Professor Benjamin Wah Wan-sang

Acceptance Speech

Vice-Chancellor, Council members, distinguished guests, colleagues and friends,

I am deeply honoured to be here today to accept, on behalf of this year's recipients, the Honorary Fellowship of The Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK). I have the privilege of speaking for my fellow recipients – Mrs Joy Lo Cheung, Mr Lau Kwok-fan, and Mr Benjamin Yu – as well as for myself, in conveying our sincere thanks to the University for this generous distinction.

We accept an Honorary Fellowship with gratitude, as an affirmation of a relationship that has taken shape over many years – built on trust, shaped by shared purpose and grounded in a belief in the values a university should uphold. For us, it represents not a conclusion, but the renewal of an enduring bond with this University.

Our professional paths have unfolded in different spheres – philanthropy, public service, legal practice and academic life – but they converge in a shared respect for education and a common understanding of the responsibilities a university carries in society. Each of us has been connected with CUHK through sustained engagement over time, sometimes visible and sometimes quiet.

If I may add a personal reflection: many years ago, a conversation with Professor Omar Wing, the founding Dean of Engineering at CUHK, prompted me to think more deeply about my own professional responsibilities and where their roots lay. Over time, that reflection matured into a clearer sense that what I had gained abroad – in scholarship, experience and perspective – ought also to be placed in the service of Hong Kong and the country. Returning to CUHK after many years at Illinois and Berkeley was therefore not simply a career decision, but a personal commitment to the University's future. I offer this reflection as one example of how lasting ties to the University are formed and renewed.

The strength of a university rests on more than academic performance alone. Over the long term, it depends equally on people willing to give their time, experience and care. These contributions take many forms: faculty through teaching and research; students through effort and aspiration; administrators through stewardship; alumni through loyalty and engagement; and friends and supporters through confidence and generosity.

CUHK's ability to bring together these different forms of contribution is one of its defining qualities. It helps explain why the University

has grown in ways that are thoughtful and enduring and why it has retained a distinctive character – earnest in purpose, outward-looking in perspective and guided by a strong sense of social responsibility.

This spirit is well expressed in the University motto, "Through learning and temperance to virtue" (博文約禮). Yet it is realised not merely in words. I have seen it lived out day by day – across the campus, within the Colleges and in the quiet seriousness with which scholarship is pursued. Even as the University advances global research excellence, its unique collegiate system preserves a human scale that keeps the individual student firmly in view.

For us as Honorary Fellows, today is both an acknowledgement and a reminder. Service to a university takes many forms, and meaningful contributions often unfold across boundaries – between professions, institutions and different stages of life. We are honoured to receive this accolade, and we accept it with gratitude as a sign of our continuing connection with the University and of our shared confidence in its future.

We thank the Council and the University leadership for their guidance at a time when universities everywhere face complex and competing demands. We also acknowledge the faculty, staff and students whose daily work gives living substance to the University's mission. And we extend our thanks to the many colleagues, families and friends whose encouragement and understanding make sustained service possible. This recognition is one we receive with them also in mind.

On behalf of all the Honorary Fellows of 2026, I thank The Chinese University of Hong Kong for this commendation. We accept it with sincere appreciation and, in our different ways, a relentless readiness to stand with the University and support its future.

Thank you.

華雲生教授

謝辭

校長閣下、各位校董、尊貴的嘉賓、各位同仁、各位友好：

今天躬逢盛會，本人不勝榮幸，謹代表本年度榮譽院士領授人——張羅其樂女士、劉國勳先生、余若海資深大律師、以及本人——向香港中文大學致以由衷謝忱，感謝大學賜予此等殊榮。能為諸位同膺此譽者執言致意，實感光寵。

我們滿懷感恩之心，恭受榮譽院士之銜。此譽為我們與大學多年情誼之肯定——彼此相知相契、志同道合，共同信守大學核心價值。獲授殊榮標誌吾等與中大之深厚情緣續啟新章，歷久彌新。

我們過去在不同的專業道路上分途而進——或投身公共服務、或致力慈善公益、或捍衛法治精神、或潛心學術研究——然皆共同秉持對教育之尊崇，以及對大學社會責任的一致理解。多年以來，彼此以不同方式與中大結緣，或彰顯於外、或靜守於心。

請容我在此分享一點個人感悟：多年前我與中大工程學創院院長周昌教授的一席話，促使我深刻反思自身專業使命為何，其根源又何在。隨歲月流轉，這份反思日趨成熟清晰，我深切體會到，在海外所獲之知識、經驗與視野，應用來回饋香港、貢獻國家。在美國伊利諾伊與柏克萊發展多年，我最終回歸中大，這不僅為事業抉擇，更基於個人對大學未來的憧憬。我以此為例，說明與大學的深厚情誼何以相結相續。

大學之強，非只繫於學術表現；長遠而言，每位成員心懷社稷，願以時間、經驗與關愛貢獻社群，其義同樣深遠。寸寸耕耘，形態多端：教師以教學與研究傳薪繼火；學生以勤勉與志氣攀峰登極；管理者盱衡大局；校友忠誠參與；大學友好與社會賢達持續信賴與襄贊，同鑄大學宏圖。

香港中文大學卓然不群，正因其能匯聚眾多有能者，以不同方式共商籌謀，促使大學持續茁壯，獨特雅貌始終如一，初心誠摯，視野開闊，以社會為己任。

此精神盡現於大學校訓「博文約禮」，此言絕非文辭空談，我在大學服務經年，日復一日見證它踐履於校園各隅、在書院群體中、在篤實學風間。大學縱深耕學研、卓立全球，其獨有的書院制度仍保留人本關懷，赤心撫育學子。

對我們而言，今天獲頒榮譽院士銜既是一份肯定，更是一份鞭策。為大學服務的形式多樣，真正有意義的貢獻往往需要跨越疆界——穿梭於不同專業、不同機構、以及人生的不同階段。獲此殊譽，我們與有榮焉，並懷着感恩之心接受嘉許，視之為與大學深厚淵源的永續印記，以及與大學共築遠景的期許。

各地大學正面臨複雜挑戰與激烈競爭，我們感謝校董會及大學領導悉心引領，並謹向全體師生同仁致敬，諸君朝夕篤行，讓大學使命得以實踐。我們亦向眾多同儕及親友致謝，他們的鼓勵與體諒，讓我們得以矢志力行，持續貢獻大學發展。這份榮譽應與他們共享。

謹再代表2026年度全體榮譽院士，感謝香港中文大學惠頒之隆譽。我們滿懷誠摯謝意接受，並將一如既往，各以不同方式，與大學並肩同行，鼎力支持其未來發展。

多謝各位。