

Professor Simon S. M. Ho

Address at the Graduation Ceremony 2017

15 November 2017, College Hall, HSMC

Ms. Rose Lee, Chairman of Board of Governors, Dr. Moses Cheng, Chairman of College Council, Governors, Council Members, Graduating Students and Family Members, Colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the HSMC family, I would like to express my warmest congratulations to all 2017 graduating students and their families. After four years of hard work, you have reached an important milestone in life and will be conferred a degree today.

Today is a time not only to celebrate the achievements of your university study, but also to thank those who have supported you all along in your learning journey, in particular your parents, teachers and mentors. I would also like to thank all parents for your trust in HSMC.

Adopting the unique “Liberal + Professional” education model, HSMC advocates the transformative power of liberal education and puts quality teaching and students’ all-round development as its highest priorities. The College provides a variety of learning opportunities which aim at cultivating the needed transferable core competencies in our students. We call these desired graduate attributes “iGPS”, which include Intellectual Competence (i), Generic and Interpersonal Skills (G), Personal Development (P), and Social Engagement (S), thereby nurturing students with critical thinking, innovative minds, human caring and social responsibilities.

Over the past few years, I am pleased to see that our students have not just done well academically, but also strived to enhance the four dimensions of attributes as described above, including exploring your interests and goals of life.

Apart from knowledge acquisition and capability enhancement, I believe you have also built close relationships with many teachers, senior students and schoolmates. As you leave the College, you will embark on a new chapter in life full of opportunities and challenges.

In this era of globalization, networking and the rise of China, young people have ample opportunities for development as long as they work hard and have the courage to expand new frontiers. Naturally, there are good and bad times in life. In times of adversity, you will face some difficulties and setbacks, you may doubt your capability and value judgement at times, but please don’t be discouraged. Infusing the campus

with bamboo culture and pursuing to become a 'Junzi university', HSMC strives to nurture in our students the spirits of bamboo which include perseverance and upright integrity.

Therefore, I encourage you to adhere to these bamboo characters in times of adversity. Even in face of dire hardship and torment of strong wind, you can still stand firm and ride through with perseverance. One day, you will discover that the trials, challenges and adversities you encountered had turned into nutrients of your life, making you a stronger and wiser person.

In the days ahead, you may be striving hard for career success; nonetheless, I hope you can follow your heart and choose a career that can realise your interest and values. Be brave to chart your own course and uphold your values rather than casually following the authority, trends or other people's expectations.

The purpose of university education is not just to acquire knowledge and skills, find a job after graduation, or ensure upward mobility; more important is to cultivate in young people a humanistic quality and caring attitude, the importance of values and a sense of fulfilment rather than just pursuing personal success indicators. When success indicators contradict with values or sense of fulfilment, you need to know how to choose.

Once again, my heartiest congratulations to the Class of 2017. I wish you all a fruitful and fulfilling life journey ahead.

Thank you.