

Dr Fong Yun-wah

Doctor of Social Sciences honoris causa

Address

Dear Chairman Leung Chun-ying, President Edward Chen, my fellow Lingnanians and all distinguished guests,

First of all, I would like to thank Lingnan University for awarding me the Honorary Degree of Doctor of Social Sciences. I am deeply proud of this award, as it is given by a prestigious university that dates back 116 years to 1888.

It is even my greater honour to have the opportunity to deliver a speech on behalf of all four honorary degree recipients. Under the conscientious leadership of the Honourable Leung Chun-ying, Chairman of the Council, all other members of the Council and Professor Edward K Y Chen, the President, and with the concerted efforts of all teachers and staff members, Lingnan University has been placing equal emphasis on moral, intellectual, physical and social training under the banner of "liberal arts education". Thanks to this clear focus, the University has made remarkable achievements in education and produced numerous talents in generations. This is indeed a matter to be rejoiced at.

I would like to take this opportunity to share with you my business experience in the past 60 years. Dr Li Ka-shing once said, "Knowledge changes one's fate." I would say, "Knowledge, experience, timing and opportunity combined change one's fate." In 1941, I had to quit schooling when Japanese forces occupied Hong Kong. This discontinuance of study is my greatest regret in life. At the time, I realised that in order to survive, I had to acquire various kinds of knowledge through social practice; I had to gain more experience and wait for the right timing and opportunity. As my academic qualifications were poor, I had to make it up with diligence, keep self-studying, read extensively and think introspectively. I read books about the success and failure of great people to draw on their experiences and lessons. I suffered greatly from illness, poverty, discontinuance of study, frustrations, hardship and economic losses. I was also bullied by Japanese soldiers, discriminated by my relatives and friends and unable to get any support. These experiences made me live through Lao Tzu's teaching of "No weal without woe", and also aroused in my inner self a burning desire for success. And God really helps those who help themselves. Eventually I overcame all such difficulties and obstacles and laid a solid foundation for my business today.

I am particularly impressed by the wisdom of Chinese historical figures. Their invaluable advice has guided me through my style of thinking, working and studying. For instance, "To tackle a static force with flexible strategies" and "Retreat when the enemy advances and advance when the enemy retreats," as preached by Chairman Mao Zedong, and "Know your enemy and thyself, and you will win all battles" as preached by Sun Tze in his book: *the Art of War*, can be applied to business management.

On one occasion, I had the pleasure to attend a seminar held by the Faculty of Medicine, the University of Hong Kong, to introduce its brain bank. I asked Professor Tang Siu-wa, "Did Einstein have a brain heavier than those of the ordinary people?" It may be difficult to answer this question conclusively. Some races have big heads but not relatively high intelligence which I am not qualified. I am not going to analyze this question from a scientific or medical perspective. Rather I would consider it from my real-life experience in the past dozens of years. There are very slight differences in the size of human brains, and it is how you use it that matters. Newton perceived gravity from a falling apple. The idea that led to the invention of aeroplanes came from the observations of flying eagles. Many fantasies described in the Chinese fiction *Creation of the Gods* have become reality today. Science and technology are developing by leaps and bounds nowadays when human creativity is aided with computers .

Human intelligence is both congenital and postnatal in nature. For example, the mind of one who has gone through various ups and downs will be more flexible because of the stimulations from one's experiences. Mr Deng Xiaoping, who is acclaimed as "the Chief Architect of the Reform and Open-door Policy", has the concept of "Open Door" as an integral part of his thoughts. Its conception, formation and development should date back to Mr Deng's pursuit of study in France, and result from his multiple visits to developed countries. He combined the ideals brewed

in his youth with his rich experiences of life. Eventually, he successfully developed and established as national policy his comprehensive whole set of ideas on open-door.

Many new ideas are products of men's efforts in extricating themselves from hardship. Hong Kong's evolution is a case in point. In the dozens of years after World War II, Hong Kong has transformed itself from an entrepot to a manufacturing base and then to a financial centre and transportation hub. Hence, it may not necessarily be a bad thing if one's family is poor. A person from a poor family will eventually make his achievements, if he is determined enough to change his fate and work hard. On the other hand, one born with a silver spoon in one's mouth may fall behind easily because of conceit and comfortable life. During the past 60 years plus in my life, I have witnessed the rises and falls of not a few families. It is extremely rare, if not impossible, for a rich family to keep itself from falling for four or five generations.

It is everyone's wish to "make outstanding achievements" in life, but one should do it with due consideration of one's strengths and should never overstretch oneself.

In mathematics, there are four forms of calculations, namely plus (+), minus (-), multiply (\times) and divide (\div). There are also four similar rules in life. "+" means more friends, more knowledge, more good deeds and more contribution. "-" means fewer enemies, fewer mistakes and fewer excessive worries. " \times " is to bring teamwork spirit into full play through group coherence. " \div " is to delegate duties and responsibilities to others as one's ability is limited.

I have concluded various lessons from my business career. The one of paramount importance is to acquire basic knowledge and field knowledge, which means one must learn to work and work to learn simultaneously, gain solid experience day by day in real business, and find out the cause of one's minor mistakes, correct them on time and learn from such lessons. Regardless of running a business or engaging in other work, one should always pursue life-long learning. While investment techniques are ever-changing in nature, we should make in-depth analysis, adopt a cautious approach and think twice before action.

