

Acceptance Speech

It is my honour to deliver this speech on behalf of the honorary fellows, Mr Hui Ming, Mr Law Kwok-hung, Dr Siu Wing-tai and Dr Tan Siu-lin and express our deep gratitude to CUHK for bestowing this tremendous honour on us. As an alumnus, I would like to thank my fellow Fellows for their continued support to the University's development, as well as their care and encouragement to our students in their studies.

Along with showing gratitude to our parents for their love and support, I would like to pay tribute to my alma mater, the founding figures and teachers who inspired me. Five decades ago, in 1968, I was fortunate to be admitted to the Department of Economics at CUHK's New Asia College. At that time, the development of tertiary education was quite passive under the rule of the colonial government. Before 1963, there was only one university designed as a breeding ground for officials in the Hong Kong government. However, there was no comprehensive planning for the development of Chinese society and the provision of training to nurture talents in different fields. In view of the situation, a group of leaders in the Chinese community such as Sir Kwan Cho-yiu, Dr Richard Charles Lee, Sir Kan Yuet-keung and Dr Tseung Fat-im petitioned the government to establish a second tertiary institution in Hong Kong so that more young people could receive higher education. In 1957, New Asia College, Chung Chi College and the United College then formed 'the Chinese Colleges Joint Council' to execute this plan. In the following year, the government accepted the proposal to establish a Chinese university. The three Colleges, Chung Chi, New Asia, and United, amalgamated to form The Chinese University of Hong Kong, with its unique college system, on 17 October 1963.

CUHK came to the rescue of a large number of underprivileged students who had graduated from Chinese secondary schools. Without CUHK, we may have lost the opportunity to further our studies and would have had to enter the working world right after graduation. For us, CUHK was like a nurturing mother. We are grateful for her existence and we hope to contribute to her.

I have a deep affection for the name of The Chinese University of Hong Kong. Education in Chinese culture is respected, passed on, and developed sustainably. It carries the missions to promote Chinese culture globally and raise the social status of the Chinese. The motto of the University, 'Through learning and temperance to virtue', comes from the *Analects* of Confucius. It is a testament to CUHK's vision 'To combine tradition with modernity, and to bring together China and the West'. As our Founding Vice-Chancellor Dr Choh-Ming Li once said, 'The Chinese University of Hong Kong is a university of Chinese culture.'

I would also like to thank all of CUHK's trustees, Vice-Chancellors, staff members and alumni for their contributions to the University, based on the belief that everyone should have the right to receive education following the ideal advocated by Dr Ch'ien Mu: 'While pursuing knowledge, also learn how to cultivate your moral character. The two goals are to be achieved as an integrated whole'. Nowadays, the mission of a modern university goes beyond teaching and research – it should contribute meaningfully to our society, country, and mankind. Through the support of our country, the HKSAR government, the University, and many social leaders and aspirants, CUHK has collaborated with the

Shenzhen government to form The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Shenzhen. This new institution inherits the educational philosophy and academic system of CUHK, and will contribute to the country's educational development by nurturing talents in mainland China with a global perspective and in the Chinese tradition.

In Hong Kong, the former Vice-Chancellor, Professor Joseph Sung, launched the I · CARE Programme to instill in students awareness of public service and sense of ownership for their personal development. It has launched a meaningful and vivid experimental learning model for students. A year ago, the Legislative Council of the HKSAR Government, after a concerted effort, passed a bill to establish the CUHK Medical Centre and HK\$1.3 billion in funds was obtained from The Hong Kong Jockey Club. The Centre is the first non-profit, self-financing private teaching hospital in Hong Kong. This hospital introduces a new model of medical services to Hong Kong, offering inclusive medical packages at reasonable prices to middle-class and grassroots' citizens. I am also glad that our new Vice-Chancellor, Professor Rocky S. Tuan, is committed to unite our local and overseas alumni and encourage them to interact with their alma mater and students. He aims to build an interactive relationship between the University and society so as to facilitate harmonious communication and advancement. All of the above show that CUHK is not an ordinary university, but an educational institution that bears social responsibility.

In conclusion, I hope that The Chinese University of Hong Kong will continue in its mission to carry Chinese culture to people from around the world. It is our high hopes that CUHK will continue in its

firmly rooted tradition and succeed in its mission to promote traditional Chinese culture and world peace.

*This acceptance speech is delivered by Dr Chan Chi-sun
on behalf of the Honorary Fellows*