

“MLA: A Functioning Society” Seminar was hosted successfully

“MLA: A Functioning Society” Seminar with Mr. Shao Ming Lo, Chairman of Bright China Group and Founder of Peter F. Drucker Academy, as the Keynote Speaker, was successfully hosted at Hang Seng Management College on March 21st, 2018.

The Seminar began with the Welcome speech given by Dr. Darwin Chen, Board Chairman of Peter F. Drucker Academy. He mentioned that the ideology of “Management as a Liberal Art” invented by Peter F. Drucker concerned organizations, individuals, polity, and social issues, which is far beyond the business management itself. The concepts of “Destructive Innovation” and “Management by Objectives” can still be applied to today’s situations in modern society. “Drucker emphasized that everyone is a Knowledge Worker in today society, we all should perform our distinctive functions and make contributions at work.” At the same time, all Governmental Bodies, Business Enterprises and NGOs should take the social responsibility and accountability while perform their own unique roles and duties; thus together created a Functioning Society.

The video entitled “A Functioning Society” with Mr. Shao Ming Lo was then played at the Seminar. Mr. Shao first introduced Drucker’s book of “A Functioning Society”, then explained how this concept could be actualized. He pointed out that “indeed A Functioning Society is the basic requirement for people to live with dignity and to perform with freedom. Drucker is never an idealist man, and he is not asking for a so-called Ideal Society or Great Harmony Society. He envisions a society that can function normally, and bear specific purposes for human beings. Shall a society lack all of these basic elements of vitality; it is not qualified to be a functioning society.

Afterwards Prof. Simon Ho, President of Hang Seng Management College, invited Mr. Shao to have a dialogue on MLA. Prof. Ho asked how we could motivate the business organizations to perform its corporate social responsibilities and values. Mr. Shao replied that enterprises would need to innovate constantly. They need to fulfill the two major social responsibilities while pursuing for economic profits. First they should let their clients to enjoy better quality of services at a lower price; secondly, “all enterprises have their own distinctive functions and roles, they produce by-products while performing their own duties; therefore, they are responsible for fixing the side-effects of their own products.”

For instance, a chemical plant would cause pollution while satisfying the needs of the society, thus the chemical plant is in the position of acting out measures of environmental protection. "Enterprises should not only pursue for profit maximization, instead it should maximize its own ability of creating values for the customers," which is the true purpose of the existence of an enterprise, and the key to constructing a Functioning Society.

During the Q&A session, one student from the audience asked, in today society, many of the enterprises chase after profit maximization, while fulfilling their corporate social responsibilities in order to elevate the Corporate image, so as to obtain even bigger profit; thus, should the Government assist with the development of Social Enterprises, instead of betting on the business enterprises to carry out corporate social responsibilities?

Mr. Shao Ming Lo replied that development of a society should not lean on any kind of organizations, and emphasized that regardless of the natures of the organization, whether it's Governmental Bodies, NGOs, or Business Enterprises, should be clear with their own purpose of business and values, and figure out how to contribute to the society, which is the ultimate solution to the problem.

The Seminar ended with the Closing remark given by Dr. Julia Wang, President of Peter F. Drucker Academy. She mentioned that the MLA courses had pioneered the progression of Management education in Hong Kong. The purpose of this program, was to open the door of MLA to college students, letting them encounter Drucker's Management ideology and wisdom, thus to inspire them finding their own way to be a future responsible leader. She also emphasized that any organizations shall take the social responsibility to nurture and grow their employees, so as to unleash their full potentials to make contribution to a Functioning Society.