

## **Opening speech for HKU Wu Zhi Qiao Programme 2019 on April 3**

Draft of Ms Ki' speech (3 mins) :

Professor Holliday, Hayson, Parry, Chris, Stephen, Prof Tseng and fellow students,

I am most grateful to Prof Ian Holliday who took 13 faculty staff to visit WZQ MaCha Project in year 2017. He came back with the insight to take WZQ as a basis for a 6 credits experiential learning program.

Our colleagues led by Stephen, who is our Program Leader, and volunteer Prof Tseng took the challenge and developed a comprehensive program from Metropolitan BJ to Ancient City Xian and to rural MaCha Village in Gansu, with contents of culture, architecture, environment to humanity. With the collaboration between HKU Horizon and WuZhi Qiao, we have a humble start of 19 students in our launch year. They got out of their comfort zone and have a full month of learning, friendship with Mainland students and an experience that cannot be found from classrooms, books or elsewhere.

This year, the HKU-WZQ Program has recruited an optimum number of 34 local students. It is a great task for our colleagues and professors and the supporting staff from HKU. But we promise to make it an unique learning experience for you.

WZQ means building bridges. We bridge points to points like the actual crossings. But our ultimate goal is to bridge and connect people. We build heart bridges. We hope you make friends with your peer groups in China for better understanding and empathy, and to enrich your life and expand your network.

I wish you a meaningful, memorable and knowledge packed study trip in July.

Lastly, thank you again Ian, Hayson, Stephen, Professor Tseng for making it happen. Parry, welcome on board!

Thank you all for participating!