

Hong Kong Association for Applied Linguistics (HAAL)

President Report

(October 2018 – October 2020)

The existing EXCO has the following members:

Dr. Ricky Lam (President, HKBU), Dr. Christoph Hafner (Immediate Past President, CityU), Dr. Mable Chan (Secretary, PolyU), Ms. Emily Lui (Secretary, PolyU), Dr. Jim Chan (Treasurer, HKU), Dr. Qing Ma, Angel (Webmaster, EdUHK), Dr. Carmen Lee (Member, CUHK), Dr. Matthew Sung (Member, CityU), Dr. Benjamin Moorhouse (Outreach Officer, HKU), Mr. Dennis Chau (Outreach Officer, OUHK), Dr. Gavin Bui (Member, HSU), Dr. Barry Bai (Member, CUHK), and Dr. Danny Leung (Member, OUHK)

This document comprises AY 2018-19 report, AY 2019-20 report, and recommendations.

AY 2018-19

1. Executive Meetings and AGM

Three meetings were successfully held on 8 January 2019 (Tuesday), 17 April 2019 (Wednesday), and 10 September 2019 (Tuesday). AGM was held on 3 October 2019 (Thursday). The minutes of all meetings were circulated and endorsed by EXCO members.

2. Research Seminars

Seven research seminars were held. They included Professor Jette G. Hansen Edwards, The Chinese University of Hong Kong (October, 2018), Dr. Yongyan Li, The University of Hong Kong (November, 2018), Dr. Jim Chan, The University of Hong Kong (December, 2018), Dr. Eric Yuan, Education University of Hong Kong (January, 2019), Dr. Gavin Bui, Hang Seng University of Hong Kong (February, 2019), Professor Cynthia Lee, Open University of Hong Kong (March, 2019), and Dr. Qing Ma, Education University of Hong Kong (April, 2019).

3. Annual Social Event

The annual social event was organized for HAAL members. A hiking trip to Peng Chau and Discovery Bay was held on 1 December 2018 (Saturday).

4. Student Scholarships

The awardees of the Student Travel Grant AY 2018-19 were Ms. Tongle Sun (CUHK), and Ms. Wang Qian, Bobbie (CUHK). The awardee of Fawzia Braine Memorial Award 2018-19 was Mr. Chan Ka Long, Roy (CUHK).

5. *Financial Viability*

As of 1 September 2019, the income of HAAL was HKD \$ 80,767.79 and its overall expenditure was HKD \$ 13,002.89. HAAL had a surplus of HKD \$ 67,764.90 in AY 2018-19. The Treasurer reported details of income and expenditure items during AGM and the financial report was circulated and endorsed by EXCO members. The financial viability of HAAL remains optimistic and sustainable.

6. *New Initiatives and Achievements*

6.1 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

HAAL has signed MOU with Korea Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages (KOTESOL) and English Language Teachers' Association of India (ELTAI) to enhance academic collaboration.

6.2 Facebook Page

To enhance the visibility and profile of HAAL, the EXCO has set up a Facebook Page and its link is <https://www.facebook.com/HAAL.HK/>. The official launch of the Facebook Page was held at AGM.

6.3 New HAAL Membership Options

Two new membership options – HKD \$250 for 3 years and HKD \$1,000 for life members – were proposed and introduced in AY 2019-20. These new options were welcomed by members and about one-fifth of them opted for either 3-year or lifelong membership type.

AY 2019-20

1. *Executive Meetings*

Two executive meetings were held on 3 February 2020 (Monday) and 10 June 2020 (Wednesday). AGM was held on 8 October 2020 (Thursday). The minutes of all meetings were circulated and endorsed by EXCO members.

