspective on “Piano for All” Thanksgiving Event

Organized by the Green Team and with active participation from PPOL students, our “Piano for All: Music, Games, and Giving Back” gathering on Thanksgiving Day was a heartfelt success. PPOL students stepped forward to take the stage (and the keys) to

share music through the community piano—an initiative that underscores the strength of our community and the power of unity, especially as we stand together to support one another in the aftermath of the tragic Tai Po fire. The Green Team spearheaded a charity sale alongside PPOL student volunteers, where two organizations—Oxfam Hong Kong and Recovery Art—received overwhelming support from attendees. The funds raised will be directed towards local well-being initiatives, a meaningful outcome that makes the joint efforts of the Green Team (as organizers) and PPOL students (as participants) more rewarding.



HKUST PPOL Orientation 2025: Embarking on a New Academic Journey Together

On August 28, 2025, the Division of Public Policy (PPOL) at the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST) successfully held its annual orientation event, warmly welcoming a new cohort of MPP, MPM, MPhil and PhD students to the PPOL family.

The day kicked off with a warm welcome ceremony, where PPOL faculty shared the division's mission of nurturing future public policy leaders with global perspectives. They also introduced PPOL's distinguished academic resources and cutting-edge research directions, helping new students gain a clear overview. Informative sessions followed, covering curriculum, academic requirements and career guidance, with faculty patiently answering students' questions.



Student Activities

Beyond academic guidance, engaging ice-breaking activities fostered camaraderie, helping students connect, exchange aspirations and build a sense of belonging to the PPOL community. Concluding with a group photo, the orientation marked the start of their academic journey, boosting their confidence.

PPOL is committed to supporting every student's growth, and we look forward to witnessing the new cohort thrive as outstanding public policy professionals. Welcome to HKUST PPOL—your journey of exploration starts here!

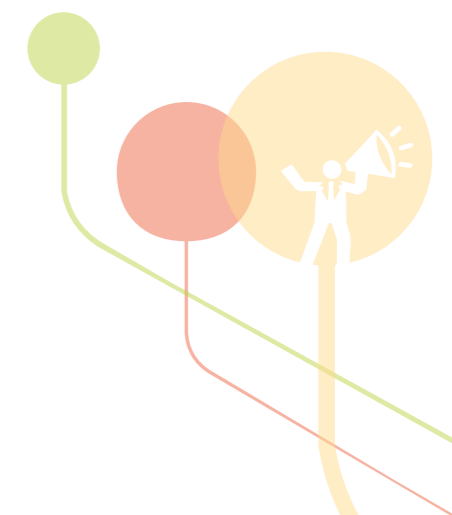


MPM Walking Tour- "Authentic Immersive Experience of Old Hong Kong – Urban Hike of Kowloon and Hong Kong Island"

On August 29, 2025, MPM students of HKUST's PPOL participated in a unique walking tour themed "Authentic Immersive Experience of Old Hong Kong – Urban Hike of Kowloon and Hong Kong Island", guided by Professor Donald Low. The tour offered students a rare chance to explore the city's historical charm beyond textbooks and classrooms.

Led by Professor Low, students wandered through iconic old neighborhoods in Kowloon and Hong Kong Island, learning about the city's urban evolution, cultural heritage and social changes. Professor Low shared insightful comments on how historical context shapes public policy, linking the tour's experiences to their MPM studies.

More than a casual hike, this immersive activity blended learning with exploration, strengthening the bond between students and the professor. It deepened students' understanding of Hong Kong's authenticity and provided practical insights for their future policy studies, making it a rewarding and memorable experience.



Student Activities

PPOL Private Film Screening: “Still Human”

On Saturday, November 8, 2025, HKUST’s Division of Public Policy hosted a meaningful private film screening of the acclaimed Hong Kong film “Still Human” for its students, faculty and staff, followed by a networking session.

Attendees watched the award-winning film, which tells the unlikely friendship between a Filipino domestic helper and her paralysed employer, offering insights into social inclusion and cross-cultural understanding. After the screening, a 1-hour networking session with refreshments allowed everyone to reflect on the film’s themes together.

It provided a unique chance for the PPOL community to connect outside classrooms while engaging with important social issues, making it a memorable and intellectually enriching afternoon.



Homecoming and Student-Faculty Buffet Lunch 2025



On November 15, 2025, the MPP program held a warm homecoming buffet lunch for alumni at UniQue, HKUST. Filled with nostalgia and warmth, the event honored graduates and strengthened bonds within the MPP community.

Attired in smart casual wear, participants enjoyed a delicious buffet. The highlight was a brief panel discussion by outstanding “star alumni,” who shared inspiring success stories and professional insights, sparking lively interactions.

This gathering connected new/seasoned alumni with first-year and second-year students, enabling them to renew friendships, expand networks, and deepen their sense of belonging to the MPP program through casual exchanges.

Such events are key to nurturing MPP community spirit. We thank all attendees and “star alumni” for making it a memorable occasion. The MPP program will host more gatherings to keep the community connected.

