

Dr Eddy Li Sau-hung *BBS, JP*

Council Chairman Mr Rex Auyeung, President Prof Leonard Cheng, Honorary Fellows, friends of Lingnan University, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen,

Today I am honoured to receive this Honorary Fellowship from Lingnan University, and I am delighted to deliver this address on behalf of the other three distinguished honorary fellowship recipients.

I grew up and received my education in Hong Kong. My family background — just like that of our previous generations — was far from being well-off. In fact, it could well be considered poor by today's standards. However, I never complained about “not having won at the starting line”. My humble background motivated me to work even harder. Starting from the bottom, I groomed my will to endure hardship. In those trying times, I deeply understood that we should make the most of our limited time in this world to do more for ourselves and society.

Hong Kong is a place where my family and I live. It is also a place in which I built up my career. I was concerned about its development when serious social conflicts emerged in recent years. I am particularly worried about some young people whose mindset and behaviour have become rather radical. Their fearless spirit and idealism deserve our compliments, but their excessive aggression may easily compromise their own future and undermine our social harmony and stability. Young people are supposed to be the masters of our future. I believe if they could devote their enthusiasm and courage to something more meaningful, they would make a more positive impact on society.

Young people can change the world in many ways. With knowledge, for example, they can transform their lives and take leading roles in society. Capable and talented people are in demand for industrial and commercial businesses, while enterprises need new blood to thrive. I am therefore more focused on the education and development of young people in recent years. Hong Kong is now in transition, during which industrial innovation is the only way out in order to maintain our edge in global competition. This transition will also provide many opportunities for young people to bring out their best. I truly believe that anyone could excel in this era of transformation if he or she works really hard and strives to succeed.

Besides knowledge, love and goodwill can also light up the world, and this can be done by every one of us. The power of an individual might be small; however, many a little makes a mickle. If we can join our efforts, we will become a great force for social change. I am honoured to be the President of the Chinese Manufacturers' Association of Hong Kong (CMA), being given the opportunity to lead and unite various industries, providing more support for people from all walks of life. Therefore, I would like to share this honour with all my colleagues and partners in the CMA.

The honorary fellows who receive the honour today come from different backgrounds, but we are all eager to undertake our civic duties. For example, Mr Edwin Chan, who is also a businessman, established the AR Charitable Foundation and has contributed significantly in areas ranging from education and social welfare to the promotion of innovation. Both Ms Gigi Tung and Mr Chris Yeung used to be high-achieving professionals, but they decided to devote most of their time and efforts to charitable projects. They founded Food Angel and Silver Lining Foundation respectively to help people in need in different ways. With their selfless dedication and perseverance, they are good role models for young people and deserve our deep respect.

Apart from being knowledgeable, future leaders also need to possess admirable human qualities in order to lead our society. Education aims not only to spread knowledge, but more importantly, to nurture the soul. Lingnan University is the only liberal arts university in Hong Kong, cultivating students' critical thinking and versatility as well as values and a sense of social responsibility. I am fully supportive of these qualities and feel very honoured to become a Lingnanian. I sincerely hope that the University can continue to thrive and make even greater contributions for a better society.

Lastly, may I express once again our gratitude to Lingnan University for conferring on us the Honorary Fellowship. I believe that this honour will inspire us to continue to strive for better development, and to help spread the spirit of love and care in society.

Thank you!