

## ESF CHAIRMAN & SECRETARY

2000-2001 was a momentous year in many ways. First of all – funding. After extensive negotiation with the Hong Kong Government we retained our grant although frozen at its current level. This means that as inflation and pay increases bite and, as we grow as an organisation, we shall have to meet the shortfall ourselves. This we shall do over time in three ways – extending our range of activities; having a common benefits package and raising fees to reflect inflation.

The first of these processes is already well established. Our ESF Educational Services Company goes from strength to strength with flourishing kindergartens and enrolment in English language and sports classes exceeding 2,300. Through the Company we contribute to the Hong Kong community with our “Local Schools Project” whereby we provide interactive English language teaching, often through drama and sport, at local schools. That together with our Summerbridge language project which runs in several of our schools each summer, ensures we make a substantial commitment to the English language in Hong Kong.

2000/01 was designated ESF ‘Information and Communication Technology’ (ICT) year. For the last three years we have allocated 6 million dollars annually to develop this area in our schools. This sum, together with contributions from the schools’ own resources and PTA funding, means that our schools are now equipped to the highest specifications. From 2001/02, for three years, this additional central budget is increased to 8 million per year.

Primary students can learn basic technology skills from the outset. We are currently developing links with the Technology Colleges Trust U.K. which will put our schools in touch with leading technology schools in the U.K. and internationally. We were pleased to welcome a group of U.K. teachers to our schools as a result of that link.



An outstanding occasion last year was the debut of the ESF Orchestra and Choir. Although individual ESF schools have had their own orchestras and choirs, this was the first time the secondary schools were able to work together to mount a cross ESF event. Under the orchestral leadership of Ken Haggarty and, with the choir directed by Jo Anne Trevenna, the concert was an outstanding success. The programme was ambitious; developed the young musicians’ skills and received a rapturous reception from the packed audience at City Hall in March. We hope this inaugural concert will see the ESF Orchestra and Choir go from strength to strength.

As a system we are almost full. We have an ambitious capital programme which will see the extension of Sha Tin Junior School, South Island and West Island Schools and the eventual redevelopment of Kowloon Junior School. In addition we have planned improvements and refurbishment programmes at our other schools.

The HKSAR government has, however, made it clear to us that the way forward for new ESF schools is through the Private Independent School route. We have been awarded a site at Ma On Shan and will open a new all-through primary/secondary school there in 2003/2004. A second school will open in Discovery Bay in 2004/2005.

Our success is a direct result of the quality of teaching and learning in our schools. Once again we have been able to recruit teachers and support staff of the highest calibre. We recognise that our staff give unstintingly of their time – in meticulous lesson preparation and planning and also by providing those vital extra curricular activities after school and during vacations.

We recognise that the quality of teaching is linked closely to our commitment to deliver excellent in-service training. Our focus is underpinned by the priorities of the ESF Development Plan – English as an Additional Language (EAL) and ICT. We recognise however that staff are also seeking subject specific training as well as management training and we will ensure we address those needs.

The academic year 2001-2002 will undoubtedly see us meeting many and varied challenges but our overriding aim will be to ensure that we continue to provide our students with the best possible all round education.

*Jal Shroff, Chairman*

*Jennifer Wisker, Secretary and Chief Executive*

### ESF MISSION

#### **Committed to Hong Kong's Future and to Excellence in Education**

建立優良教育 承擔香港未來  
As the largest international education  
foundation in Asia we:

作為亞洲最具規模的教育協會，我們：

Welcome students from all nations who can be educated  
through the English language;

歡迎不同國籍而又能透過英語學習的學生；

Set high expectations for all students through a broad and  
challenging curriculum;

透過廣泛及富挑戰性的課程，為學生建立崇高理想；

Provide access to the best international higher education;  
提供進升至優良國際教育的途徑；

Provide for the individual needs of all students including  
those with special educational needs;

給予學生個別需要，包括特殊教育的需求；

Are committed to a partnership with staff, students, parents  
and the community;

致力與教職員、學生、家長及社會共同攜手合作；

Value all individuals and respect the worth of others; and  
重視及尊重各人的價值和意見；

Are committed to the people of the region and their future.  
對本地的人民及其未來作出承諾。

