

## **Lingnan University Official Welcome 2013 Welcoming Address by President**

Dear students,

On behalf of the Lingnan family, let me extend our warmest welcome to you. As you know, I am also new to Lingnan. This is my first Official Welcome to Lingnan students and I am really excited to see you all.

Going from secondary school to university is an important chapter of our life. I think most of you are as excited as I am. Lingnan is unique in being the only liberal arts institution in Hong Kong. I chose to come to Lingnan because I believe the liberal arts education here is what we need for today's increasingly globalised world. By integrating a wide spectrum of curricular, co-curricular and extra-curricular activities with a rich hostel life, we seek to help you achieve whole-person development. Our aim is to nurture you to be caring, confident, competent and cultured global citizens.

In line with the finest liberal arts tradition, we attach great importance to quality teaching and learning. During your Lingnan days ahead, you will be able to learn in a supportive environment and enjoy a close student-staff relationship. You can discuss and interact with your teachers inside and outside the classroom, and solicit their advice and assistance concerning your studies and personal development.

As hostel life is an indispensable part of a liberal arts education, residence on campus is compulsory in your first year of studies. You will live with your peers and some of them may become your lifelong friends. You will have ample opportunity to participate in different activities, ranging from academic and cultural to social and recreational, and find that you have better communication and social skills when you graduate.

With a view to enhancing whole-person development, we offer a non-credit bearing Integrated Learning Programme which covers six areas, namely 'Civic Education', 'Intellectual Development', 'Physical Education', 'Social and

Emotional Development’, ‘Aesthetic Development’ as well as ‘Hostel Education’. We also provide you with various opportunities to engage in community service through the Service-Learning Programme and to put into practice the ‘Education for Service’ motto of Lingnan.

In order to broaden your regional and global perspectives, Lingnan has entered into agreements for exchange programmes with over 140 higher educational institutions on the mainland and in many parts of the world, covering Asia, the Americas, Europe, Australasia and Africa. By joining the programmes, you can gain exposure to different educational approaches, interact with students of different cultures, and improve your language skills.

To ensure a smooth transition from secondary to university studies, we have prepared a First Year Experience Programme for you. The programme covers goals setting, university learning skills and attitudes, healthy lifestyle, leadership, civic engagement, mentoring, and self-understanding. We hope the programme will help you adjust to and plan your university life, so that you can make the most of your education at Lingnan.

I encourage you to set goals for your university life and work hard towards them. Allocate your time wisely between studies and extra-curricular activities to achieve academic excellence and develop your potential in other areas. I expect you to exemplify the fine qualities of Lingnan’s liberal arts education and use what you have learned at Lingnan to contribute to society, making a better future for the world.

In closing, may I wish you all a most rewarding and productive year. Thank you.

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