



14 April 2025

To whom it may concern

Re: Recommendation for Kevin Mandira Limanta to attend the Hong Kong Laureate Forum 2025

I am writing to recommend my colleague Dr Kevin Mandira Limanta to be selected to attend the Hong Kong Laureate Forum 2025 as a young scientist. I have known Kevin since 2017 when he was a Masters student at UNSW. More recently, he has been my colleague in the School of Mathematics and Statistics at UNSW Sydney whom I work very closely with. I am an HKLF alumni myself. I attended the inaugural HKLF as a young scientist.

Kevin strikes me as someone with very strong interpersonal and communication skills both in academic and non-academic settings. This is coupled with his deeply reflective nature which makes Kevin not only someone who asks meaningful questions but also someone who is a very good listener. This pushes Kevin to get to know a wide diversity of mathematicians and scientists in general, particularly those in areas of science that are further from his own area or those who are in different career stages.

I believe that the broad perspectives that Kevin has gained over the years has shaped his appreciation for the importance of engaging with aspects of academia beyond research for the betterment of the discipline. He is always very eager to contribute to teaching, service and outreach with a particular focus on helping people who come from backgrounds where exposure to the mathematical landscape is less likely such as people in his home country of Indonesia. However, I am very confident that these broad perspectives will also serve him and the community well when engaging with people in other sciences, something which I think is particularly important for the HKLF with its unique mix of disciplines.

Kevin's strengths that I have highlighted, which no doubt make for a young scientist suitable to absorb inspiration from the HKLF setting, are demonstrated through all his undertakings as an academic mathematician. One example that comes to mind is his podcast *Monoid* where he interviews mathematicians from Indonesia about their experiences in mathematics. The line of questioning he chooses to go through in his interviews is very suited to the type of questions that we would hope young scientists at HKLF to ask the laureates and other attendees. I personally know some Indonesian undergraduate students studying at UNSW whose relationship with mathematics has been greatly shaped by the conversations he has had on this podcast.

Another setting where this is demonstrated is in his classroom teaching and involvement in teaching administration which is always focused on not only imparting knowledge and skills but also building virtues in students that allow them to become better mathematicians. He works with students holistically, making them comfortable in working with him. A particular role Kevin has where this approach of his is particularly suitable is in his role as the Examinations Coordinator for our undergraduate students who require equitable learning provisions due to some disability, either physical or cognitive.

It is for these reasons that I recommend Kevin for the HKLF very strongly and without hesitation. My personal experiences with Kevin, coupled with my experience at the HKLF,

have made me extremely confident that Kevin will make the most of what HKLF has to offer and will go on to share the insights gained from the HKLF with people outside the HKLF community. He will not doubt contribute towards creating the time and space that HKLF provides to young researchers a more meaningful and inclusive one while also sharing some of his own unique insights and perspectives with the HKLF community.

If you have any further questions about Kevin or my recommendation, please do not hesitate to contact me at the email address below. Thank you for your kind attention and consideration.

Sincerely,

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