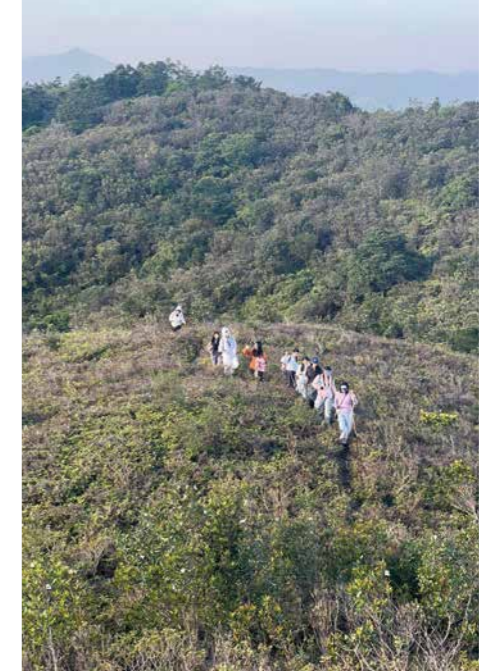


MPM Students’ Sai Kung Excursion

On December 28, 2025, a group of Master of Public Management (MPM) students from HKUST’s Division of Public Policy (PPOL) joined Prof. Donald Low for a memorable excursion to Sai Kung. Far from the campus classroom, this outing offered a relaxed setting for students to connect with Prof. Low and their peers beyond academic discussions.

Surrounded by Sai Kung’s beautiful coastal scenery, students engaged in casual yet insightful conversations with Prof. Low, who shared his perspectives on public management practices, career development, and real-world policy challenges. The day also included joyful group interactions, strengthening the camaraderie within the MPM cohort.

This excursion was more than a leisure trip—it deepened the student-faculty bond, broadened students’ horizons, and provided a unique learning experience outside the curriculum. It was a meaningful day that combined relaxation, connection, and inspiration, cherished by all participants.



MPM Alumni Sharing and Networking Event



In November 2025, the Master of Public Management (MPM) program of HKUST’s PPOL successfully held an Alumni Sharing and Networking Event, bringing together MPM alumni, current students and faculty in a warm and engaging atmosphere. The event aimed to facilitate knowledge sharing, strengthen alumni-student bonds and build a cohesive MPM community.

Outstanding MPM alumni were invited to share their valuable career experiences, insights into public management practices and practical advice for career development. Their inspiring stories sparked in-depth discussions, helping current students gain a clearer vision for their future paths. The networking session also allowed attendees to connect freely, exchange ideas and expand their professional networks.

This meaningful event not only bridged the gap between alumni and current students but also reinforced the MPM community spirit. It served as a precious platform for learning and connection, leaving a lasting impression on all participants and laying a solid foundation for future interactions.



Student Activities



PPOL Fall RPG Gathering

The Division of Public Policy successfully hosted its Fall RPG Gathering at Feather & Bone restaurant on November 21, 2025.

Organized by the PP Program Office, the gathering brought together PPOL faculty members and RPG students in a relaxed, non-academic atmosphere. It kicked off with wine and canapes to encourage casual mingling among attendees, followed by a warm family-style dinner. This meaningful event provided a precious opportunity for RPG students connect with their advisors outside the traditional classroom setting, fostering closer bonds and strengthening the sense of community within PPOL.



MPM End of Semester Lunch

To celebrate the successful conclusion of the semester, the Master of Public Management program of HKUST's Division of Public Policy held a warm end-of-semester lunch for its students, faculty and academic advisors. The event served as a perfect opportunity to reflect on the semester's achievements and strengthen bonds among the MPM community.

During lunch, attendees gathered in a relaxed and joyful atmosphere, chatting freely about their academic gains, challenges overcome and future plans. Faculty members expressed their appreciation for students' hard work and dedication, while students shared their gratitude for the guidance and support received throughout the semester.

More than just a meal, this end-of-semester lunch was a meaningful gathering that wrapped up the semester on a positive note. It reinforced the sense of belonging within the MPM family and laid a warm foundation for the next stage of their academic and professional journeys.



LAPS – GZ Campus Visit & Exchange: MPP Student Participation

The LAPS – GZ Campus Visit & Exchange proved a heartfelt success, with MPP student Lingyi Hu from HKUST's Division of Public Policy joining the initiative to interact and exchange ideas with student leaders from both the CWB and GZ campuses.

Student leaders from HKUST Guangzhou extended a warm welcome to the visiting group and guided them around the campus, where the group encountered the future of innovation and entrepreneurship at Qingsheng Hub, Nansha. Far more striking than the hub's innovative highlights, however, was the profound pride the HKUST Guangzhou community held for their campus, and the genuine openness and camaraderie shared among all its members.

This campus visit served as a meaningful reminder that reaching out and learning from peers is always a worthwhile endeavor. More than just a tour of the hub and campus spaces, the exchange centered on connecting with like-minded student leaders who share common goals and challenges—driving home the realization that the broader university

community is united in growing and learning together. Participation in the initiative brought valuable insights back to the MPP program, further strengthening HKUST's intercampus bonds.

Hike and Beach Cleanup at Campsite Bay

The Division of Public Policy at HKUST's Hike and Beach Cleanup at Campsite Bay proved a deeply success, uniting its members and enthusiastic participants in a meaningful blend of outdoor exploration and environmental stewardship. Guided by the Division's thoughtful pre-event arrangements and a spirit of camaraderie, the initiative not only offered a refreshing escape into nature but also fulfilled its vital mission to preserve Campsite Bay's natural beauty.

After a short hike to the bay—traversing an unpaved trail with sturdy footwear recommended for safety—participants turned their focus to the core cleanup effort. Equipped with garbage bags and gloves provided by the Division, they worked together to collect and sort waste along the shore, turning individual goodwill into tangible environmental impact and serving as a powerful reminder that small, collective efforts can make a lasting difference.

Following the cleanup, the collected garbage was properly disposed of at a designated point in Sai Kung Town, with participants embracing minor inconveniences—such as wet feet while boarding the boat—to see their environmental commitment through. The event's true success, led by the Division of Public Policy, lay in the unity and shared purpose of all involved, fostering purpose-driven community engagement and environmental responsibility.

