

**An Address by Professor Joseph J Y Sung**  
**Vice-Chancellor and President, The Chinese University of Hong Kong**  
**At the Passing-Out Parade of The Hong Kong Police College**  
**On 31 July 2010**  
*(original speech in Cantonese)*

Mr Commissioner, Mr Director, Ladies and Gentlemen of the Graduating Class,  
Distinguished Guests,

Good Morning. I am tremendously honoured today to be invited by The Hong Kong Police College to its Passing-Out Parade, and to witness the completion of training for 182 Police officers. From this moment on, the Hong Kong Police Force will go from strength to strength with the injection of new blood to its ranks, with 35 officers appointed to the Inspectorate, and 147 officers to the Constabulary.

To the officers who are graduating today after successfully completing stringent and demanding training programmes during the past 27 to 36 weeks, may I offer my sincere congratulations upon their achievement of advanced standards in both professional knowledge and physical competitiveness. In the days to come, you will be posted to various Police regions and districts for duties, hence taking up the onerous task of maintaining law and order in Hong Kong, and also commencing a new leaf in your lives. I believe with deep conviction that you will approach your duties with fairness, selflessness and understanding, and safeguard the integrity of the life and property of our citizens. On the other hand, you may expect a certain degree of variance between theory and practice as you apply what you have learnt at the College to live situations, and it is also inevitable that objective, circumstantial factors that affect your work are always subject to endless contingencies and vicissitudes.

As an educationist, I am of the opinion that lifetime education provides the answer as one seeks to cope with changes in life and society. Lifetime education certainly is not confined to books or the classroom. It enhances your experience and broadens your perspective, and requires clearly set goals and constant effort, as well as the capacity to make effective use of opportunities that arise in the workplace and when one is at leisure. May I now take the current graduates of the Police College as an example: you have completed your foundation studies at your previous institutions of education, and then received professional training at the College, and the Passing-Out exercise today will mark the beginning of the next

stage of your lifetime study. A Chinese idiom says that “It takes learning efforts to understand the way of the world.” If one would observe carefully and have an open mind, one will surely find knowledge and wisdom wherever one goes. In your future career, you will be in direct contact with the utter realism of society in its many facets, and the varied types of personages who live and operate therein. You will do very well to keep a vigilant eye on all that happens around you, analyse with care the findings of your observations, and seek wisdom from the experience of your seniors in the Force. This will provide you with the key to an infinite realm of knowledge and experience which cannot be attained through formal education, and with which you will be all the better equipped to respond to society’s incessant changes.

I have the greatest admiration for the Hong Kong Police Force for its strenuous and tenacious efforts, through all possible channels, to provide on-the-job training and opportunities for further education to its officers. Just a little over a month ago, I was invited to the Police Headquarters where I addressed some two hundred Police officers on my personal experience in change management.<sup>1</sup> The many questions raised by the officers at the talk showed depth, incisiveness, and the greatest relevance to the business they were about, and this reassured me of the intense alertness, at all times, of our Police officers for the acquisition of new knowledge, and their ever-readiness to update their accoutrements, whether in terms of thinking or knowhow, which will enable them to face changes and challenges, both in their careers and their lives. This serious and proactive attitude towards learning has left me with a most profound impression long after the occasion.

In recent years, Hong Kong, like other major cities in the world, has experienced rapid and drastic changes in its economy, culture, and politics, and these changes, while bringing rare and unique opportunities, have also put our city to harsh and precipitous tests. As a citizen of Hong Kong, I am full of pride for our Police Force which has always been the professional, efficient and incorruptible upholder of justice in our city. From vanquishing conventional crimes, through the effective crushing of offences committed with the aid of high technology, to the preservation of social order during marches and demonstrations, the Hong Kong Police Force has achieved wonderful results, as all discerning citizens of the city are apt to recognize.

The present day achievements of the Police Force are built upon years of tireless efforts of successive generations of officers. During the fight against the SARS

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<sup>1</sup> Seminar at Police Headquarters on 18 June 2010.

epidemic in 2003, I personally witnessed the selfless efforts of Police officers who, despite the atrocities and devastations caused by the disease, served their fellow-citizens with admirable dedication and composure. The Police Force was a tower of strength amidst the misery and gloom that infested the city, and looked upon by citizens as the fount of reliable support. Then, in the ensuing few years, a number of grand events of international stature took place in Hong Kong. These included the Ministerial Conferences of the World Trade Organization in 2005, the Equestrian Events of the 2008 Olympic Games, and the East Asian Games last year. The Hong Kong Police Force took all these occasions in its stride, with firm commitment to the tasks it had been entrusted with, and at the same time exercising both judgment and good sense in the execution of policies and measures, giving full manifestation to the civilized professionalism and high efficiency for which the Force has always been known. I am also keenly aware of the immense pressure that has been upon Police officers these days, with the heightening of the civic sense among our citizens, mounting vigilance on the part of the media, and the quick dissemination of information brought about by rapid technological advancement. With such unprecedented pressure upon yourselves, I sincerely hope that you will treat yourselves humanely: while you work with the greatest diligence, do nurture interests that would soothe the soul and the mind, and pursue activities that are conducive to both physical and mental well-being. It is also essential that you maintain effective communication and mutual support with your family and friends, so that the pressure of work may be offset by a peaceful state of mind.

Ladies and Gentlemen of the Graduating Class, it is a matter from which you may derive a lot of just pride, now that you are joining a disciplinary force of renowned excellence. It is very much to be hoped that you will carry the fine tradition of the Police Force, solidly based on service and with an aspiration always for greater and higher achievements, to a more exalted height. In this way, Hong Kong may yet continue to be a metropolis of the first rank in the world, where safety and stability are enjoyed at their best.

In closing, may I once again congratulate the Inspectors and Constables who are graduating today, and wish them every success in their careers, and prosperity in their future endeavours. Thank you.