

Council Chairman, President, distinguished guests, students, ladies and gentlemen,

It is indeed a great personal honour to receive this honorary degree from Lingnan University. More so, it is a distinct privilege to have been given the opportunity to address this congregation on behalf of my fellow graduates. I sincerely hope that I would not fail in adequately expressing your appreciation and gratitude.

The true honour for today, however, belongs to you the graduates, and to your parents, family and teachers – as well as many others – whose love, encouragement and faith have enabled you to become thinking and thoughtful adults. I am delighted to share this special occasion with all of you.

I would like to start by congratulating all the graduates on whom degrees are being bestowed today. You have earned the congratulations and good wishes of all for the ability and dedication you have shown in completing your degrees.

Whatever the discipline and irrespective of the knowledge and skills you may have gained, the conferment of a degree should be symbolic of the growth and development of you as a person to be more knowledgeable, confident, tolerant, resilient, ethical and caring.

And may we wish you every success and happiness in your future careers.

To Lingnan University, thank you for your commitment and unceasing efforts in bringing up and preparing our youth for their future endeavours and standing up to the challenges in life. And to Professor Charles Kwong, thank you very much for your kind words and comments about myself and my work.

This year – marks the 33rd year of myself qualified to practise as a solicitor, and the 35th year since I started to work!

I was born and raised here. I received all my education and professional training here in Hong Kong. Like a lot of my contemporaries, I sailed through the highly competitive environment in Hong Kong and worked through the system step by step.

Hong Kong has given me a lot – a good family, a good education, a rewarding career in my legal practice, lots of opportunities, good friends and associates. But most important of all, a good set of values, and a fair and just system. Hong Kong has always been and will always be my Home.

I could have never said enough to thank Hong Kong for what it has done for me and what it has given me.

I have been blessed with the opportunities to work for real impact on the community and in the lives of those around me. These have also given me the honour of receiving the degree which your University is conferring on me today. However, there are lots of people in Hong Kong putting in their efforts and resources towards building and developing the community. They are volunteering their time and energy towards serving the others and helping those who are in need. Some of them have, for years, been collaborating with me in the efforts to serve the community, for whom I am receiving this much treasured recognition and with whom I would like to share this distinct honour.

Ladies & gentlemen, this, in my submission, is one of the uniqueness of Hong Kong leading to its fast growth and tremendous success in the past few decades. And I sincerely hope that this would continue to subsist in Hong Kong for many decades to come.

However, it is not without tremendous challenge as our younger generation is assuming work hours which would make it almost impossible for them to serve the community even if they have a heart to do so. In fact it is most worrying to see the uneven work-life balance which is depriving our youth of a more balanced and meaningful life.

A lot of times, people I met said to me:

'I want a life like yours. One where I don't have to battle every day to get the basic things done. A life where I can do the fun things in life, not just bump along the bottom all the time.'

Besides being thankful to our Heavenly Father for His Grace, Guidance and Blessings and for providing for all that I need in life, I would like to share with all of you the experience I gained throughout the years, and that is one's life is what one chooses it to be. Our lives are in fact what we want them to be.

Ladies & gentlemen, no matter what path you take in life, remember that you have the opportunity every day, every moment to invent the future you want.

Let me share with you the wisdom of two great persons:

Benjamin Disraeli, a former Prime Minister of England, said
“The secret of success in life is for a man to be ready for his opportunity when it comes.”

Colin Powell, former Secretary of State, U.S.A., said
“There are no secrets to success. It is the result of preparation, hard work, and learning from failure.”

So we must be prepared to work hard and be ready for the opportunities in life when they appear.

Our desire to do better will definitely be the motivating force in our continual quest for improvement. And lifelong learning and education would get us ready for the opportunities when they come.

Education is definitely the key to bring about personal success and prosperity for the community. In recent years there have been a lot of efforts directed towards alleviation of poverty. But suffice for me to say nothing falling short of a good education for everyone in the community would be a sustainable solution.

The importance of education cannot be overemphasised in the knowledge-based economy of today's world. Hong Kong's most precious commodity will always be the diligence and brain power of its workforce.

Significant new trends continue to shape both the global and our domestic economy. The modern world is experiencing continuous dramatic change. The significant dimensions of this change include the increased pace of globalisation, the emergence of new technologies and the increasing importance of knowledge as a defining factor in a country's performance. In particular, knowledge accumulation and its application lie at the core of a country's competitive advantage in the global economy.

