

## Message from Prof. Paul MORRIS, Host of Conference



Prof. Paul MORRIS  
*Honorary Advisor to APERA 2006*  
*President, The Hong Kong Institute of Education*

I would like to express my warmest welcome to all participants who come from different parts of the world to the Asia-Pacific Educational Research Association Conference 2006.

I am very pleased that our Institute, the Asia-Pacific Educational Research Association and the Hong Kong Educational Research Association are organizing this international event with six local universities and eleven international organizations. This Conference is the joint effort of a large number of international, regional and local educators, researchers, and policy-makers, contributing to the growing endeavors of educational research for policy development and practice improvement in the fast changing environment in the Asia-Pacific Region.

The Conference is designed to provide a platform for education professionals to share research findings, exchange new ideas and best practices. There will be opportunities for creating networks and collaborations across disciplines, areas, countries and culture in the Region and other parts of the world. These tasks are especially important as education is increasingly seen as the major source of socio-economic development and consequently subject to constant reform initiatives. The result is that all those involved in education face many challenges which are best addressed through informed discussions based on evidence.

At the Institute, we have the largest academic force in teacher education, a wide variety of expertise and a broad spectrum of teacher education programmes. These have provided us with ample opportunities to work with researchers and educators from different countries. Together we will be able to better understand the pressing needs of education of Hong Kong, the Asia-Pacific region and the international community.

I would like to thank Professor Yin Cheong Cheng and all members of the Organizing Committee and sub-committees for organizing this Conference, which is very significant to educational research and development in the Region.

I hope that all participants will gain some insights from the Conference, and together we will provide a better education environment for our next generation.