

## Alumni Spotlight

Wai Ming Pither Yeung (Mingi) is the new chairperson of the Alumni Association in Hong Kong (AAHK) and graduated with an MBA via Distance Learning, in July 2006. She specialises in back office management in the investment industry, and works at the Hong Kong Stock Exchange as a manager.

Mingi is also founding member and president of the first Breast Cancer Survivors' Dragon Boat Team in Hong Kong.

### **We put Mingi under the Spotlight.....**

#### **How has your qualification from Manchester Business School helped to shape your career?**

The MBA has provided a great number of opportunities for me.

I have been working in the investment industry, handling settlement processing for stock and mutual fund tradings for over 10 years. I was working for a very demanding boss until midnight most days, for an international corporation and was not satisfied with my career development. I wanted to change either the nature of my job or the industry and, to create new opportunities, I chose to return to academia to widen my skills.



This year, having gained my MBA qualification, I moved successfully to the Hong Kong Stock Exchange (HKEX) and am now leading a medium-sized team at Central Clearing and Settlement Services.

#### **Why did you choose Manchester Business School?**

I believe that the success of the School is an important factor for students, particularly when they want to develop their career further. I spent at least six months researching different kinds of masters degrees from universities, both locally and internationally. I was looking for an MBA that would meet my needs - reputable, highly ranked, part-time or distance learning - so I could continue working, but have an interactive and face to face element, international faculty and great flexibility.

Manchester Business School's distance learning MBA matched my needs. I was able to gain the quality and expertise from the School's faculty in Hong Kong, and to complete the MBA without travelling to Manchester.

I started the programme in July 2002, and joined a great study group - we supported one another, encouraging each other to meet deadlines. Attending workshops and meeting classmates from different nationalities and different business backgrounds broadened my horizons.

Unfortunately, in 2005, as I was completing the last module, I was diagnosed with breast cancer. Both my study group and Manchester Business School Worldwide East Asia centre gave me their great support and comfort. This helped me during all the necessary treatments I underwent and came through successfully during 2005.

Although the criteria with which I chose the School was purely academic, the knowledge I acquired, the long-term friendships I made during the programme mean much more. I received tremendous support and care from the Manchester Business School Worldwide Hong Kong office, as well as great networking opportunities to meet with senior executives of different corporations who continue to stay in touch as alumni of the School.

#### **What is your biggest achievement yet?**

2006 was a rewarding year for me! I achieved all the goals I set early in the year - finished the thesis, completed the MBA, attended the graduation ceremony in UK, moved to HKEX and successfully lead a good sized team. I was elected Chairperson of MBSAAHK for the term of 2006-07.

Together with a group of breast cancer survivors, I formed DAHK - the 1st breast cancer survivors' dragon boat team in Hong Kong - in the beginning of 2006, becoming the founding president. We aim to raise the awareness of breast cancer in Hong Kong, to encourage sufferers to lead full and active lives and to send a message of hope to them and their families and friends

I cannot change the fact that I had cancer but I can show other women living with breast cancer that you can still lead a full and active life.

I have used the management knowledge I acquired from the MBA and the Manchester Business School Alumni Association Hong Kong to lead DAHK and it is now officially established as an independent non-profit organisation. I applied the marketing and promoting skills I learned to attract publicity and sponsors for our first international race in Singapore.

#### **What are your plans for the future?**

2007 will be a very challenging year for me as I take forward my roles in both the MBS alumni group and DAHK, as well as in my

work team in HKEX. I'll be planning a full schedule of events for the Hong Kong alumni and planning to form another dragon boat team for the alumni group – a world first for The University of Manchester!

Career-wise, I will move on to new areas such as risk management or listing services. I will also explore different options such as fundraising for charitable organisations.

**What is your fondest memory of Manchester Business School?**

Studying the Manchester Business School distance learning MBA was a joy - every moment, every class, every gathering for study or socially. I always enjoyed the workshops as they were more like a weekend camping with friends!

Of course, the support and care I received from my husband, MBA team mates, alumni and the staff from Manchester Business School Worldwide East Asia Centre during my illness meant a tremendous amount to me and created a wonderful and beautiful memory for me whenever I think of the journey I went through during the cancer treatments.

I am proud that I graduated with merit from University of Manchester - the largest University in the UK and Europe and also one of the top universities in the world. The knowledge, skills, and friendships I gained in the past years benefited me in ways that would not have been possible otherwise.

---

Manchester Business School, Booth Street West, Manchester, M15 6PB, UK :: +44 (0) 161 306 1320