To compete effectively in the more challenging global marketplace that we face today, it will require significant investment in human capital. This is to enable the work force to deliver superior high value-added products and services and adopt advanced business practices so as to ultimately realize the strategic goals. This trend has become important for all sectors in the economy. To support and sustain these developments, the education system must evolve so as to meet these new demands.

The key to this process is thus to be able to adapt to the new environment. As Charles Darwin observed, "It is not the strongest", "nor the most intelligent that survive," but those that are "the most responsive to change." It is this capability that needs to be cultivated to ensure a mobile and agile work force that can adjust and respond to the emerging developments in the changing environment.

Ladies & gentlemen, it is only through quality education that Hong Kong can nurture future leaders to steer its development and groom responsible citizens to contribute to its continual prosperity and stability.

With its strategic positioning in the region, Hong Kong has also the strength and opportunity to be the leader in providing quality education for grooming regional leaders of tomorrow.

Hong Kong is already a regional education centre. However, it has to foster its strength and coordinate its resources better in order to capture its leadership position and consolidate its position as a regional hub for higher education.

Our higher education system must be capable and able to assist and guide students of all nations to a wider, deeper, more analytical and creative intellectual state.

We must remember that the acquisition of knowledge is part of higher education, but only a part – the intellectual, social, and cultural developments that occur while great minds are being nurtured in universities are of equal importance.

Our current system can be viewed as a success; maybe a tad too much attention to rote learning and examination results. Perhaps what Hong Kong need is to encourage more creativity and freethinking in universities.

If Hong Kong is to be the leader in providing education for grooming regional leaders of tomorrow, universities should focus more in developing all-rounded students.

Currently, I think the major problem for Hong Kong's higher education is that it is comfortable in its skin but not at ease with itself. To be truly world class it is of paramount importance for our universities to identify their common goal.

We need to appreciate the whole spectrum of universities – to embrace diversity and not consider some universities to be lesser than others. And our universities should

be encouraged to collaborate and compete internationally rather than locally amongst themselves.

Higher education can be one of Hong Kong's most successful exports. The benefits to Hong Kong for our reputation of excellent teaching and research are enormous. Our universities foster links across the world – with individuals, with companies, with research partnerships, with other universities abroad, with governments – driving innovation and development, enriching our culture and enhancing Hong Kong's standing in the world.

Hong Kong would fall short of being Asia's World City if it cannot attract more international students to pursue their academic pursuits in our universities.

The strength and quality of Hong Kong's universities could be found in their independence and autonomy, but government policy and funding decisions will shape their future.

In order to increase our competitiveness, it is my sincere hope that the Hong Kong Government would help by promoting Hong Kong's higher education internationally.

It should be a common goal for universities and the Government to have Hong Kong as the top choice for international students. We also hope that the Hong Kong Government can provide higher education with additional funding for research. Some of Hong Kong's universities are amongst the most successful in Asia, but without more support from the Government it will become increasingly difficult to compete with other leading regional universities.

Corporations can also help by providing more generous endowments to universities and by rewarding our graduates with graduate employment opportunities.

Ladies & gentlemen, Hong Kong's higher education system has certainly done well in the past. It has instilled in me and a lot of my friends the values, skills and strength to pursue a successful career and a meaningful life here in Hong Kong. I was one of the 32 lucky LL.B. graduates of the class of 1972 of the University of Hong Kong, the first ever class of so-called home grown law graduates. The recognition which your University is so kindly bestowing upon me today would, at least I would like to think, confirm that homegrown graduates are doing just as much and just as well as those graduating from universities abroad towards Hong Kong's overall development.

There is without a doubt that Hong Kong has the strength and opportunity to be the leader in providing quality education – for grooming regional leaders of tomorrow both locally and overseas. Nevertheless, in order to capture its leadership position and consolidate its position as a regional hub for higher education, we must coordinate our resources better, and at the same time the Hong Kong Government must lend its full support and commitment.

Ladies & gentlemen, looking into the future, I am confident that our higher education system will continue to blossom, and that there will be many more heartwarming “Hong Kong Stories” to be told in the years ahead.

However, as pointed out by another great person - Vince Lombardi –

“The price of success is hard work, dedication to the job at hand, and the determination that whether we win or lose, we have applied the best of ourselves to the task at hand.”

