

**Ms Christina Maisenne Lee**  
**Honorary Fellow**

**Address**

Council Chairman Mr Andrew Yao, President Professor Leonard Cheng, Honorary Fellows, faculty and members of the Lingnan community, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen.

It is my great honour to be awarded an honorary fellowship by Lingnan University. It is a true privilege to be able to deliver this speech on behalf of my fellow awardees – Mr Chan Wai-nam, Mr Simon Ip and Mr Nelson Yip.

Lingnan University strives to excel as a leading Asian liberal arts university with international recognition, distinguished by outstanding teaching, learning, scholarship and community engagement. We can trace its excellence to the founding ideal of its pre-cursor, the Canton Christian College, founded 133 years ago by the American Presbyterian Church. That ideal was to synergize the best of the Chinese and Western traditions. That synergy can be summed up in the 4Cs: Creativity, Critical Thinking, Communication, and Collaboration, which are underpinned by the University's motto "Education for Service".

As Andreas Schleicher, Director for the Directorate of Education and Skills at the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), commented in 2019, "Education is no longer about teaching students something alone; it is more important to be teaching them to develop a reliable compass and the navigation tools to find their own way in a world that is increasingly complex, volatile and uncertain. Our imagination, awareness, knowledge, skills and, most important, our common values, intellectual and moral maturity, and sense of responsibility is what will guide us for the world to become a better place."

In supportive and close-knit communities at Lingnan University, students learn to adopt different perspectives and show respect for one another, recognizing that despite their differences, they are and can be connected in so many ways, in particular through the belief in the human capacity to strive for the greater good.

One can never underestimate the value of the ability and determination to ask Big Questions, like "What does it mean to be a truly educated person? And what are the responsibilities to self, others, and society of an educated person?" I believe this is a question that educators at Lingnan University ask constantly as they endeavour to equip their students with the tools they need to develop answers and apply them to particular cases, putting theory into practice. The Lingnan Entrepreneurship Initiative just to cite one example, invites students to identify and solve pressing humanitarian challenges through a sustainable development mindset and an entrepreneurial spirit. Many of us discover that to answer these important questions through thoughtful practice, meaningful experiences, and intellectual inquiry is actually to embark on a lifelong pursuit.

As a beneficiary of Catholic schooling and liberal arts education, I cannot be more grateful for the holistic nurturing I received in academically rigorous yet caring environments. It has been in this reflective yet active space of learning, knowing, being, and serving that I have experienced personal growth, well-being and a sense of purpose. Through education, civil society, and entrepreneurship, my family has served and proudly called this bustling cosmopolitan city home for four generations over seven decades.

Today I am humbled to stand amongst these distinguished Fellows who have not only excelled in their lines of work, but have been outstanding leaders, serving the community in diverse ways. Mr Chan Wai-nam inspires by surviving the war to build a successful business legacy and a personal legacy, too, through his generous philanthropy not only to his ancestral home of Chaozhou, but also to Hong Kong and Lingnan University. Mr Simon Ip not only excels within the legal profession with his patience, perseverance and keen eye for detail, but also in his dedicated service to leading many of Hong Kong's civic organisations and government boards, including his great contributions to the Lingnan community. Paralympian Mr Nelson Yip's entrepreneurial leadership and exceptional perseverance has enabled many to be more engaged and empowered to contribute more fully to society; Mr Yip has made his mark in advocating for Hong Kong to become a barrier-free international city. Together, these Fellows demonstrate the love of learning, the pursuit of purposeful living and the dedication to serving others with their unique talents. Not all of us were educated at Lingnan University, but we can be joined by the Lingnan spirit of passion, loyalty, perseverance, openness to different ideas and cultures and a readiness to serve.

In closing, may I once again, on behalf of Mr Chan Wai-nam, Mr Simon Ip and Mr Nelson Yip, express our gratitude to Lingnan University for the award. In supporting Lingnan University, we support not only the young people it nurtures, but those that the Lingnan community serves. We give our most sincere wishes to Lingnan University as it goes from strength to strength.

Thank you very much.