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# Promoting German in Secondary Schools

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# Summary of Impact

It is often challenging to integrate in good measure the three key components for all HKU educational endeavours: Research, Teaching and Knowledge Exchange.

The project "Promoting German in Secondary Schools" has achieved positive local and international impact through successfully integrating research, teaching and knowledge exchange features and utilising innovative strategies to create best synergy.

Through research outputs, talks open to public and various language and cultural workshops, the project significantly raised awareness of the value of foreign language and culture within the wider community, reaching thousands of local and international professionals and secondary school students and instigating policy and educational changes.

# Underpinning Research, Teaching and Learning (1)

- Independent research with publications
  - March 2012: "German as a Foreign Language in an English-Chinese Environment - Current Situation and Promotion in Hong Kong" providing up-to-date survey of German as a foreign language in Hong Kong, its promotion, future perspectives and challenges
  - January 2014: "German National Identity: Moving Beyond Guilt" in "European National Identities" Providing new insights in exploration of German national identity
  - Forthcoming publication in a fully-refereed academic journal in August 2018:  
"German as a Foreign Language at Secondary School Level in Hong Kong - A Case Study of a Pilot Scheme"
  - Article to be submitted in a fully-refereed academic journal in December 2018:  
"A University of Hong Kong Knowledge Exchange Project - Integration of Research and Teaching"

# Underpinning Research, Teaching and Learning (2)

- Research on German language and culture with sharing of research findings at all levels underpinning curriculum design and development and improvement of courses :
  - GRMN2021 German-Chinese Translation I
  - GRMN3029 History of German Language and German Linguistics
  - GRMN3033 Gender Equality in German-Speaking Countries and the European Union
  - GRMN4004 Intercultural Studies German-Chinese
  - GRMN4005 German-Chinese Translation II
- Developed a pilot scheme for German Programme in local secondary schools
- Role as appointed programme co-ordinator for German courses at all levels for students at Sacred Heart Canossian College since 2009 and "La Salle College" since 2017
- Faculty of Arts Teaching Excellence Award in 2015 for outstanding teaching and commitment to supporting student learning

# Underpinning Research, Teaching and Learning (3)

## Collaboration with Other Institutions



March 2018: International Conference on German as a Foreign Language through Cross-cultural Perspectives - Opportunities and Challenges in Germany, Hong Kong and Mainland China

- Strengthening collaborations with international institutions



October 2016: Goethe-Institut German Teachers' Award 2016

- Participation in advanced methodological and didactic seminar in Munich, Germany for professional development and acquisition of specialized technical know-how to enhance teaching of German

October 2009: Award for participation in Salzburg Global Seminar funded by "Salzburg Global Seminar", Austria

- Cross-cultural exchange of knowledge and experiences
- Forum for discussion on possible solutions to key issues of global concerns
- Enriching professional expertise and experiences



May 2009: Award from ActiLingua Academy (Vienna, Austria)

- Winning essay on innovative ideas to promote learning of German
- Prize being scholarship for a HKU-SMLC German Programme Student to participate in a 2 week intensive German language course and other cultural activities at ActiLingua Academy in Vienna, Austria

# Underpinning Research, Teaching and Learning (4)

## Innovations, Knowledge and Significance of Key Insights on Impact Achieved by KE Project

- Despite being an international city, opportunities in Hong Kong for learning German are limited
- Research data on teaching and learning German are collected to facilitate further investigation in this neglected niche research field to best cater for students' needs
- Dr. Chong is one of Hong Kong's foremost Cantonese-Mandarin-German-English experts in research relating to German in an Anglo-Chinese environment
- Historically, students and adults intent on learning a foreign language geared towards French, Japanese, and Spanish, with German lagging behind

# Underpinning Research, Teaching and Learning (5)

## Innovations, Knowledge and Significance of Key Insights on Impact Achieved by KE Project

- First impressions of Germany among local school students are nationalism, sausages and beer; regretfully overlooking the diversity and depth of German culture in history, culture, architecture, technology and innovations
- Promote Germany as a modern, advanced society, with plurality of lifestyles and regional identities, giving students realistic and positive perceptions of contemporary Germany
- Key to successful HKU German Programme is excellence in pedagogy, research and learning, conducive to elevating importance of German in daily life and career prospects and attracting quality students to enroll in HKU German Programme

