

Address by Mr Andrew Fung Hau-chung

Mr Bernard Chan, President Yuk-Shee Chan, Honorary Fellows, Lingnanians, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen,

Today I am deeply honoured to receive an honorary fellowship from Lingnan University, and delighted to deliver this address on behalf of the other five honorary fellows. Ms Chan Yuen-han, Mr Gordon William Ewing Jones, Mr Shih Wing-ching, Mr Johnnie To Kei-fung and Mr Carlson Tong are leaders of social movements, civil servants and professionals who have all made great contributions to Hong Kong. In spite of their different roles in society, they nurse the same ardour for Hong Kong's collective interest. I hereby express my sincere congratulations to all of them.

I was very fortunate to be appointed by the HKSAR government as a Lingnan University Council member from 2003 to 2009, and I am still serving as a member of the University's Investment Sub-Committee. Being a member of the Lingnan University Council was my first public service appointment outside the financial sector; in a certain sense, participating in the educational work of Hong Kong is what I have always longed for.

The first impression Lingnan gave me is the dedication and commitment of its staff to the University, as well as the unity, harmony and closeness between teachers and students. The opportunity that every student can have breakfast with the President is a fine tradition coveted by students of other universities. Every time I expressed to Lingnan professors my wish to recruiting fresh graduates, all of them, no matter which department they are in, would eagerly recommend their students. During times of economic recession, some professors even took the initiative to ask me about recruiting opportunities. I am deeply touched by Lingnan teachers' love and care for the University and their students.

The opportunity to participate in the University's affairs these past few years has enabled me to understand the influence of Lingnan's educational mission and culture on students. Some students may enter Lingnan with a measure of doubt, but after charging themselves up during their time at Lingnan, they all graduate with self-confidence, proud of being a Lingnanian.

Apart from imparting knowledge, Lingnan's liberal arts education also has a positive impact on students' future work attitude and perspective on various matters. Lingnan graduates serve every employer with enthusiasm and a sense of commitment, and always learn with a modest and serious attitude, so the company I am working with is very willing to hire Lingnan graduates. It is my pleasure to witness the constant academic improvement of Lingnan students these past few years, as well as the growing recognition they receive in society.

Ms Chan, Mr Jones, Mr Shih, Mr To and Mr Tong have all achieved a lot and made distinguished contributions to various social sectors. May I again express on their behalf our heartfelt thanks to Lingnan University and its Council in conferring this honour upon us, and to everyone who has given us support and encouragement. We wish the University and Lingnians all the best. We vow to support and maintain a close relationship with the University, and will continue to actively participate in the development of Lingnan. Thank you.