

### Welcome Remarks at the Honours Academy Third Cohort Inauguration Ceremony 2022-2023

18 October 2022 Auditorium, Lee Quo Wei Academic Building, Yuen Campus, HSUHK

Council Chairman Dr the Honourable Moses Cheng, Honours Academy Fellows, Guests, Colleagues and Students,

I am pleased to be here today witnessing the inauguration of the third cohort of Honours Academy (HA). My heartiest congratulations to the 22 finely-selected HA students who come from 14 different programmes. You are about to embark on a three-year exciting learning journey in addition to your undergraduate studies. Apart from the third cohort, I know that there are many HA students of the first and second cohorts who are here today to show their support to the new cohort and contribute to this ceremony in different ways.

As a pioneering private university, HSUHK established the Honours Academy (HA) in 2020, the first of its kind initiated by a Hong Kong higher education institution. Extending on the University's unique "Liberal + Professional" education model, the HA aims to be an incubator for future leaders nurturing a select group of high-achieving, high potential, and highly-motivated students to become outstanding public leaders, who can direct positive changes in the local and global communities.

During the three-year HA learning journey, you will receive focused leadership training comprising an innovative, interdisciplinary and policy-oriented curriculum as well as diversified experiential development opportunities, which include global exchange and internship, independent research opportunities, service learning, etc. I encourage you to make the most of these learning opportunities to broaden your horizons and realize your full potential.

The HA has gone through 2 fruitful years. While we take pride in our achievements so far, we also look forward to the exciting year and learning opportunities ahead. Our first cohort of students who began their HA journey in 2020 will soon graduate. I hope you will sustain the spirit of HA by serving others with your knowledge and expertise, commit to be a servant leader in your chosen field, and take the lead to make your

community and the world a better place. I am pleased that some of our HA students have recently initiated some cross-cohort social engagement projects such as teaching primary school students on personal finance management and showing their care for the elderly in the community.

Moving forward, HA has some new learning opportunities in the pipeline, which will kick off with the first Global Immersion Programme in collaboration with “Residential College 4” of the National University of Singapore (NUS). The Programme aims to provide students with an opportunity to learn in a foreign cultural environment, expand their global horizons, and exchange with peers from an overseas university. A group of 20 HA students will go to Singapore in early January 2023 to participate in a one-week programme which will enhance their understanding of Singapore as an Asian hub of multicultural, environmental and economic exuberance. A team of NUS students will also pay a reciprocal visit to HSUHK in June 2023 to learn about HSUHK and Hong Kong as an international city and a window to China.

Finally, I would like to thank our continuing and new Professional Fellows, Academic Fellows, teachers, senior research projects supervisors, and other supporters for your continuous support and wise counsel to our students. Building on the strength and achievements over the past two years, I am confident that HA will continue to nurture more top gun students to become responsible civic leaders who can drive positive impacts on society and the world.

My best wishes to our HA students for all your future endeavors. Thank you.