

Welcome Remarks at the Honours Academy Inaugural Graduation Celebration

6 December 2023

Room N501, 5/F, Lo Hui Kit San Building (N), Yuen Campus, HSUHK

Council Chairman Dr the Honourable Moses Cheng, Honours Academy Professional & Academic Fellows, Guests, Colleagues, Graduates and Students,

We are here this evening to celebrate with our first cohort of Honours Academy (HA) graduates. I would like to give my heartiest congratulations to the thirteen HA graduates who have completed a unique three-year journey of pursuing academic excellence, global vision and leadership.

It fills me with joy and a deep sense of pride to have founded the Honours Academy at HSUHK about 4 years ago, the first of its kind initiated in Hong Kong. HA aspires to nurture high-achieving, high potential and highly motivated students to become outstanding public servant leaders, who can direct positive changes in the local and global communities. On top of their credit-bearing undergraduate curriculum, HA students receive a three-year extra journey of focused leadership training comprising an innovative, interdisciplinary and policy-oriented curriculum as well as diversified experiential development and services opportunities.

To my fellow HA graduates, I am proud to witness you reaping the fruits of years of hard work. All these experiences you have gained along your HA journey will serve as nourishment for your personal growth. As you embark on the next chapter of your lives, I urge you to uphold the spirit of HA by applying your knowledge and expertise to address real-world challenges and committing yourself to be a servant leader in your chosen field and community.

As you move forward, please remember that you will always be cherished members of the HA family. I invite you to join the HA Graduate Mentorship Programme, which is designed to foster a supportive and collaborative community among our HA alumni and current HA students. By sharing your practical experiences, knowledge, and insights, you can empower and guide future generations of HA students, and help them navigate the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead. We believe that your unique

perspectives as HA graduates will be invaluable in shaping the journeys of those who follow your footsteps. Let's continue to grow our HA tree together.

As we celebrate the achievements of these exceptional individuals, let us also recognise the collective efforts of the entire HA community – our dedicated Professional and Academic Fellows, our supportive faculty and staff, and our graduates' families and friends. It is through this collaborative effort that we have created a family where excellence thrives, where leaders are nurtured, and where dreams are transformed into reality. Echoing the mission of HSUHK, the HA will continue to demonstrate the University's commitment to nurturing responsible global servant leaders with critical thinking, innovative minds, caring attitude, moral values and social responsibility.

Once again, my heartfelt congratulations to our first cohort of HA graduates. Wishing you success in all your future endeavors. Enjoy the evening.

Thank you.