

Mr Armstrong Lee Hon-cheung

Honorary Fellow

Address

Council Chairman Mr Andrew Yao, President Prof Leonard K Cheng, Honorary Fellows, faculty and members of the Lingnan community, and distinguished guests:

First of all, I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to Lingnan University for conferring these honorary fellowships on Mr Nicholas Brooke, Mr David Kwok, Mr Michael Ngai and myself; it is my greatest honour to be able to deliver this speech on behalf of my fellow awardees here.

Today, as recipients of the Honorary Fellowship, we are extremely proud to pronounce ourselves “official Lingnians”. Despite its modest scale, Lingnan is for sure a leading brand in the development of education in Hong Kong and China. In recent years, under the leadership of Chairman Mr Andrew Yao and President Professor Leonard Cheng, the University has achieved extraordinary accomplishments which have earned worldwide recognition. In the Times Higher Education University Impact Rankings 2021, Lingnan University was ranked third globally for “Quality Education” out of more than 1,000 universities, and this result is an accurate reflection of Lingnians’ characteristic: perseverance in the pursuit of quality education. In my days serving Lingnan, I felt deeply that all Lingnians – be they professors, staff members, alumni, or members of the Court and Council – worked assiduously to bring quality teaching and continuous improvement in all fields, prioritising the well-being of students, and never compromising on the value of education. Humble and unassuming, Lingnians do not flaunt their many triumphs, and with a longer history than any other university in Hong Kong, Lingnan prides itself on being a leading liberal arts university. Moreover, the rate of admission to student hostels at Lingnan is the highest in Hong Kong, which I believe is envied by many students of our peers!

The three worthy individuals who have received honorary fellowships today, including Mr Nicholas Brooke, Mr David Kwok and Mr Michael Ngai, are indeed fine examples of Lingnians. Having made outstanding contributions to the real estate, banking and financial industries which are pillars of Hong Kong’s economy, they have upheld professionalism, conscientiously worked to attain concrete achievements, and, in the continuous pursuit of excellence in their work, they are all esteemed industry leaders. Guided by their international vision and love for Hong Kong, they have devoted themselves to altruistic service, and contributed significantly to education, youth service, environmental protection, and technological innovation, as well as the arts and culture. Just like Lingnan University, their willingness to enrich the young and lead by example has made them role models for “quality education” within their industries, providing a substantial input into nurturing talents to benefit the society!

Lingnan University is the third university where I serve on the Council – after The Open University of Hong Kong (now Hong Kong Metropolitan University) and City University of Hong Kong; currently I am also a Council Member of The Education University of Hong Kong. Naturally each of these four universities has its own strengths and qualities, that said, the satisfaction I have derived from serving on Lingnan University’s Council over the past six years is beyond words! In fact, not every university in Hong Kong has a special committee under the Council dedicated to the career development of its students, and I am very lucky to have served as Chairman of the Career Development Committee under the Lingnan University Council, and put in my two cents for students’ employment and career growth. Whenever our students achieve satisfactory results in interviews, employment, salaries and career growth, I can sense the fruits of Lingnan’s solidarity strongly. I often tell students “if you are in any way grateful to Lingnan University, do not decline the school’s request for help in the future after you graduate. I am convinced that the helpful and supportive spirit of Lingnians will bring out a united front and indiscriminating culture that will be carried forward to many generations to come!

This year, as the University celebrates the 55th anniversary of its re-establishment in Hong Kong, I, on behalf of the three Honorary Fellows, sincerely wish Lingnan a prosperous development, thriving prominence, and uninterrupted nurturing of future pillars of the community, while upholding Chinese culture and traditions. Finally, I would like to express our gratitude to the distinguished guests and Lingnians here today, and wish you all success in work and life, as well as health and prosperity!

Thank you very much.