2. *Research Seminars*

While the seminar venue was suspended after the mid-November 2019, six research seminars were held with two face-to-face meetings and four webinars. They included Professor Steve Walsh (October, 2019), Professor David Carless (November, 2019), Dr. Benjamin Moorhouse (January, 2020), Professor Alessandro Benati (February, 2020), Dr. Michelle Gu (April, 2020), Mr. Wu Chung-Hsien, Greg (June, 2020 – Student Presentation). Two invited speakers declined to deliver their talks owing to their own

personal reasons.

3. *Annual Social Event*

HAAL planned a hiking trip to Tai Mei Tuk (Sam Mun Tsai & Ma Shi Chau) on 7 December 2019 (Saturday). However, because of the social unrest one week prior to the event, the EXCO decided to call off the trip for the sake of members' safety. The event will be postponed to 5 December 2020 (Saturday).

4. *Student Scholarships*

HAAL has decided that the Student Travel Grant AY 2019-20 applications were rolled over to next academic year owing to the cancellation and postponement of most international conferences. The awardee of the Fawzia Braine Memorial Award 2019-20 was Mr. Wu Chung-Hsien, Greg, from the University of Hong Kong, Centre of Applied English Studies. His paper was entitled "Engaging senior-year admitted students' academic literacies across the discipline: A language practitioner's perspectives" (2020) published in *Innovations in Education and Teaching International*.

5. *8th HAAL Conference*

The 8th HAAL Conference Organization Committee was officially formed on 10 September 2019. All EXCO members were involved, serving as working members. Most pre-conference preparation works were completed between August and December 2019, such as committee meetings, flyer design, invitation of keynote speakers, setup of online peer review system, setup of conference website, allocation of peer review tasks, etc. Nonetheless, due to the pandemic, the Conference Organization Committee decided to postpone the conference until December 2021 or June 2020, or adopt a virtual format. Two invited speakers, Professor Guangwei Hu (PolyU) and Professor Vijay Bhatia (CUHK), agreed to deliver their plenary talks in the forthcoming HAAL Conference.

6. *Financial Viability*

As of 21 September 2020, the income of HAAL was HKD \$ 16,220.10 mainly due to the membership fees and its overall expenditure was HKD \$ 5280.00. Since most in-person seminars switched to webinars, there was a reduction in expenditure on meals and refreshments. HAAL had a surplus of HKD \$ 77,935.80 in AY 2019-20. The Treasurer reported details of income and expenditure items during AGM and the financial report was circulated and endorsed by EXCO members. The financial situation of HAAL is fairly healthy for its future development.

7. *New Initiatives and Achievements*

7.1 Long-service Awards

To acknowledge EXCO members' sustained contributions to HAAL, the EXCO has set up a long-service award scheme. The first two long-service awardees were Dr. Mable Chan, PolyU (from 2008 – 2020) and Ms. Emily Lui, PolyU (from 2008 – 2020). The award presentation was conducted at AGM.

7.2 New HAAL Website

To enhance the branding of HAAL, a new website was designed and officially launched during AGM. The new website is <https://www.haal1980.org/>. The existing HAAL website remains valid and will not be deleted.

7.3 New HAAL Album

To better capture HAAL past history, the EXCO, with the assistance of Dr. Qing Ma, has created a new digital album to chronicle all past HAAL events. The link is: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/187157707@N04/albums>.

7.4 New HAAL Logo

To update the HAAL image and branding, the EXCO has agreed to redesign its current logo.

Recommendations

To sustain HAAL middle-term and long-term development, the President has made the following recommendations:

1. To enlarge the number of membership via inviting more Ph.D., Master's or even Bachelor's students to join HAAL locally and regionally
2. To reassign the functional posts of EXCO members in order to facilitate the workflow of HAAL administrative operations
3. To launch practically-oriented workshops alongside the existing monthly research seminars or organize half-day theme-based professional events to disseminate project knowledge
4. To administer a mini survey which allows members to indicate what topics or scholars they prefer or what types of academic-related activities they want HAAL to organize
5. To consider offering guest speakers a token honorarium of HKD \$1,000 or \$1,200 for their professional service

Ricky Lam
October 2020