# Engagement (1)

Organizer and keynote speaker of the "International Conference on German as a Foreign Language through Cross-cultural Perspectives" hosted at HKU in 2018:

- Public Lecture:  
"Opportunities and Challenges for Promoting German as a Foreign Language in Hong Kong"
- Sharing of key findings of knowledge exchange project to local and international participants  
(<http://www.german.hku.hk/events/conference2018/>)



- 3 KE Impact Projects from 2014-2017
- Role as project coordinator with 25 HKU German Programme students as Student Research Assistants
- 45 KE interactive language and culture workshops conducted
- Reached out to over 1600 secondary students from 28 local and international schools

Website of KE project launched in 2015 to share KE events and promote German language and culture with the wider public  
(<http://www.german.hku.hk/germanke/index.html>)

## Promoting German in Secondary Schools

- Coordinating German courses at all levels at "Sacred Heart Canossian College" since 2009 and "La Salle College" since 2017 under the developed pilot scheme
- External examiner to provide professional knowledge and ensure the quality of the assessments in secondary schools

"German Fun Day" at HKU in 2017:

- Invited principals, teachers and students of secondary schools to HKU
- German-speaking platform to share learning experiences
- Medium to provide insight on HKU German Programme
- Representatives from German Consulate, Goethe-Institut and German-Swiss International School addressed students on German culture





# Engagement (2)

## External Partners

### Partner Schools in the Project



La Salle College



Sacred Heart  
Canossian College

### German Organisations in Hong Kong



Consulate General  
of the Federal Republic of Germany  
Hong Kong



### International Institutions



# Engagement (3)

## Innovations for Engagement Approach

- With 28 participating secondary schools, circumstances vary for different schools, students' backgrounds and age groups. The KE project was continually tailored and optimized, workshop materials and contents were constantly moderated and improved to meet specific requirements for each individual school visit.

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© HKU Knowledge Exchange Project 2016-2017 German with Fun

German Alphabet Table

<b>Aa</b>  Apfel	<b>Bb</b>  Bär	<b>Cc</b>  CD	<b>Dd</b>  Deutschland
<b>Ee</b>  Elefant	<b>Ff</b>  Fisch	<b>Gg</b>  Gans	<b>Hh</b>  Haus
<b>Ii</b>  Idee	<b>Jj</b>  Joghurt	<b>Kk</b>  Katze	<b>Ll</b>  Löwe
<b>Mm</b>  Maus	<b>Nn</b>  Nase	<b>Oo</b>  Obst	<b>Pp</b>  Papagei

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HKU Knowledge Exchange Project – German with Fun

Where do you hear the sound – beginning, middle or end of the word? Choose the correct answer.

**A**

		
<input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/>

**B**

		
<input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/>

**F**

		
<input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/>

**German with fun**

Postwar German history and new identity

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**German Music & Sports**

**German for Fun!**

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# Engagement (4)

## Innovations for Engagement Approach

- Pioneer initiative "German Fun Day" at HKU: Secondary school students communicated in German with fellow German students of other secondary schools for further enrichment and enhancement of experiences in learning German.
- International conference at HKU: held for the first time within the German Programme at HKU involving scholars from Germany, Mainland China and Hong Kong. During the public keynote lectures, very stimulating discussions about current issues of the discipline took place, such as innovative initiatives for promoting German as a foreign language in local schools in Hong Kong; how the refugee crisis in Germany affects foreign language didactic methods; educational reforms in China and their impacts on the professional development programme for German teachers, as well as the career prospects of German graduates and opportunities for international collaboration in research and teaching between the three participating universities.



