



Rebecca Chan

Applying for Globalization Director

General Information:

Candidate's Name: **Rebecca Chan**
Current Institution: **City University of Hong Kong**
Current Job Title: **Director of Student Residence Office**
Executive Position Applying: **Globalization Director**

1. Please list the job positions, professional development activities and other qualifications which positions you for the position for which you are applying.

I am currently the Director of Student Residence in City University of Hong Kong. City University of Hong Kong locates right in the city center of Hong Kong, China and was first started as a commuting institution. I was one of the key staff that spearheaded the student residence project in year 2000 when the university successfully obtained government support in building residential halls after recognizing the educational impact of residential life that can bring to students. Ten years from then, we now have 3,000 students living on-campus and will expand to 3,700 in two years' time.

I have a degree in social work and a master degree in public administration. Born and educated in Hong Kong, I started my career in youth services in Hong Kong and had worked overseas (in Toronto, Canada) for five years in a neighborhood community center, before I ventured into the student affairs profession in higher education. "Think Globally, Act Locally" is one of my mottos. I embrace diverse cultures and have a strong belief that internationalization brings understanding and peace to all.

2. As an Executive Board member, what unique strengths and attributes will you bring to the Executive Board and how will you benefit from the opportunity to serve?

To make the ACUHO-I a leading international organization, the representation and participation from different countries or regions should be widened and enhanced. In the region that I reside and work in, there are existing professional networks and it is strategic for ACUHO-I to tap into these networks and develop strategic alliance and collaboration "from within". In November 2009, I accompanied the Globalization Director Ana Hernandez and Executive Director Sallie Traxler to attend a housing conference in Zhuhai, China. Out from this connection, ACUHO-I is now in touch with the National Association of Real Estate Development in Higher Education of China and a better platform has been created for more professional linkage between ACUHO-I and the mainland Chinese colleagues.

I believe this "from within" approach can be adopted in other regions one after one or simultaneously. Based on a careful analysis of existing membership and an intentional strategy in building relationships, the diversity of ACUHO-I membership and international collaboration will flourish in a short period of time.

I would definitely benefit from the opportunity to serve in the Executive Board. There is a Chinese saying that "there must be a master within a group of three". I look forward to engaging with and learning from

a group of committed and talented individuals with diverse cultures and different backgrounds who share the same vision in education and with a heart for our younger generations.

3. List previous ACUHO-I, regional housing association, community services, or other professional association experiences and leadership opportunities you have been involved with that would make you a strong candidate for the Executive Board.

I have been associating with the Hong Kong Student Services Association and served as the Honorary Treasurer and Vice-President in different terms. I led the City University of Hong Kong in joining the ACUHO-I in year 2003 and became the first member university in the region to join the international association. Since then, I have attended three annual conferences and one conference cum study tour with the Australian ACUHO. I have also been assisting ACUHO-I in extending her networks in the region. I served as the ACUHO-I's International Task Force member in year 2006 and was the key organizer of the first Global Housing Summit in Hong Kong in January 2009.

4. Describe the role you believe ACUHO-I should play in serving the needs of the international collegiate housing profession.

The fundamental mission of ACUHO-I is to provide a platform for timely information sharing and communication. Members should be enlightened with information of what is going on in the other side of the globe, over time and over political changes or major reforms. Members should be sensitized to note that what is happening in one particular country/ region will have an impact on the rest of the world, sooner or later. The SARS or the recent influenza pandemic is a typical example. Fluid communication will help us to identify trends and stay proactive.

The second level would be creating networks and fellowship across geographical borders and cultures. There are no new things under the sun. When we are stuck with some issues, colleagues in other countries may have found the solutions well before, or our associates in other cultures may be able to bring new perspectives. And the feeling of you are not alone is very important in this fast paced profession.

The third level would be professional development and research. Rocks can be refined as jade given the opportunity and the time for polishing. Facilitating the professional growth of the members in the student housing industry is very instrumental. Further development will also need to be evidence based and data driven. ACUHO-I will be in a best position to incubate large scale or comparative researches across countries.