Let us continue to put in the hard work, dedication and determination to make it work!

Thank you !

校董會主席、校長、各位嘉賓、各位同學：

你們好。今天承蒙嶺南大學頒授榮譽博士學位，本人深感榮幸，而有幸代表其他榮譽博士致辭，更令我不勝感銘。希望今天能不負所託，表達你們對大學的謝意和感激。

然而，今天真正值得驕傲的是在座各位畢業同學，還有你們的父母、其他家人和師長，以及所有曾為你們付出愛心、給予鼓勵和信任的親友；他們幫助你們成為具有思想的成年人。我十分高興可以與你們一起分享這個重要的時刻。

首先，我要祝賀所有畢業生。你們憑著才能和努力，成功取得學位。

不論你修讀的是哪門學科，學會的是哪門知識或技巧，學位代表你的成長；你已成為更博學、具有自信、耐性及適應能力的人。你對道德觀念具有批判能力，更懂得關心別人。

謹祝你們日後事業成功，工作愉快。

感謝嶺南大學一直致力培育年青人，讓他們為開拓未來、迎接人生的挑戰而作好準備。同時，亦十分感謝鄭龔子教授為我撰寫如此美善的贊辭。

今年，是我成為執業律師的第三十三年，亦是我開始工作以來的第三十五個年頭。

我在香港土生土長，並在這裏接受教育和專業培訓。我跟許多在同年代成長的人一樣，在香港競爭激烈的環境下一直努力，力爭上游。

香港給我的，包括美滿的家庭、優良的教育、帶來滿足感的法律事業，以及不少機遇、友好及同儕。最重要的是，香港有一套完善的價值觀念及公平公正的體系。香港將永遠是我的家。

我對香港給予我的一切，實在無法言喻。

我很慶幸我的工作能真正裨益於社會和民生，亦因此讓我今天能獲 貴大學頒授榮譽博士榮銜。事實上，香港有許多人亦為建設和發展社會而努力不懈，為幫助別人和有需要的人士義務付出時間和心力。這些人當中不乏我的友好同儕，多年來與我並肩為社會服務。我是代表他們接受這份寶貴的榮譽，並與他們一同分享這份光榮。

各位，我想這就是香港的獨特性，亦是造就香港過去數十年來迅速發展及成功的原因之一。我衷心希望香港在未來數十年，仍然繼續繁榮進步。

另一方面，我們的年輕一代仍要面對重大挑戰，因為即使他們充滿熱誠，冗長的工作時間使他們很難抽空服務社會。事實上，分配不平均的作息時間正剝削年輕一代享有更均衡及有意義的人生。這實在令人憂慮。

很多人對我說：

「我希望我能夠像你一樣生活，毋須每日為基本所需營營役役。我希望可以做一些有趣的事情，而不只是在巔簸的人生中掙扎。」

除感謝天父的慈愛、指引及祝福為我預備人生所需以外，我願意跟你們分享我積累多年的人生經驗，就是我們生活的模式，實取決於自己。

各位，無論你選擇怎樣的人生道路，緊記每天都有機會把握每一刻，創造你夢寐以求的未來。

讓我跟你們分享兩位偉人的至理名言：

前英國首相本傑明·迪斯雷利說過：

「一個人成功的要訣在於他在時機來臨之前已作好準備。」

美國前國務卿科林·鮑威爾說過：

「成功沒有秘方。成功來自充足準備、克苦耐勞及從失敗中汲取教訓。」

因此，我們必須努力不懈，為隨時出現的機會作好準備。

我們要不斷求進，以求不斷改善自己。終身學習將有助我們裝備自己迎接機會來臨。

教育無疑是帶動個人及社會成功的首要因素。近年來，社會大力提倡扶貧，但我只想說，最持久的脫貧方法是令社會上每個人都有機會接受優質教育。

在現今知識型經濟的世界裏，教育尤其重要。香港最寶貴的資產，永遠是香港人的勤奮及思考力。

重大的發展趨勢繼續影響著全球及本地經濟。現今世界發展千變萬化，包括全球一體化日益加快的步伐、日新月異的科技以及知識對國家發展的重要性等等。尤其重要的是，知識的累積和應用對提升一個國家在全球經濟體系中的競爭優勢，起著核心性的作用。

