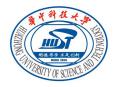
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March 30, 2020 Professor Maurizio Oliviero Rector The University of Perugia

Dear Professor Maurizio Oliviero,

On behalf of Huazhong University of Science and Technology (HUST), I sincerely hope this letter finds you and the extended university community in good health and strong spirits, as the novel coronavirus pneumonia is now unfortunately spreading globally. We at HUST in Wuhan, China share our heartfelt concerns and are fully aware how difficult this extraordinary time must be for your university and your country.

In time of crisis, we need strong partners by our side. With effective coping measures and nationwide solidarity, substantial progress in disease control in China has already emerged.

We are truly sorry to know that the number of confirmed cases of COVID-19 is still on the rise in Italy. But I believe your university will eventually weather this storm with your excellent university management and maturing service system. With our up-to-date experience in dealing with the disease, we are willing to offer possible assistance as well as to build up collaborations in prevention and treatment of the disease together. So if there is anything we can do to help, please do not hesitate to let me know. My colleagues and I would be glad and proud to stand by our Perugia friends in this crisis.

The University of Perugia is our much valued partner and we are determined to build on the momentum already achieved. We strive to tackle the pandemic with you in a concerted manner. When the virus is managed through globally, I would like to invite you and our friends in Italy to visit our forest-like campus in Wuhan, hopefully to open a new chapter of our burgeoning relationship.

With best wishes,

Professor LI Yuanyuan

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President

Huazhong University of Science and Technology