

## Preface

What actually is creativity? And what contributes to its conceptualization and development?

For decades, these and other questions have fascinated researchers, educators, parents and laymen alike, and equally so in the East and West. The present collection of chapters is a continuous attempt in answering and exploring the above questions from both Eastern and Western perspectives. Readers may find some answers satisfactory, whereas others bewildering. This is in fact the reality of creativity research and education. And we hope readers will share the joy of reading such a road map.

In 2001, the Center for Child Development of the Hong Kong Baptist University celebrated its 10th anniversary which led to a series of distinguished events. One of the highlights was the Second International Symposium on Child Development — “Creativity: A Moment of Aha!” — held at the Hong Kong Baptist University from June 26 to 28 in 2001. The symposium brought international renowned scholars in the area of creativity to Hong Kong and attracted about 300 local and overseas participants to take part in seven pre-conference workshops and 50 presentations. It offered useful and unique opportunity for educators, parents and community professionals from all disciplines to exchange and discuss views on creativity development and enhancement of children, adolescents, families, schools and community.

The Symposium was a treasured experience for all participants, in particular, the speakers and presenters. To outlive the event, two publication projects on creativity in Chinese and English respectively were initiated. Speakers and presenters were invited to contribute papers from their own professional perspectives, which account for eleven of the book chapters. We are also honored to have several scholars who

could not join the Symposium but contribute to this work and add to its fullness. This explains the birth of this volume.

We would like to thank all the authors for their concerted and persevering efforts. We also owe debts to sundry paper reviewers who squeezed time from their tight schedules to give invaluable advice to the authors as well as the editors. We hope that this volume will inspire readers to rethink the essence of creativity in the East and the West and to make further contribution to the topic.