

**Professor Simon S. M. Ho**

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## **Welcome Remarks at the Groundbreaking Ceremony of HSMC Jockey Club Student Residence Halls**

28 March 2014 Student Residential Halls, Site F

Mr Philip Chen, Ms Rose Lee, Board Governors, Council Members, Distinguished Guests, Colleagues, Students, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Welcome to the Groundbreaking Ceremony of the construction project of the HSMC Jockey Club Student Residence Halls. We are indeed very honoured that Mr Philip Chen, Steward of the HK Jockey Club, Ms Rose Lee, our Board and Council Chair, Mr Martin Tam, Chairman of the Steering Committee on Campus Expansion, Dr Moses Cheng, Member of the Steering Committee on Campus Expansion and all our guests assemble here to witness this memorable moment. Today marks the beginning of the construction of our new Student Residential Halls, a milestone development of our College which provides a learning ambience conducive to the all-round development of our students.

On behalf of the College community, I must thank the HK Jockey Club Charities Trust for the generous donation of 200 million HKD towards the construction cost of the project. With the support of the HKJC, we are building the students' dream of an integrated living and learning environment, and the students' second home during their study here.

We have very high hopes for our students and graduates. They come to study at HSMC with dreams and passion. As their teachers and mentors, we nurture them to become future leaders with a humanistic perspective, a servant leadership attitude and a global vision. Residential hall education plays an important role on this process, and in fact it is an integral part of our 'Liberal + Professional' education model. The learning experience in residential halls can provide an environment favourable to self-learning, self-management, and maximizing opportunities for social and cultural exchanges. Residential hall education can also help to cultivate in students independent thinking, adaptability, an innovative mind, communication and leadership skills, and a sense of social responsibility.

I am confident that upon graduation, our students will stand firm in pride and act as the vivid testimonial of the College to the society. They will, in return, pay tribute to the donors by serving the society with the core competencies they have developed in the College.

The project will comprise 3 halls providing 1,200 residential places, expected to be completed by mid-2015. The design of the Student Residential Halls is not only modern and stimulating, but is also conceived with sustainability in mind. Each Residential Hall will have a distinct character, and will draw on the strengths of the residential college models developed in renowned universities, while also firmly rooted in the Chinese fine traditions of a 'college' (書院) for intellectual and social exchanges.

Taking this opportunity, I would like to thank Mr Martin Tam, the genius who has a magic wand over the campus development project. Two years ago, we only had two academic buildings on this campus. With a blink of our eyes, we now have three additional new buildings and the Open Plaza. In mid-2015, the completed Student Residential Halls will stand right in front of us, and not just as a backdrop here. Thank you, Mr Tam. You have indeed demonstrated that with persistence and hard work, dreams do come true.

Once again, I would like to express our most heartfelt thanks and gratitude to the HK Jockey Club Charities Trust for their enthusiastic support to this construction project. With the concerted efforts of all parties, I believe that the Student Residential Halls will be a very successful project.

Thank you very much and wish you all a good day.