



One -on- One

Trinity Today
meets **Rosa Chan, B.A.**
(1994), Chairperson
of the Irish Chamber
of Commerce in
Hong Kong

Describe yourself in three words?

That's never an easy
one to answer but I think my family and
friends would say **DRIVEN, OUTGOING**
and **KIND-HEARTED.**

Tell us about your route to Trinity.

I was born in Hong Kong, my family moved to Dublin when I was young and we settled in Malahide. From a very young age I knew I wanted to study at Trinity and when it came to filling out my CAO form, it was all Trinity! I was delighted when I got my first choice, BESS. I remember I was so proud and so were my parents. I had set a high example for my two younger sisters, who also went to Trinity. I feel that Trinity has instilled in me a strong sense of integrity and a desire for lifelong learning. I've always felt it was a catalyst to go anywhere in the world.

Where did your Trinity degree take you?

I was recruited straight into UBS from Trinity where I worked in the Treasury department. During my rotation and training at UBS I had the opportunity to work in London, Singapore and Zurich and given my background, I eventually settled in Hong Kong. I went on to work in investment banking in RBS, Barclays and other European banks. I was very lucky to have caught a great cycle and was able to witness and experience some of the greatest and most exciting markets.

How did you become Chairperson of the Irish Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong?

I originally got involved with the Chamber through my connections with Trinity. I went to one of the very first meetings of the Chamber of Commerce and felt at home right away when I learned that there were many Irish people in Hong Kong. And that coincided with the setting up of the first ever Irish Consulate in Hong Kong. For someone who is from Hong Kong but grew up in Ireland, I felt that I had something unique to offer and I immediately wanted to help and get involved. In 2017, I was elected the Chairperson of the Chamber. It is a great honour to be appointed, particularly as I am the first female and Chinese person to take on this role.

What are your ambitions as Chairperson?

Hong Kong has always been very international, and China has become a global player, and I want to create and strengthen the links between Ireland and this part of the world. The role is very far reaching, we look for opportunities to open channels for investment, education, exports and imports between Hong Kong and Ireland. We go out to Chinese and Asian corporations to talk about Ireland, to sell the great business environment that exists in Ireland. There is so much to offer. We need to switch on to the fact that Hong Kong is a market open to Ireland. There are great opportunities for investment with its low corporate tax rate, vibrant and educated workforce and quality produce, to name a few.

What opportunities do you see in the coming year?

The first direct flight has been launched between Hong Kong and Dublin operated by Cathay Pacific. Hong Kong now has a direct gateway to Ireland, and Ireland to Hong Kong. This is a huge opportunity for the transit of cargo for trading, exports and imports between the two countries, and Hong Kong can act as the Asian stopover for further international access.