

## Bernard Wu, MBA 2000

### Much more than career advancement

Bernard Wu was a seasoned accountant in 1997 when he decided to pursue an MBA to shift his career into higher gear as a financial professional. Having worked for Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu, a Big Four accountancy firm, Bernard had gone on to middle management positions in the finance and treasury departments of several listed companies in Hong Kong. Today, he is a Managing Director of Private Equity, Agricultural Bank of China - ABCI Investment Management. He is also the President, The Taxation Institute of Hong Kong and the Chairman, ACCA Hong Kong.



One reason Bernard chose Manchester Business School is its flexibility. As a qualified accountant, Bernard was able to take an accelerated MBA programme by being exempted from certain finance courses. Once he started studying, however, Bernard found that an MBS MBA offers much more than a qualification.

“Apart from the programme itself, the most important benefit is having a network of classmates and other MBS alumni. This is the most important asset I gained from my MBA,” Bernard said. “It’s been very important for me to have relationships I wouldn’t have had through normal business contacts or socialising.”

As an alumnus, Bernard takes part in MBA social gatherings several times a year and recently attended an MBS function in Shanghai. “I met nearly 200 graduates. It was a great opportunity to meet alumni and students in other regions and extend my contacts and network in a very natural way,” he said.

Bernard completed his course in 2000, and his advice to potential MBA students is insightful. “When students enrol in an MBA course, they have to think if they are in a position to spend time. I was married, so was past the dating stage. I was also fortunate to work at a company that supported me and knew the value an MBA could bring in contributing to the company.”

The sacrifice and hard work was worth it, both for Bernard’s career and to enhance his business and social life. He meets former MBS classmates for tea, drinks or lunch several times a year. “We share with each other what we’re doing,” Bernard said, adding that such occasions are great opportunities to see if there are any good matches between jobs at companies where alumni work and qualified people looking for jobs.