

The Honourable Chief Justice Geoffrey Ma Tao-li, GBM

Doctor of Laws *honoris causa*

Address

It is an immense honour for my fellow recipients, Dr Rex Auyeung and Professor Qian Yingyi and I to be present today at Lingnan University to be awarded honorary doctorates by the University. We thank the University profoundly for these honours. We are also humbled by the conferment of these degrees and this humbleness comes from a realisation of what Lingnan University stands for. Before I develop this theme, perhaps I may be permitted to say something about my fellow recipients.

Dr Auyeung is a person of much distinction as we have just heard. One of the qualities he has which stood out for me is his reputation of finding out different points of view in resolving problems. In other words, he listens, he observes and he acts on what he hears and has observed. Apart from putting himself in the best position to arrive at the right solution, perhaps more important, it demonstrates that quality which is essential in any community, respect for the views and sensitivities of others.

Professor Qian Yingyi needs little introduction. He is a distinguished economist who had been with Tsinghua University for many years as the Dean of the School of Economics and Management. In a well-known study called “What is Missing in Chinese Education: Creativity”, his hypothesis is that mere knowledge is not enough for a complete education. There must also be a spark and that spark he calls creativity, which is the product of curiosity and imagination. I have found it to be an extremely perceptive and stimulating piece.

However, creativity is not the only other component in an education. Lingnan University, as a foremost liberal arts institution with a formidable international reputation, identifies this other component in its ethos to enable “its students to think, judge, care and ultimately act responsibly in the changing circumstances of Hong Kong, the region and the world”. I made reference to this over six years ago when I had the honour of delivering an Address to the University Assembly (the title of the Address was “A Respect for Rights and a Respect for the Rights of Others”). This ethos applies as much now as it ever did, perhaps even more so in light of the events we have witnessed within Hong Kong and worldwide in the recent past. The vision of the University is well worth bearing in mind: this is the vision of community engagement, the nurturing of students with core values and emphasising the value of a readiness to serve, going to Lingnan’s ultimate aim of (in its words) “the betterment of humanity”.

These are in truth lofty ideals and aspirations befitting a mature educational establishment. Underlying these ideals is the attempt to inculcate in its students a way of thinking that goes beyond themselves and their personal interests. This means for me a readiness, willingness and the acceptance of an obligation to serve the community with the objective, putting it in simple terms, of creating a better society not just for the present generation but also future ones. No one would quarrel with the ideal of service to the community, but one may ask rhetorically: how do members of a community go about to achieve this?

In general, the road to achieving anything worthwhile of course requires hard work, dedication and focus. But when we are referring to something as hard to define yet obviously tangible as the benefit to the community, it is important to stress the necessity of having in mind at all times principles to guide one's approach. Conceptually, it is the same approach when devising strategies or policies. In these exercises, adherence to guiding principles is key.

In serving one's community to better the society in which each of us lives and works, we must (I would suggest) bear firmly in mind the principles of fairness, justice, equality, tolerance and of course respect for others. In my own case, my professional life as a lawyer and as a judge has taught me the value of these principles which I continue aspiring to apply.

The recognition of the obligation to serve the community requires a humbleness at times to put aside one's own interests. I have no doubt that Dr Auyeung and Professor Qian already apply the principles I have just spoken of. Once again, we thank the University for our honours, and wish the University continued success in what it has since its establishment been its role in our community.

馬道立首席法官

榮譽法學博士

謝辭

今天，我和歐陽伯權博士、錢穎一教授獲嶺南大學頒授榮譽博士銜，我們感到萬分榮幸，並衷心感謝嶺南大學給予這份殊榮。獲授這些榮譽學位亦使我們謙遜，我們謙遜是因為了解到嶺南大學的信念。在詳談這個主題之前，或許讓我分享一下我對他們兩位的感想。

正如剛才我們從贊辭所聽到的，歐陽博士出類拔萃。他最令我注目的卓越特質，就是他以尋找多元觀點角度解難見稱。換句話說，他認真聆聽，用心觀察，並根據耳聞目見而行事。歐陽博士這種處事方式能使他處於最佳位置來找出正確解決方案之餘，或許更重要的是，這亦展現了任何社會群體中的必要素質：尊重他人的意見及感受。

錢穎一教授享負盛名，相信無需多作介紹。他是傑出的經濟學家，曾多年擔任清華大學經濟管理學院院長。在名為《中國教育所欠缺的：創造性思維》的著名研究中，錢教授提出，單憑知識並不足以達致全面教育，全面教育還需要有激情。這份激情，他稱之為創造力，就是好奇心和想像力相乘的結果。錢穎一教授的論說見解獨到，非常具啟發性。

然而，創造力並不是教育的唯一另一要素。嶺南大學作為頂尖的博雅學府，享譽國際，其信念認同這項另一要素；是故，嶺南大學「培育學生獨立思考、判斷、關懷他人和勇於承擔責任，立足於香港、亞洲地區以至全球瞬息萬變的環境中。」六年多前，我有幸在嶺南大學論壇以「尊重權利與尊重他人的權利」為題發表演講，當時亦曾談及嶺南大學這份信念。這份信念至今仍是至理箴言，歷久彌新。這份信念在以往固然適用，在當下更是格外適切，尤其當我們目睹近期在香港乃至全球各地所經歷的種種事情。嶺南大學的願景值得銘記於心；這願景就是積極參與社區服務，培育擁有核心價值的學生，重視樂於服務人群的精神，邁向嶺南大學（借用嶺大所言）「為人類謀求福祉」的最終目標。

這些崇高的理想與抱負確實與一所成熟的學府相稱。嶺大秉持這些理想，致力向莘莘學子灌輸捨己忘私的思維和觀念。對我來說，這意味著甘心樂意服務社會和承擔這個義務，以追求（簡而言之）為當今以至未來的人類建設更美好社會為目標。服務社會的理想，任憑誰也不會質疑，不過可能有人會問：作為社會一員，要怎樣做才能達到這個目標呢？

一般來說，任何有意義的事情要取得成果，都需要努力不懈、全情投入和專心致志。然而，當說到造福社群這類難於定義卻又是實實在在的事情，就不得不強調時刻緊記處世為人原則的必要性。概念上，這與訂定策略方針同出一轍，關鍵都在於恪守指導原則。

在服務社群以達致改善各人賴以安居謀生的社會方面，（我會認為）我們必須把公平、公義、平等、包容，當然還有尊重他人這些原則牢記在心。在我而言，擔任律師和出任法官的專業生涯讓我領略到這些原則是何等可貴，而我亦將繼續致力實踐這些原則。

認同服務社會的義務，有時候需要心存謙卑放下個人利益。毫無疑問，歐陽伯權博士及錢穎一教授早已身體力行，實踐剛才我所談到的各項原則。在此，我們再次感謝嶺南大學向我們頒授這些殊榮，並祝願嶺南大學繼續成果豐碩，充分發揮自創校以來在社會的角色。