Martijn ten Bhömer——澳门大学

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June 27, 2026

Re: Letter of Support for Professor Eng Gee Lim

Dear Members of the Review Committee,

I am writing in support of the teaching achievement led by Professor Eng Gee Lim at Xi'an Jiaotong-Liverpool University (XJTLU).

My support rests on first-hand experience. Before joining the University of Macau, I worked for several years in the School of Advanced Technology at XJTLU, under Professor Lim's leadership, where I was involved in teaching and student development across industrial design, mechatronics, robotics, and related interdisciplinary areas. During this period I gained direct and in-depth experience of the integrated interdisciplinary and cross-cultural teaching platform that he built.

In fields such as smart textiles, wearable technology, and interaction design, a complete project involves design, engineering, computing, materials, and the health sciences, and training from a single discipline is no longer sufficient to prepare students for it. Professor Lim's achievement responds to this directly. I would highlight three features in particular. First, the School opened courses, laboratories, and project resources across design, engineering, computing, and intelligent technologies, so that students and academics collaborated around shared problems rather than within separate programme boundaries. Second, it established a model of joint supervision by Chinese and international academics, giving students access to different scholarly traditions within a single project. Third, it treated disciplinary and cultural difference as an educational resource, with students from diverse backgrounds learning to define problems, discuss solutions, and develop prototypes together. In my experience this combination was pioneering within the field.

In mixed teams, design students focused on user experience and communication, while students from engineering and computing contributed technical implementation and testing. This collaboration has produced work recognised well beyond the University. Recent examples include the Best Poster Award at the ACM Conference on Interactive Surfaces and Spaces (ISS 2025), won by students from the School; an iF Design Award in the student category, won by a team of industrial design and engineering students; and a provincial first prize and a national third prize in the China-US Young Maker Competition, also from a mixed design and engineering team. Recognition of this kind, from mixed design and engineering teams, shows that the platform enables students to produce results neither discipline could have achieved alone.

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I can also speak to the achievement's wider influence, because I have applied it in my own work. At the University of Macau, where I am developing new courses within our Master and Doctoral programmes in industrial design, I have used the same interdisciplinary and cross-cultural model: students investigate real problems in health, everyday life, and society, and collaborate with students and academics in engineering, computing, materials, and health-related fields. That the approach transferred to a different institution, city, and educational system shows it can be adopted beyond its origin.

Above all, the achievement serves the central purpose of higher education: it produces graduates who can work across disciplines and cultures. I strongly recommend it, and would be glad to provide any further information the Committee may require.

Yours sincerely,

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