面對現今競爭日趨激烈的全球市場，致勝之道正是投放大量資源於培訓人才上。這樣才能讓勞動力製造出優質而具高增長價值的產品及服務，並採納最佳的商業守則，以期最終達致策略目標。這趨勢對整個經濟體系中的各個領域都同樣重要。為支援及保持發展優勢，教育制度必須不斷演進，以應付新的需要。

因此，這過程的關鍵在於能適應新的環境。正如達爾文觀察所得：「最強或最聰明的不一定能夠生存」；能夠生存的是那些「最能適應轉變的」。我們需要培育的正是這種有應變能力的人，以確保社會上有靈活的勞動力，能在瞬息萬變的環境中適應急速發展。

各位，只有優質教育才可培育出香港未來的領袖，以推動發展及培訓出具有承擔感

的公民，為維持香港的繁榮安定作出貢獻。

香港憑藉在亞洲區內的策略位置，擁有優勢和時機，足以成為區內提供優質教育、培育明朝領袖的先導者。

香港已是亞洲的教育中心。然而，為了鞏固香港的領導地位和強化其作為亞洲高等教育樞紐的地位，香港必須增強其優勢，更有效地運用資源。

我們的高等教育體制，必須能夠協助和引領來自不同國家的學生，使他們登上更深廣、更具分析力及創意的思維層次。

我們必須緊記，汲取知識是高等教育的其中一部分，但只是其中一部分——在灌溉大學生的智慧的同時，提升學生的才智、社交技巧及文化認識亦同樣重要。

我們現時的教育制度可說是成功的，但畧為偏重強記背誦及考試成績。或許香港所需要的，是在大學教育裏鼓勵更多創意和自由思想。

假如香港要成為培訓明日的亞洲領袖的先導者，提供優質教育的大學理應集中培育全面的學生。

我認為現時香港高等教育的主要問題是具有良好的外在處境，而內裏並未「安身立命」。假如我們的大學要真正躋身世界級的學府，就要先認清彼此的共同目標。

各大學需要互相包容，拋開門戶之見。我們應多鼓勵大學間互相合作，以國外而非本地的大學為競爭目標。

高等教育可以成為香港最成功的出口之一。令本地的優質教學及高科研素質揚威海外，對香港有很大的裨益。我們的大學可與世界各地不同的夥伴合作——包括個別人士、公司、研究夥伴、海外大學及各地政府，推動創新發展，豐富本土文化，並提升香

港的國際地位。

假如香港未能吸引更多國際學生到來修讀大學課程，香港將不能成為亞洲的世界城市。

香港各大學的優勢及素質保證，在於他們的自主獨立，但政府的措施及撥款政策將影響各大學的未來。

為了提升競爭力，我衷心希望香港政府會在國際間推廣香港的高等教育。

各大學及政府的共同目標，應該是使香港成為國際學生的首選。我們亦希望香港政府為高等教育增加額外的研究經費。有些本地大學已躋身亞洲區最佳大學之列，但假如沒有政府支持，我們將無法與區內其他的頂尖大學競逐。

企業亦可向大學給予更多慷慨捐助，並為畢業生提供更多就業機會。

各位，香港的高等教育制度一向都相當完備。教育為我的一輩灌輸了良好的價值觀、技能及專長，使我們可以在香港建立自己的事業及渡過有意義的人生。1972年，香港大學共有32位法學學士畢業生，我就是其中一位幸運兒。當年我們是香港首批所謂「本土」的法學學士畢業生。今天，我獲 貴大學頒授榮譽博士學位，似乎確認我們這群本地培養的畢業生與海外留學畢業生相比，在推動香港的整體發展方面同樣不遺餘力，也同樣出色。

無容置疑，香港在提供優質教育方面具有領導地位的優勢，能夠為本地和海外培育明日的亞洲領袖。為了鞏固香港的領導地位及進一步強化其作為亞洲高等教育樞紐的地位，我們必須更有效運用資源，同時香港政府亦須全力支持及作出承擔。

各位，展望將來，我深信香港的高等教育制度將更趨完善，亦深信日後將會出現更多觸動人心的「香港故事」。

另一位名人隆巴迪曾指出：

「成功的代價是勤奮，對眼前的工作專心致志，並且堅定不移，無論成功或失敗，我們都為工作付出了最大的努力。」

讓我們能繼續努力、專心、堅定不移，達致成功！

謝謝各位！