

# Education



## Best of three

A new Executive Master of Business Administration program will offer unrivaled insights from a triumvirate of premier business schools in leading financial centers, writes **Kapila Bandara**

**A**NOTHER GRADUATE MANAGEMENT degree muscled in on the crowded space for management education in Hong Kong yesterday, with the launch of an Executive Master of Business Administration program that will lead to a joint award from three leading universities in global financial capitals New York, London and Hong Kong.

Columbia Business School and London Business School announced the EMBA Global Asia, which will begin in May next year with 50 participants, in partnership with the University of Hong Kong Business School.

Victor Fung Kwok-king, HKU council chairman, said yesterday, that participants "will be extremely sought-after students," noting that the program will be available from "three financial

centers that dominate their time zones."

Ethan Hanabury, associate dean of EMBA programs at Columbia Business School at Columbia University in New York, said a "part of the program will be delivered in the HKU facility in Shanghai."

Professor Gary Biddle, dean of the Faculty of Business and Economics at HKU, said the program "combines the top three universities of the top three business cities of the world."

Besides, it offers participants the "most connected network in the world," he noted, referring to the alumni connections the program promises.

Seminars and assignments will also take participants to other locations of the world,



Professor Gary Biddle, dean of the Faculty of Business and Economics, HKU, left, Anne Sandford, program director, Sloan and Executive MBA programs, London Business School, Victor Fung, council chairman, HKU, Professor Richard Wong, deputy vice-chancellor, HKU, Ethan Hanabury, associate dean, Executive MBA programs, Columbia Business School, and Dr Peter Fong, director, EMBA and Executive programs, at HKU, launch the program yesterday in Hong Kong.

extending the connections further. Electives in the program could take participants to China, India, South America and elsewhere.

Citing HKU heavyweights among principal officials in Hong Kong, Prof Biddle said 12 of the ministers "are HKU alumni."

Pointing to a distinct advantage of the program, Columbia's Hanabury insisted that the "scale of electives" means that "we offer more electives than any other course in the world."

Anne Sandford, program director, Sloan and Executive MBA programs at London Business

School, said the 20-month EMBA Global Asia has been designed for "high-potential," people with management responsibilities.

She said potential participants could begin applying now for next year's intake, adding that those with at least 10 years' business experience from different backgrounds would be sought after.

Prof Biddle said companies would be asked to sponsor participants.

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