

GIS at 25!

On Saturday 8th May, the Government and International Studies department had the final one of four events dedicate to celebrating the 25th anniversary of the department. Government and International Studies was created in 1994, and it is one of the most distinctive departments in Asia. The meeting was in part Alumni reunion, in part introduction for our current students to alumni, external friends and stakeholders and in part engagement with fundamental issues that go beyond academia. The day was sponsored by Facebook Hong Kong and Asia.

The gathering brought together friends, stakeholders, alumni and current students of GIS. The initial welcomes were delivered by the Consul Generals of Germany (Mr Dieter Lamlé) and France (Mr Alexandre Giorgini) and the Head of the European Union office for Hong Kong and Macao (Mr Thomas Gnocchi). Three Heads then provided their own perspectives on past, current and future challenges for the department: Professor Richard Balme (Head from 2003-2006, now at Sciences Po Paris), Professor Jean-Pierre Cabestan (Head from 2006-2018) and Professor Alistair Cole, the current head.

The third Act consisted of testimonies from a range of alumni, both online and in vivo. We thank each alumnus for their precious comments.

The day finished with a Roundtable discussion on *Public Policy, Governance and Internationalisation in the Era of Digitalisation*, comprising a Question and Answer session moderated by George Chen and Facebook and chaired by Professor Cole. Participants included: Mr Wing Chung Law, former Political Assistant to John Tsang (former Financial Secretary), now an independent public affairs consultant; Ms Winnie Chan, former policy analyst in the HKSAR Government, currently working on a Global Fintech research project; Ms Yishu Chen, a Research Officer working for the International Monetary Fund; Ms Jessie Huang, working in the field of Innovation and social entrepreneurship; Mr Joshua Fung, District Councillor and Mr Owen Wong, now in the British Consulate in Hong Kong.

Professor Alistair Cole, Head of Department, announced the forthcoming creation of an alumni association / Our thanks go to all involved