

Address at the Graduation Ceremony 2025

3 December 2025

Yip Kit Chuen and Yuen Yuk Hing Hall, Yuen Campus, HSUHK

Mr James Tsien, Vice-Chairman of the Council, Governors, Council Members, Graduating Students, Parents, Colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Over the past week, the whole Hong Kong community has been working together to support the relief efforts following the tragic fire at Wang Fuk Court in Tai Po, which caused severe casualties and losses. Therefore, we decided to reframe our gathering here today, making it a more solemn and reflective occasion.

The Hang Seng University extends our deepest condolences to the families who lost their loved ones in the blaze, and our most heartfelt sympathy to those who were injured as well as to all affected residents. We also pay our highest tribute to the frontline firefighters, other personnel and volunteers who have selflessly and tirelessly handled the rescue. Apart from encouraging members to donate helping the affected residents, the University has provided emergency assistance to our affected students and has been raising funds to support their study and living needs in the years ahead.

In the aftermath of this tragedy, people from all walks of life have swiftly stepped forward to offer support, demonstrating immense compassion and fully embodying our Lion Rock spirit of mutual care, solidarity and perseverance. This spirit has further united the people of Hong Kong as we join hands to overcome the challenges that lie ahead. I call on all members of the HSU community to continue to uphold our core values of human care, integrity and responsibility. May today's occasion be transformed into a shared strength that carries us forward together.

Today's reframed solemn ceremony marks both an ending and a new beginning for you as graduating students. As you start a new phase of your life, many of you may feel anxious about your new job and how to climb up the career ladder. In the VUCA era, job roles and requirements are evolving rapidly. It is unlikely for a person to remain in the same job type, organization, or even industry over a lifetime. Therefore, one needs to continuously enhance his/her transferable competencies covering values/attitude, knowledge and skills.

Besides working hard on your career growth, I encourage you to ask yourselves a deeper question: What will you do to build a life that is fulfilling? To be fulfilling, I suggest you reflect on what truly matters in your life, including the values you hold and

the purposes you live by. Think of where your passions lie and what brings you genuine fulfilment. Rather than allowing mainstream success indicators such as salary, job title, power, or social status to determine your “success”, I suggest you make choices and pursue a life that is rooted in meaning, value, and fulfillment.

Speaking from my own experience, I feel lucky to have discovered my interests, attributes and values at an early age. My early interests include playing table tennis matches, getting close to nature, serving the community as a scout and scout leader, engaging in youth and community work, social and cultural studies, and so forth. My more apparent attributes are my critical and system thinking, broader knowledge interests, inquisitiveness, eager to give more and take less, resilience, and high EQ. The values I treasure most are integrity, fairness, social justice, treating all people with respect, all-wins, positiveness, gratefulness and responsibility. I did not aim to be “a person of success”. Instead, echoing Albert Einstein’s words, I aspire to be “a person of value” with fulfilment.

It is this mindset that led me to join the higher education profession at the age of 25 after a few years’ business experience, a field I have been passionate for over 40 years until today. I did not see it as a job, but a mission, a noble calling, one that continues to inspire me every day through the opportunities to work with young people, to help young people learn, grow, and lead meaningful lives. Nothing is more rewarding than watching our graduates excel across diverse fields and contribute to society, especially in sustaining social justice and with a human caring attitude to those disadvantaged groups. I strongly believe that education should combine both nurturing talents and nurturing persons, helping them find their passions and values.

Whether or not you have already found your life passions and values, I suggest you always strive for the best in your current role. Pay 120% efforts on the tasks assigned to you but would not need to ask or count on what would be the return to you. Every task, no matter big or small, is a chance for you to learn, grow and prove your capability, and to make a positive difference. Sometimes gains come from what we thought as “loss”. By time, if you perform well and have the proper values/attitude, more opportunities will naturally come.

As with any pursuit, I had my own ups and downs. It is natural that you will face challenges and setbacks. Remember that you may not be able to control many outcomes, but you can always choose your attitude towards it. When difficulties arise, choose to see them in a positive light. Difficulties create opportunities for you to grow and build resilience.

Throughout your time at HSUHK, our unique “Liberal + Professional” education model has supported you in exploring your passions, attributes and personal values, while nurturing your “5 Cs” transferrable competencies, namely Critical Thinking, Creativity,

Communication/Collaborations, Caring Attitude and Continuous Active Learning. I urge you to continue enhancing these important competencies. All these will help you overcome challenges and grasp opportunities in your future life and work with fulfillment.

Looking forward, I hope you will continue to keep close ties with the HSUHK family after graduation, such as returning for University events, serving as a mentor to current students, and contributing to your alma mater in different dimensions. HSUHK will always be your second home.

Once again, I wish you fulfillment in all your future endeavours!