

DeTao Masters Academy Research Institute

1st Meeting of the Advisory Committee
25 November 2016

Chair's Remarks
Sir John Daniel, Education Master

Professor Kang and DeTao colleagues, it is an honour, as chair of this Advisory Committee of the DTMA Research Institute, to welcome you to this first meeting.

I was one of the first Masters, along with our eminent Honorary Dean, Professor Yan Jin, and my colleague Stamenka Uvalić-Trumbić, to join DeTao back in 2011. We have observed closely the exciting development of the DeTao Masters Academy over the last five years as the number of Masters has grown steadily and their fields of activity have diversified.

We have been proud to strengthen DeTao's teaching activities in two ways.

First, following Stamenka's introduction of DeTao to the US Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA), DTMA became the first innovative provider in the world to be recognised as a Quality Platform Provider under a new quality assurance mechanism developed by CHEA's International Quality Group.

DTMA's Advanced Courses received the Quality Platform certificate at a ceremony in Washington earlier this year. CHEA judged the self-assessment conducted by DTMA during this process to be so well done that it is now being used as a model for American innovative providers now seeking to obtain Quality Platform recognition.

Second, being myself a regular student of online courses from the FutureLearn consortium, I am delighted that DeTao has now joined the Future Learn consortium of online providers. DeTao's first two online courses through FutureLearn will be offered to the world in the coming months.

Having extended the global reach of DeTao's teaching activities and recognition through these and other linkages, we turn our attention today to research, the second area where DeTao seeks to embed its work in the wider academic world. That is the purpose of this DTMA Research Institute that we launch today.

This Research Institute will be a mechanism for linking DeTao's faculty to the external academic environment so as to increase the recognition of their work and the opportunities available to them. It will strengthen the academic reputation of DTMA and open up avenues for further research on future-oriented topics. Without in any way diminishing its own originality, the Research Institute will be a platform for aligning DTMA with the wider educational system and the training of its teachers.

Today we shall work through proposals that staff have drafted, which cover many aspects of the Research Institute's work. We start, naturally, with Purpose, Vision, Mission and Structure

before looking at the role and functioning of this Advisory Committee. This will lead us to proposals for appointing Visiting Fellows, Incentive Mechanisms for Research and, very importantly, the Institute's Research Orientations and Programmes.

This draft document contains many assumptions, both explicit and implicit. I hope that we can work through them carefully, challenging them and refining them where necessary. It is very important that the Institute starts off in the right direction.

The fundamental challenge, as I see it, is to ensure that that Research Institute helps to embed DTMA's work within the wider worlds of education, development and research without causing DTMA to lose its originality on the way. Our aim is to infect the wider system with DeTao's ideas and innovations, not to allow the conventional educational establishment to pull DTMA into conformity with older methods and approaches.

In this spirit the research orientations that we choose and the conditions that we offer to DTMA's faculty and fellows are clearly of crucial importance.

I thank you for being part of this Advisory Committee and I look forward to our discussions.