

Chairman's Message for First AGM

1 Nov 2021

Since our birth a year ago, we have affected more than a thousand youngsters, nearly half of the secondary school students learning about the NewSpace economy, CubeSats, UX, Smart City, and astropreneurship. The Can-Do spirit of Sir David guided us to this first anniversary, and members' passion and resolve have brought us here today. 2021 has been a pivotal year for OASA, for Hong Kong, for her universities, and Space. With the support of many, near and far, we gave birth to OASA officially on 21 Feb 2021 (literally 21022021). Despite COVID, VUCA, massive anxieties, and unknowns, we said "Why Not" and brought down the edge of Space just a bit closer.

Thank you, members. Please first thank yourself for playing your part, however small, and helping us connect the unconnected in the NewSpace economy. Yes, the NewSpace economy has arrived, and you are our evangelists. Nearly everyone had jumped in to help when we called, knowing full well that an Academy can only be as strong as its members. Once COVID is under control, we should celebrate with a party indeed.

Next, allow me to thank the many unsung heroes to include Carmen, Prof. CK, May, Hubie, Theresa, Sean, Justin, Prof. Al, and many others who have contributed, in the early days, to the DNA and the fundamental values that have come to define OASA. As OASA has grown, roles are being shifted and a few have passed the baton to younger teammates. Many of you are nurturing this start-up and rolling up your sleeves to help set up new committees, new policies, and new systems. We even have a Data Officer, manned by Fletcher Ng, and is probably one of the first NGOs in Hong Kong to have such a role. This reflects our respect for Data.

Data is the new oil. And data without boundaries is the NewSpace economy.

OASA has grand ambitions... that young leaders can champion entrepreneurship across borders, starting from Hong Kong as a unique hub for space commerce by 2030; and promoting peace and prosperity in the incoming NewSpace economy. We should never allow Hong Kong, or any young person anywhere, to be marginalised. OASA's New University Chapters are being formed as we speak and by the end of 2022, we may just have a few established in Hong Kong. Perhaps by the end of 2023, a few more in Greater Bay with your help and connection?

Our first mission, to create a leadership accelerator, is being actioned across multiple universities with the help of visionary professors and business leaders, particularly Perry Lam, our Vice-Chair. New programs like Young Marco Polo, Mission Moonshots, Special Action Groups, and Hong Kong's first CubeSat programme for our high school, BEST which is under the leadership of Prof. Quentin Parker, have piloted and have received overwhelming support and participation. Thank you, mentors, teachers, students, and hundreds of supporting organisations.

Working with these partners, 2021 has given us more than 30 events and activities, with opportunities to kick off a few global Space discussions through Cyberport. Our LinkedIn now has over 250 followers and growing steadily at double digits every month with international participants whose names we don't yet recognise. More importantly, we have created more than 150 annual student membership sponsorships (one member sponsors one student member; and one chartered member, five student members) and are seeding astropreneurial projects at HKU, CityU, Lingnan U, Chinese U, IVE Kwun Tong, and PolyU.

We understand full well that we cannot grow without AI, Big Data, and smart young leaders. To this end, we are working with Bling and leveraging their learning engine so that in 2022 we will be powering a few more STEM programs for younger student members.

Space is hard. So are the many challenges and roads ahead for us. As OASA pushes the edge of Space and grounds a few use cases for astropreneurs, ask not what OASA can do for you but what you can do for OASA.

Jump in, and let's dance.

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several loops and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Dr. G
Executive Chairman
2020 - 2021