

Address

H.R.H. Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn

DOCTOR OF LETTERS *honoris causa*

Council Chairman, President, professors and distinguished guests,

It is a great honour for me to receive an honorary Doctor of Letters, *honoris causa*, from Lingnan University, a world-famous liberal arts university. Thank you very much.

I like the motto of Lingnan University, “*Education for Service*”. Education, especially higher education, is much more than career training. A well-designed curriculum and set of extracurricular activities can transform a student into a better person and a leader, who can master the art of helping others. With this service-minded attitude, he or she will contribute much more to society in the future.

In our societies, diversity exists not only across nations, but also within a country. There is a tendency for society to diversify and differentiate, and sometimes it leads to conflicts. Therefore, the broad-based liberal arts education with an emphasis on the wholeness of humankind seems to me to be education for modern times. In fact, the concept of liberal arts education is age-old. We need the right balance between liberal arts education and professional education.

I myself have done development work through education in remote areas for over 30 years. So I understand quite well that good quality education is a powerful tool for successful and sustainable development. It involves continued and untiring efforts.

We must collaborate to share more effective ways to educate our young people, not only to fulfill their needs, but also to become sharing and caring members of their local as well as global communities.

Thank you very much.