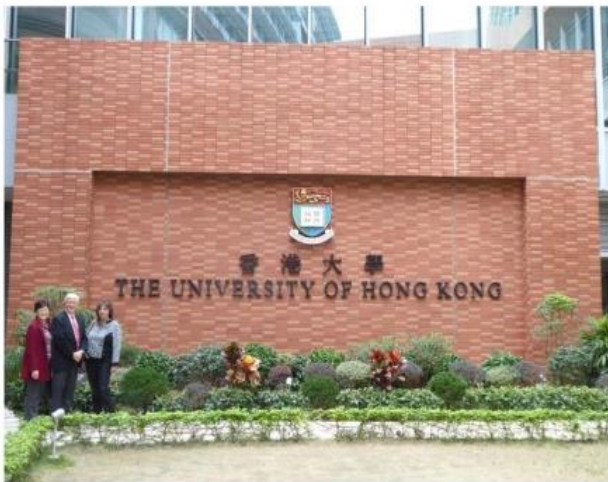


## Being Accredited by ISPA: a View from the HKU

[By Professor Shui-fong Lam,  
Director of the Master of Social Sciences Program  
(Educational Psychology) ]

### The University of Hong Kong

As the Director of the Master of Social Sciences Program (Educational Psychology) in the Department of Psychology at the University of Hong Kong, I am delighted that our program has been granted full accreditation by ISPA for five years since April 2017. The ISPA accreditation is definitely a developmental milestone for our program. Our program was established in 1981 as a response to meet the needs for school psychology services in Hong Kong. At that time, our program was the first and the only training program for school psychologists in Asia.



*Prof. Shui-fong Lam (Director of the HKU program),  
Prof. Bill Pfohl (ISPA Accreditation Team Convener),  
Dr. Helen Bakker (ISPA Accreditation Team Member)*

In the past 36 years, our program has produced more than 200 graduates. Many of them had been the leaders who shaped the school psychology services in Hong Kong. Despite our program has been taking the leadership in the professional preparation of school psychologists in Hong Kong and even Asia, we are never complacent. In all these years, we are continuously looking for self-improvement. We hold program retreats periodically with important stake holders of the profession. Many curriculum reforms in our program have been derived from these program retreats. The recent ISPA accreditation is another important vehicle for our program development and improvement.

The most important part of the ISPA accreditation is not the result but the process. This process is a precious learning experience for all our program members including teachers and students. We have prepared 108 documents for the accreditation. In compiling the Program Accreditation Documents, we engaged in a serious stock taking of our strengths and weaknesses. The ISPA Goals and Standards helped us examine how much we had achieved and what areas we should improve. The preparation of the Program Accreditation Documents is an excellent opportunity for self-reflection. It also facilitated the review by the Accreditation Team. We were fortunate to have Bill Pfohl, Helen Bakker, Philipp Ramming, and Terence Edwards in the Accreditation Team. Bill is a Professor Emeritus of Psychology at the Western Kentucky

University, U.S.A. Helen is an Associate Professor at the University of Utrecht, Netherlands. Philipp is the President of the Swiss Association for Child and Youth Psychology, Switzerland. Terence is a Senior Professional Clinician in Educational Psychology, Massey University, New Zealand. This is a genuine international team of experts with high caliber in school psychology. While Bill and Helen visited our university in person for the accreditation, Philipp and Terence participated in the accreditation through e-mail communication and SKYPE meeting. During the three-day visit in March, Bill and Helen met with the program staff, current students, past students, fieldwork supervisors, and the senior management of our university. They also visited one of our placement sites in the community. The interactions in these three days were intensive and rewarding. Bill and Helen had the chances to know our program thoroughly and could provide useful advice and suggestions on the spot. In addition, the written report from the entire Accreditation Team a month later provided us with a comprehensive review. This review is important for our self-improvement.

Our program is the first and only program in Asia being accredited by the ISPA. Nevertheless, we do not feel alone. Being situated in the Far East, somehow we are closely connected with the international community in school psychology through the ISPA Accreditation. We know that we measure up to the international standards and goals.

**Accreditation Visit for the Master of Social Sciences Program (Educational Psychology) in March 2017**



From the left: Dr. Winnie Chan (Faculty Member of the HKU EP Program), Dr. Kathy Shum (Faculty Member of the HKU EP Program), Ms. Rita Fan (Current Student of the HKU EP Program), Prof. Shui-fong Lam (Director of the HKU EP Program), Dr. Helen Bakker (ISPA Accreditation Team Member), Prof. Bill Pfohl (ISPA Accreditation Team Convener), Ms. Jenny Wong (Current Student of the HKU EP Program), Dr. Kathy Wong (Faculty Member of the HKU EP Program). In the LCD screen from the left: Dr. Philipp Ramming (ISPA Accreditation Team Member), Mr. Terence Edwards (ISPA Accreditation Team Member).



From the left: Prof. Connie Ho (Faculty Member of the HKU EP Program), Prof. John Burns (Dean of Faculty of Social Sciences, HKU), Prof. Bill Pfohl (ISPA Accreditation Team Convener), Prof. Peter Matheson (President and Vice Chancellor, HKU), Dr. Helen Bakker (ISPA Accreditation Team Member), Prof. Shui-fong Lam (Director of the HKU EP Program), Prof. Tatia Lee (Head of Department of Psychology, HKU)