

The Open Forum 2

Our Theme – “LSCOBA Global Network”

The Goal:

“Reconnect all the old boys worldwide and contribute together for the betterment of LSC and the Old Boys community”

This web-based pre-conference forum is in preparation for the December 9th World Conference to be held during the Global Reunion. The main objective of this forum is to solicit opinion from Old Boys worldwide on the subject of the proposed establishment of an OBA Global Network (GN) or any other alternatives to achieve the above goal. It also provides opportunities for:

- “Active Participation” - provide every old boy a chance to participate in the discussion on the subject stated above.
- “Consensus Building” – consolidate a variety of opinions and to evaluate proposals to establish a communication platform to reconnect old boys from all over the world.
- “Future Direction” – a summary of the discussions shall be tabled for the upcoming World Conference and serve as the foundation to define future plans in achieving our goals.

In addition, the GN so created, if deemed appropriate and in such a form accepted by the majority of the Old Boys could also serve to build a direct link between current students and the global Old Boys community.

The Protocol:

This web-based Forum will serve as the instrument to allow all old boys to share their thoughts in an open, friendly and constructive environment. To ensure and maximize the efficiency of this instrument, a set of posting courtesy code has been developed along with the defined roles and responsibilities of the moderator team. The web team is requesting the cooperation from all participants to strictly observe the LSCOBA website “Terms of Use” (www.lscoba.com/termsfuse.html) as well as the Forum guidelines listed below:

Posting Courtesy Code:

1. There is no right or wrong opinion and everybody is entitled to their own opinion.
2. Be focused and constructive to the purpose of the dialogue topic
3. Be considerate and respect the viewpoints of others.
4. Be accountable for your own opinions and statements.
5. Address and debate on issues relating to the topic, not on person or persons
6. Make the point and avoid being argumentative

7. Avoid just voicing your disagreements, reinforce your viewpoint with suggestions that help to resolve your concerns.

Forum Management – Roles and Responsibilities

The LSCOPA IT Subcom and Webteam

- To provide IT coordination and technical support for the Forums
- To maintain the forums to ensure that they function properly.

The Moderating Team

- To obtain and summarize feedbacks from the forums for the World Conference
- To manage and monitor the activities on the forum to ensure that dialogues are exchanged in accordance with the LSCOPA website “Terms of Use” and the Posting Courtesy Code set forth.

The Individual Moderator

- Support the moderating team in carrying out its daily functions and responsibilities
- Perform the assigned duties set forth for each moderator, including:
 - (a) Daily visit to an assigned sub-topic
 - (b) Maintain discipline and conduct based on the courtesy code set forth
 - (c) Report all misconducts and irrelevant postings to the LSCOPA webteam to take necessary actions
 - (d) Whenever possible, encourage constructive discussions
 - (e) Relay daily queries to the Forum work team for summary and
 - (f) Present an overall summary of all queries, opinions and suggestions to the World Conference.

The Format for Forum 2

In order to facilitate discussions effectively, Forum 2 will be divided into 4 sub-areas, each focused on a specific sub-topic. A team of moderators will be assigned to each sub-area to manage and monitor the postings and to enforce the courtesy code – with the goal to ensure that:

- A friendly environment is maintained
- All relevant inputs which conform to the “Terms of Use” of the LSCOPA website are posted without being edited and in its original form,
- The dialogues are constructive and within the context of the subject matter

The four sub-areas and their respective sub-topics are listed below:

1. Needs for and purposes of an OBA Global Network

2. *Possible Frameworks for establishing a communication platform of such an OBA Global Network*
3. *Potential benefits and pitfalls of such an OBA Global Network*
4. *Other relevant discussions*

Sub-topic 1 – “Needs for and purposes of an OBA Global Network

For the past 75 years, La Salle College has made tremendous positive impacts to the lives of many Hong Kong students like us. While the vast majority of us still resides in Hong Kong, many have left for a variety of reasons. The La Salle College Old Boys’ Association (LSCOBA) has provided a link for all of us to stay in touch with our Alma Mater and our former schoolmates worldwide.

With the advent of advanced technologies and innovations in communication, the Old Boys communities around the world can now communicate instantaneously and effectively while creating new opportunities for resource sharing and support.

How can we capitalize on these opportunities?

Sub-topic 2 – “Possible Frameworks for establishing a communication platform of such an OBA Global Network”

In order to define the most suitable communication platform for the global network, it becomes necessary for us to understand how old boys communicate today and determine if we can enhance the options and processes. The LSCOBA in Hong Kong is the largest (in membership) and most established (historically and in functionality) and has maintained the most direct and closest relationship with our mother school.

In addition to LSCOBA, OBA “chapters” have also been formed around the world in Shanghai, Singapore, Vancouver, San Francisco Bay Area, Southern California (Los Angeles), Edmonton, Toronto, New York and the U.K.. There are also many old boys scattered in different parts of the world, who are not members of any of the “chapters”.

Whether it is a formal chapter or an informal local group, the nature of the network is localized, geographical based and their functions are predominately social. The LSCOBA website is the only current platform which provides linkage between various websites of overseas chapters and is the official communication channel to connect all Old Boys worldwide.

What other alternatives are the best ways to reconnect all the old boys with LSCOBA?

Sub-topic 3 – “Potential benefits and pitfalls of such an OBA Global Network”

La Salle College has always been recognized as one of the most prestigious schools in Hong Kong, with numerous old boys becoming successful entrepreneurs and outstanding professionals in Hong Kong and many parts of the world. A considerable number of old boys studying or living outside Hong Kong, are still very much attached to their LaSallian experiences and memories that have become a vital part of their lives.

So, what are the potential benefits and pitfalls of having such an OBA Global Network?

Sub-topic 4 – “Discussion on any other relevant subjects”

- Topic – *Please be specific on the subject matters*
- Key Messages – *Please be specific and highlight the key points of your message*