

Welcome Remarks at the Honours Academy Sixth Cohort Inauguration Ceremony 2025-2026

22 October 2025

Auditorium, Lee Quo Wei Academic Building, Yuen Campus, HSUHK

Council Chairman Dr. the Honourable Moses Cheng, Honours Academy Fellows, dear guests, colleagues, students, and parents.

Good afternoon, and welcome to the Inauguration Ceremony of the 6th cohort of our Honours Academy.

This occasion carries some special meanings to us. Five years ago, in 2020, HA began as a bold idea: a place where curious minds grow into principled public leaders. Today, as HA marks its 5th anniversary, three cohorts have graduated, and their impact is already visible. One graduate from HA's first cohort now leads the Hong Kong Market in HSBC's Operating Excellence Graduate Programme. But beyond her corporate leadership, she plays a vital role in advancing inclusion and education through the HSBC PrideHK project. She also represents Hong Kong and the region as APAC Lead of GradHub Global and contributes actively to regional dialogue through the Malaysia Chamber of Commerce.

Another graduate from HA's third cohort was elected President of the PMI Hong Kong Chapter Student Club, where he represents Hong Kong in a global network of emerging project leaders. Many of the HA alumni also return as Graduate Mentors, coaching and leading alongside the next generation. That's what HA family stands for.

To the 6th cohort, congratulations. You join at a moment of real momentum.

Over the past year, HA's Pre-Teens Financial Literacy Workshop Series was shortlisted for the Developing Emerging Skills and Competencies Award of the 2024 QS Reimagine Education Awards. The Series ran for the fifth time, and the student-designed financial literacy board game is taking shape—engaging primary students at community fun days and secondary students at our Summer Academy. These are practical innovations with a heart to serve.

HA students have represented the University on significant stages: welcoming Honorary Doctorate recipients, and hosting visitors from around the world. Service, when done well, becomes reputation.

That reputation is rooted in real stories. In last February, the student-led exhibition “Extra + Ordinary = Stories from HSUHK Students” helped launch the University’s 45th Anniversary celebrations. I visited the exhibition at the HSUHK - Foundation Gallery and was impressed by their “ordinary days, extraordinary moments”, told through student stories. Stories build trust; trust opens doors.

Beyond campus, HA is opening doors and building international links. To lay the foundation for an HA Alliance, our first student delegation joined the Social Sustainability Leadership Forum in Singapore, bringing a Hong Kong voice to an international roundtable and returning with partners ready to collaborate.

In the years to come, allow me to set a clear focus. My charge to HA is simple and ambitious: let projects shape policies; let service enhance leadership. While everyone is calling me the P, let me also live up to the name, make my suggestions into 3Ps:

Package it: if some ideas work, turn them into a simple “how-to” brief that others can use—schools, districts, youth NGOs.

Prove it: collect the evidence, then share clear recommendations with the University and partners who can scale it.

Propel it: use that proof to propose practical policy and process improvements in our community.

On behalf of our University, I’d like to take this opportunity to thank HA’s professional and academic fellows, our teachers and staff, and the whole HA family to guide our HA students.

To parents, colleagues, and friends of HA: thank you for your trust. Your support has enabled HA to grow from a bold idea into a recognised force for good.

HA’s ecosystem stands firm and ready.

To the new cohort: welcome to HA. Be curious. Be kind. Be constructive. Make your mark at HSUHK—and ensure it matters beyond HSUHK.

Thank you, and I look forward to the lasting impact this cohort will create.