

Newsletter

“Practising Management as a Liberal Art ” Workshop Recap

The workshop “Practicing Management as a Liberal Art” was successfully held on June 29th 2021. As a pre-conference event of “A Day of Drucker”, the workshop is co-organized by Peter F. Drucker Academy Hong Kong and Global Drucker Forum, with the support from Hong Kong Management Association (HKMA). It turns out amazing and stimulating learning experience with over 100 actively engaged participants from global leadership community.

We have invited distinguished leaders of various sectors from Hong Kong and mainland China, to share their thoughts and to engage in the discussion. The Workshop begins with the welcome speech of Dr. Julia Wang, President of Peter F. Drucker Academy Hong Kong. Dr. Wang first pays the special tribute to Prof. Joseph Maciariello, the former Research Director of Drucker Lab, who has made great contribution in advancing Drucker’s work. Then she talks on the mission of practicing Management as a Liberal Art, as advocated by Peter Drucker, aims to create and maintain a functioning society of organizations, in which people find meaningful existence and purpose while also contributing to the common good. Recognizing that management is about human being is crucial for today’s leaders to navigate in turbulent times.

The session one discussion is kicked off with the focus on: “MLA fundamental values and approaches”, starts with keynote speech by Prof. Simon Ho, President of The Heng Seng University of Hong Kong, on the theme of “Management as a Liberal Art and Virtue Business Ethics:”. Through putting MLA into real work ethics of Hong Kong, Prof. Ho explores the core values of MLA from the perspective of Humanity. The study of “Junzi enterprises” proves that “many MLA concepts can be well merged with Chinese traditional philosophy with emphasis on virtues.”

Then Dr. Xun Chen, Drucker scholar and leadership coach, delivers keynote speech on the theme of “Asking Right Questions”, praises Drucker as an expert of Questioning, “Drucker is not only asking right (question), but asking different (question)”. He advises that “Asking Right Questions” is one of the best ways to find the truth and solve the problem, also a way of “learn how to learn”. Chinese entrepreneurs embrace Drucker’s ideas but to put Drucker’s thoughts into real practices, there still need a process for local cultural adaption.

The session one ends with the panel discussion and Q & A interaction with audience, moderated by Ms. Ruthia Wong, former General Management of Greater China eCommerce

IFCN at Rechkit. Many interesting questions raised by audiences, for example: Why are character formation and virtues important focus points when educating leaders? What are the potential challenges companies will face in the application of MLA? Is the issue of asking questions really an issue about attitudes to challenging / criticizing / conflict & conflict avoidance? etc. Reflections on those questions helps us to figure out what right things are and what actions we shall take.

The second session focused on “MLA leadership and implications”, starts with the keynote speech delivered by Mr. Sunny Wong, former Chairman and CEO of Carlsberg Greater China, on “Leadership is doing the right thing”. Mr. Wong shares the experience of “keeping every single individuals of the organization” during the acquisition of different breweries in China over a decade ago, which reminds us that leadership’s responsibility is putting people above and beyond profits.

It follows with the keynote speech of Mr. Francis Ngai, Founder and CEO of Social Ventures Hong Kong, on the topic of “Creating shared value for the common good”. Mr. Ngai adopted Drucker’s famous quote “The best way to create the future is to create one”, who shares his experiences of establishing various successful social enterprise, including Green Monday, and collaborations with the different business organizations, in an attempt to promote corporate social responsibility among business corporations, thus solving social and environmental problems.

Then Dr. Ricky Szeto, General Manager and Executive Director of Hung Fook Tong Group Holdings Ltd., delivers keynote speech on the topic of “Business with humanity”, instead of pursuing profit maximization, Dr. Szeto emphasizes the importance of “putting employees in the first place”, and believes that happy employees create happy customers, naturally results in business success.

The second panel discussion, moderated by Dr. Royce Yuen, CEO of MaLogic Holdings Ltd. with actively questioning from audience that further stimulates the discussion: How do you convince people to adapt for a new way as resistance to change is normal? What are main challenges when implementing business strategy with purpose? what could be the new measures in business to show performance metrics in the 21st century that we would be proud of?

Dr. Yuen asks speakers for the redefinition of the role of CEO, and Mr. Sunny Wong suggests that CEO should “establish a strong platform for sustainable growth of the organization”; Dr. Ricky Szeto adds that “CEO should not solely aims at creating profits for shareholders”, CEO

is responsible for building a strong and reputable brand; Mr. Francis Ngai emphasizes that commercial and social enterprises should “work together on the foundation of pursuing common good for the society”, which is the new normal of today’s business practice.”

While the workshop approaching the end, there is a group breakout session, in which participants and speakers meet at sub-groups each with 5-6 people having more in depth exchanges. Audience are also invited to share their views and takeaways after the group breakout session.

It is our hope, reflected by Dr. Julia Wang at the end of session, that everyone can take Drucker’s ideas as “*Thought Starters*”, most importantly, as “*Action Starters*”, to translate his teaching on “Management as a Liberal Art” into our day to day practice, shaping the culture and environment of organizations and society. Building a functioning society needs shared vision, values, innovative thinking and joint efforts. Everyone counts. That’s the future lies before us.

Event Photos:



Dr. Julia Wang, President of Peter F. Drucker Academy Hong Kong, delivers Welcome Speech.



Prof. Simon Ho, President of The Heng Seng University of Hong Kong, presents keynote speech.



The session one discussion is moderated by Ms. Ruthia Wong (Left), Former General Management of Greater China eCommerce IFCN at Reckitt; and join with Prof. Simon Ho and Dr. Xun Chen, Drucker Scholar.



Mr. Francis Ngai, Founder and CEO of Social Ventures Hong Kong, presents keynote speech.



Dr. Ricky Szeto, General Manager and Executive Director of Hung Fook Tong Group Holdings Ltd., presents keynote speech.



The session two discussion is moderated by Dr. Royce Yuen (Left), CEO of MaLogic Holdings Ltd., and join with Mr. Francis Ngai (Centre), Dr. Ricky Szeto (Right) and Mr. Sunny Wong (Rightmost), Former Chairman and CEO of Carlsberg Greater China.



Audiences are also invited to share their views and takeaways after the group breakout session.