

The Hang Seng University of Hong Kong
First Honorary Doctorate Conferment Ceremony
(23 August 2021)

Address by Dr Alice Piera Lam Lee Kiu-yue
Representative of Honorary Doctorates Recipients

Chairman of the Council Dr Moses Cheng, President Simon Ho, Fellow Honorary Doctorate recipients, distinguished guests and friends, ladies and gentlemen,

I feel very honoured but humbled to be awarded the degree of Social Science *honoris causa* by The Hang Seng University of Hong Kong (“HSUHK”) today, which marks the University’s inaugural conferment of honorary doctorates. I am especially privileged to address on this momentous occasion on behalf of my fellow Honorary Doctorate recipients, whom I have known for decades. The prestigious recognition bestowed upon us serves as a hallmark of our long-standing links with HSUHK, now a foremost private university third year in the making.

As a career woman in the banking industry, I was fortunate to have benefited from the late Sir Lee Quo Wei’s wisdom. Sensing my self-doubt in my budding career, he once said to me: “I think, with your involvement in society and your experience in volunteer work, you can do it!” The encouragement gave me a head start in my new pursuit. And the rest – as they say – is history.

Of course, the significance of academic achievement is never lost on me. After all, having been closely involved in education for many fine years, I should know. Apart from hard effort, a holistic education is the ultimate pillar of foundation for

our dreams to take flight. At HSUHK, where “liberal” and “professional” receive equal emphasis, all-round excellence is held up as the golden standard for higher education to meet the demand for versatility in our knowledge-based economy. Such a balanced approach helps to nurture well-rounded and responsible leaders of tomorrow. Furnished with virtue and professionalism, HSUHK students will not only be ready to give back to society but also vital to its betterment. Such promising graduates are sure to be welcome by employers with open arms to build a brighter future for Hong Kong.

The year 2020 was full of challenges due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The challenges continue in 2021 and have caused profound impact on different sectors, including the higher education sector, around the world. Face-to-face learning was suspended, students had to switch to online learning. We are glad to see that both teachers and students have made concerted efforts to get the full benefit of online learning and our young generations are able to actively study independently. They deserve the best possible support from us. As some of you may already know, my personal motto is “embrace life with passion”. Despite the long and winding road ahead, Hong Kong is still a land of opportunity for all. I am confident that my optimism for and commitment to higher education are shared by my fellow Honorary Doctorate recipients and everyone who calls our beloved city: HOME.

Being proud members of the HSUHK community, we wish the University continued success and leaping progress in its life-transforming venture. Let me also wish you all good health and happiness for many years to come.

Thank you.