

The Chinese University of Hong Kong
91st Congregation for the Presentation of Bachelor's, Master's and Doctoral
Degrees and Conferment of Honorary Degrees

24 November 2022

Address by the Vice-Chancellor and President
Professor Rocky S. Tuan

Council Chairman, distinguished guests, dear graduates, ladies and gentlemen,

It is my great pleasure to welcome you to the 91st Congregation for the Presentation of Bachelor's, Master's and Doctoral Degrees and Conferment of Honorary Degrees of The Chinese University of Hong Kong. My warm congratulations to all graduating students. I sincerely applaud you for having overcome the multitude of challenges and what must at times felt like the never ending COVID-19 pandemic – this long, and perhaps exhausting, journey might not be what you had expected, but with courage and remarkable endurance, you have indeed made it. The resilience, the perseverance and the courage that have enabled you are qualities that will serve as invaluable experience as you embark on the rest of your careers. Congratulations again to all of you!

Graduation is a truly special time, for it marks both an ending and a beginning. As you embark on the next chapter of your intellectual and career expedition, you are now ready to play a bigger and a personal part in shaping the future of our city, contributing to the country, and creating a global impact. I hope that your time at CUHK has given you a roadmap to help you think about how we may best address some of our planet's most pressing issues. You have undertaken your studies at one of the most critical junctures in human history – we are enduring a once in a century global pandemic, we are living on the precipice of a climate crisis, and the world continues to stare down inequality and poverty while navigating a geopolitical environment unseen in many of your lifetimes. But your time at CUHK should have equipped you with the tools to think critically, act maturely, exercise sound judgment, and contribute to addressing and overcoming these challenges for the betterment of our country and humanity as a whole.

We are living in an increasingly complex world where advanced technology is constantly stealing our time and attention, with some arguing that this diminishes the responsibility of being held accountable for what we say or do. Knowledge is power (「知識就是力

量」), and greater power comes even greater responsibility. Dear students, I sincerely look forward to seeing you make good use of what you have learnt here, and the connections you have made, to make a positive difference. I often say that CUHK is truly unique – our founding mission “To Combine Tradition and Modernity – and to Bridge China and the West” (「結合傳統與現代·融會中國與西方」) is what anchors us; it is the light on the hill we aim to reach. In these uncertain, yet exciting times, that mission has never been more important and powerful. Never lose sight of our origin, celebrate tradition, embrace modernity and hence complexity, and ensure that we move forward with a sense of purpose anchored in a love for our culture and heritage. Let the motto of CUHK “Through Learning and Temperance to Virtue” (「博文約禮」) pave the way for a journey of self-cultivation and lifelong learning. These are not empty words spoken by a distant sage – our motto is a rallying call for us to take delight in the very pursuit of knowledge, not for the sake of progress or technological advancement, but because the journey of discovery enriches our collective humanity.

Today, five distinguished individuals will be conferred honorary degrees in recognition of their significant contributions to academic and cultural progress, scientific advancement, the promotion of social well-being, as well as the development of CUHK. I invite all of you to join me in congratulating these outstanding individuals on their remarkable achievements and contributions to society as they are conferred with the University’s highest honours. Their stories are woven in the fabric of social impact, community service, and a selfless determination to make the world a better place. They embody so much of what we collectively stand for.

Dear students, as you become part of our alumni family, remember that CUHK is a place that you can always call home. Cherish the extraordinary bond you have formed with everyone you have met here, and honour the collective commitment of the CUHK community to social well-being. I hope you will remain proud of this strong sense of belonging, something that differentiates CUHK and enables us to create lasting impact across society. I very much look forward to seeing you coming back to campus next year to celebrate the 60th anniversary of CUHK with us.

Lastly, your achievements today would not have been possible without the encouragement, dedication and support of your families and teachers. Please cherish this

moment, thank your loved ones, acknowledge your teachers and savour the ink you have left on your chapter in the CUHK story.

Thank you very much.