

An Address given by Professor Bai Chunli, DSc (Hon), MSc, PhD

Today is the congregation for the conferment of degrees of The Chinese University of Hong Kong. Professor Liu Mingkang, Dr Leo Rafael Reif, Professor Wu Weishan, Professor Shinya Yamanaka and I are greatly honoured to receive the honorary doctorates from CUHK. On behalf of my fellow honorees, I am pleased to express my heartfelt gratitude for this tremendous honour and the many kind words acknowledging us. We profoundly appreciate the honour and are fully aware of the meaning and value it carries.

The Chinese University of Hong Kong is a university with a long history. The guidance of its Council members, its academic leadership and the quality of its teachers and students, have led CUHK to rank today among the best in Asia and the world. CUHK is one of the largest universities in Hong Kong with a diverse student intake. It has made considerable achievements in education and research which has helped to make CUHK one of the world's leading universities. CUHK has an international outlook, and Hong Kong has provided a wealth of opportunities for the University's development. CUHK has also added to Hong Kong's unique dynamism. As alumni of CUHK, we have every reason to be proud of the University's achievements.

Today is an important day for the conferment of degrees. It is also the day on which the doctoral graduates leave their campus life behind and enter into the next phase of their life. As a former President of the University of Chinese Academy of Sciences, I have attended many of these occasions where I have bidden farewell to master's and doctoral research students who have completed their postgraduate studies. As a member and an honorary graduate of CUHK, I would like to say a few words to our graduates seated here today.

When I look at your faces, it reminds me of myself 30 years ago. At that time, I was about the same age as you are now. I had just completed my studies and was about to start out on my career path, full of dreams and hope for the future. After years of life experience, I came to realize that, although talent and effort are often the key to success, the fate of an individual is always inseparably linked to the rise and fall of the nation. Your expertise and skills should be used to serve your country, nation and people. In this regard, I am in full agreement with the CUHK motto: *Bo Wen Yue Li* (Through learning and temperance to virtue). CUHK interprets this motto as laying equal emphasis on the intellectual and moral aspects of education. On one hand, knowledge is a means to enrich the self. On the other hand, 'temperance' implies that we should also pay attention to the moral aspects of education, such as life aspirations and working for the good of the people. I hope that all of you have worked hard to master the various skills and knowledge that you will need in your future careers and will also need to contribute to the development of Hong Kong and to the nation. When you come to look back on your careers, you will have had a meaningful life, a meaningful education and an alma mater worthy of this motto. I encourage every one of you to live up to this motto.

As China's top science and technology advisory body and an important research and development centre for natural sciences and hi-tech fields, the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) has always focused on innovation and technology that serves the country and benefits the people. It stands at the forefront of China's scientific and technological research with the mission 'achievements, talents and ideas'. Over the years, CAS has formed a close partnership with Hong Kong, including substantial collaboration with many Hong Kong tertiary institutions. Twenty-two joint laboratories have been established with joint research areas in physics, chemistry, materials science, biomedicine, mathematics, environmental science and other disciplines. Of these, nine joint laboratories have been established with CUHK. Later today we will hold the Inauguration Ceremony of the CUHK - IPCAS Joint Lab of Biosocial Psychology. This new laboratory demonstrates the close cooperation between CAS and CUHK. I firmly believe that with the joint efforts of both parties, the friendship between CAS and CUHK will be strengthened and the spirit of cooperation will flourish.

Finally, on behalf of the distinguished honorary doctorates I once again express my sincere gratitude to all CUHK's teachers and students. I wish you all the best in your future careers, and I wish CUHK a brighter and better tomorrow!

Thank you.