# Impacts Achieved (2)

## a) Impact on Local Secondary Schools and Students

- Enhancement of experiential learning and empowerment through new language and intercultural competency with positive results of surveys collected by 1301 secondary school students:

### KE Workshops

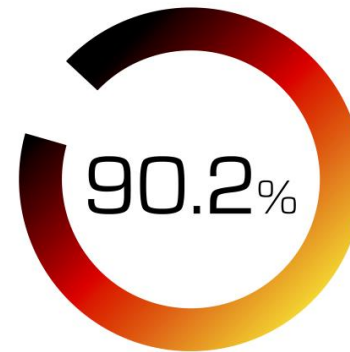
98.7% Helped me to understand German culture



96.5% Increased my interest in learning German



91.0% Inspired me to pursue further learning in German



**Will join future  
KE Workshops**

# Impacts Achieved (3)

## a) Impact on Local Secondary Schools and Students

- German as a formal elective subject:
  - Sacred Heart Canossian College is the first Hong Kong local school to be admitted into the PASCH network (a global network of more than 1,500 schools that place a high value on German; initiated by the Federal Foreign Office the Goethe-Institut and the German Academic Exchange Service) in 2009, which signified a great leap forward towards Hong Kong being part of the worldwide German learning network
  - Numerous students of Sacred Heart Canossian College have achieved excellent results with "A\*" in IGCSE German and "A with distinction" in As Level German since 2009

# Impacts Achieved (4)

## b) Impact on Hong Kong Educational System

- Support Hong Kong educational system by providing secondary school students with opportunities of learning a new foreign language and culture with recognition as "Other Learning Experience" for "Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education" curriculum
- Developed a sustainable project by fostering long-term partnerships with four local schools which have adopted the German language subject as an "Other Learning Experience" since the launch of the KE project in 2014: "Sacred Heart Canossian College", "La Salle College", "St. Paul's Co-educational College" and "PLKC Li Shiu Chung Memorial College"

# Impacts Achieved (5)

## b) Impact on Hong Kong Educational System

- Developed German as a formal elective subject within the secondary curriculum: Increased offerings of German courses at secondary school level have been undertaken across a wide social spectrum of secondary schools in Hong Kong with "Sacred Heart Canossian College" since 2009 and "La Salle College" since 2017 and "St. Paul's Convent College" in June 2018. Two additional schools including "St. Paul's Co-educational College" and "PLKC Li Shiu Chung Memorial College" demonstrate a keen interest in offering German at their schools
- Adopted as a best practice model and successful blueprint for future projects involving the teaching of German in Hong Kong:
  - Organizing further KE workshops in collaboration with Goethe-Institut Hong Kong in November 2018



# Impacts Achieved (6)

## c) Impact on Wider Local Community and German Communities in Hong Kong

- Raised public awareness, interest and knowledge of learning German and understanding German culture through talks and workshops
- Benefited German communities through promotion of positive images of Germany and appreciation of German culture and heritage

## d) International Impact

- Reached out to a wide social spectrum of students across Hong Kong local and international schools: Top-tier direct-subsidy schools; Government-aided schools; International schools in Hong Kong and Mainland China
- Incorporation of German as a formal elective subject which leads to IGCSE and AS Level German has positive impact on the international curriculum and enables local secondary school students (as opposed to only international schools) to achieve internationally recognised certificates
- Public lectures at the international conference "German as Foreign Language through Cross-cultural Perspectives" with scholars from Germany, Hong Kong and Mainland China: valuable key findings of the KE project have been presented to the wider community, benefitting cross-cultural and further intercultural communication

# Foreseeable Future Plans

- Support further collaboration between HKU and a wide spectrum of local secondary schools in Hong Kong and Mainland China
- Long-term partnerships with all interested secondary-schools through
  - OLE in HKDSE curriculum
  - CAS (Creativity, Activity, Service) initiative for local and international schools with IB (International Baccalaureate) Diploma Program
  - German as a formal elective to achieve IGCSE and AS Level German
- Continue strengthening partnerships with institutions in Mainland China and worldwide for joint projects which have greater social significances
- Collaboration with German universities in developing dual degree programmes for German teachers in secondary schools qualifying in both regions which would enable Hong Kong to be at the forefront of German language development in Asia