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Dear Members of the iSchools Community,

Over the past two years, it has been an immense pleasure to collaborate with you while serving as your chair.

Being the first person from the Asia-Pacific region elected to this position, I knew from the start that I wanted to do whatever I could to further promote and develop the iSchool movement on a global scale. My time as chair-elect ended up centering around 14 visits to various universities in Malaysia, China, Taiwan, Sweden, Hong Kong, and Thailand. As chair, I was fortunate enough to go on 24 more of these trips, interacting firsthand with institutions in China, the U.K., Thailand, New Zealand, Australia, Malaysia, and Brazil (including a 10-day trip to Sao Paulo to conduct a workshop for iSchool Day in South America). I count on the iField having a transformative effect in these areas.

AP-Chair Miguel Nunes significantly contributed to my visits to China, as do the great institutions that did me the honor of extending their invitations and hospitality. One of the most rewarding aspects of my time as chair has been watching the majority of the places that I visited both apply for and gain iSchools membership. They may be some of the newest additions to the roster, but these schools have already taught me so much about how to take stock of our strengths and weaknesses and diversify our programs accordingly. The friendships and the intellectual exchange built around our broadening network will continue to enrich and enliven the iField as a whole.

As chair, I launched three iSchool Curricula Committees: 1) Data Science, 2) Digital Humanities, and 3) Data Curation. Each committee has a stand-out team of scholars and professionals hard at work on formulating a well-defined statement as to the distinctive approaches and responsibilities of the iSchools in these fields.

While all good things must come to an end, these ends at times bring us one step closer to even better things only just begun. I am exceptionally fortunate to have the immensely talented and forward-thinking Gobinda Chowdhury taking over as iSchools chair, a transition which promises nothing but new and exciting developments as we continue to strengthen ties with our South American chapter and reach out to African and Middle Eastern regions. Alongside Gobinda, Chair-Elect Diane Kelly will no doubt fine-tune our leadership to be more responsive to the changes which come with interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary cooperation, even as we remain firmly committed to bolstering our core values.

What a privilege it has been to work with our executive director Michael Seadle, who not only nominated me for the position of chair but also ensured that every point of business during my tenure proceeded as smoothly and efficiently as possible. We together were able to streamline our governance structure, reaching 110 members from 30 countries and diversity in our leadership. I am also greatly indebted to Ron Larsen, who, as past chair, provided me with invaluable advice that evened out what would otherwise have been a steep learning curve. My

deepest gratitude goes to the executive committee and the board of directors for their support and significant role in developing the iSchool movement.

This speech would not be complete without mentioning my great mentor and advisor Michael Eisenberg, who contributed significantly to starting the School movement and provided much needed passion and rigor.

I very much look forward to seeing what the future holds for us. It is my dearest wish that the iSchools will become truly international in every sense of the word, and that we will be able to fundraise and generate other revenue besides our dues in the effort to make a positive impact with those who need it most.

I thank you for the faith which you have placed in me over the years and hope that what little I have managed to achieve as chair may end up at least half as meaningful as your support has been to me. I will continue to do my utmost to ensure the ongoing success of the iSchool movement across the globe.

In closing, I would like to express our gratitude to the University of Borås and Oslo Metropolitan University for their tireless work in organizing and ensuring the success of the 2020 iConference in spite of the challenges posed by the outbreaks. We are also deeply indebted to all those who came forward to give hands in hosting the virtual sessions and meetings.

Once again, thank you for all those whose virtual attendance will enrich the 2020 iConference and bring truly transformative contributions to our digital world. Our deepest sympathy goes to those who are suffering from the current outbreaks.

Sincerely yours,

Sam Oh