I believe in fate, the wisdom to follow fate, and the fate between friends. I have known Professor Edward K Y Chen for more than 30 years, from the days at the University of Hong Kong and to Lingnan University. It is really my honour to become an honorary alumnus of Lingnan University. Even my grandson was once a pupil of Lingnan's kindergarten.

I am a Christian. Lingnan University is also run according to Christian spirits. Before World War II, Hong Kong's rich families sent their children to Lingnan University for education. Today there are Lingnan alumni in major cities around the world. They have good social standings and have made significant achievements in the economic and academic sectors. This is something in which Lingnan University should take pride. I am very pleased to become a member of this big family.

Lastly, I would like to give my blessing to this year's graduates. I wish you every success in your future endeavours. Just as what is said in the sacred song "God Make My Life a Little Light," the University will surely be proud of your bright achievements.

May I offer my heartfelt thanks to the professors of Lingnan University. I wish the University every success in academic pursuits, and good health to every one of you. Thank you very much.

方潤華博士

榮譽社會科學博士

致詞

尊敬的梁振英主席、陳坤耀校長、各位嶺南人、各位嘉賓：

首先感謝嶺南大學頒授我榮譽社會科學博士銜。貴大學於1888年創立至今已經116年，歷史悠久，知名度極高，我以此引以為榮。

今天承蒙貴大學給我機會代表四位獲得榮銜人士講話，倍感榮幸。嶺南大學在校董會梁振英主席、各校董及陳坤耀校長盡心盡力策劃，以及全體教職員努力下，發揮團隊精神，強調以「博雅」為方針，德、智、體、群並重，把校務辦得很好，成績斐然，人才輩出，可喜可賀。

我藉這個難得機會把我六十年營商經驗與各位師生朋友分享。李嘉誠博士說：「知識改變一個人的命運」。讓我補充：「知識+經驗+時機+機緣可以改變一個人的命運」。我於1941年因日本侵佔香港而中途輟學，這是我一生的遺憾。我明白到要生存，必須從社會實踐中學習各種知識，取得經驗，等待時機、機緣。我學歷不高，惟有將勤補拙，不斷自修，多讀書，多自我反省，閱讀各種人物成功與失敗的書，從中吸取經驗和教訓。我過去曾飽嘗疾病、貧困、失學、挫折、困難、經濟損失等帶來的痛苦，曾受到日本兵的欺凌、親友的歧視，得不到別人的支援，由此領悟到老子所說的「禍兮福所倚」的道理，激發我奮發圖強的上進心。上天不負有心人，我終於克服困難，渡過難關，奠定我今日的事業基礎。

我特別欣賞中國歷史人物的智慧，時至今日，他們的金石良言還可以指導我們的思想、工作和學習，例如毛澤東主席的「以萬變應不變」及「敵進我退、敵退我進」和《孫子兵法》：「知彼知己、百戰不殆」等等智慧都適用於工商企業的管理工作。

有一次我有幸出席香港大學醫學院舉行腦庫介紹的討論會，我曾向鄧兆華教授發問：「愛因斯坦的頭腦細胞是否比一般人重？」這個問題很難找到結論。有些民族的頭腦很大，但是智商不是很高。我不夠資格從科學、醫學的角度來分析，只從幾十年生活經驗來說，人的腦袋大小相差無幾，只是關乎如何運用它。牛頓從一個蘋果在樹上跌下來的現象頓悟出地心吸力；發明飛機的構思是從飛鷹的飛翔而來，我國《封神榜》中幻想的神話，至今已成了夢幻成真了。現今電腦配合人腦，科技發展更加突飛猛進。

人類的智與愚都受先天和後天的影響，例如，飽受憂患的人，受了刺激腦筋反而靈活起來。鄧小平先生被譽為「改革開放的總設計師」。開放是鄧小平思想體系中一個重要組成部份，它的形成、確立與發展，應該追溯到青年時代留學法國，其次是和他多次出訪各發達國家有關。他將青年時代的理想，結合豐富的人生經驗，終於醞釀成熟而完成了一整套全面開放的思想，並將之定為基本國策。

很多新構思，都是人們為了脫離逆境逼迫出來的。香港戰後幾十年的演變可以佐證，由轉口埠變成工業製造基地，再轉為金融和運輸中心。由此證明，家庭貧困不一定是壞事。家貧但有志氣的人，為了改變命運而發奮圖強，終有成就。反而那些驕逸的富家子弟因不思進取而落後他人。我在過往六十多年見過不少家族的盛衰興替，能夠保持四、五代不墮落的，少之又少。

「建奇功，立大業」是人人都希望的，但應量力而為，不可過份勉強。

數學中有「+、-、×、÷」四個運算法則，在人生的歷程中同樣也有四個法則。「+」指多交朋友、多吸收知識、多積福積德、多作一些貢獻；「-」指少些樹敵、少些失誤、減少過份的憂慮；「×」就是運用集體的凝聚力，充分發揮團隊合作精神；「÷」是因個人能力有限，需大家分擔工作與責任。

我在營商生涯中總結出多項經驗，其中最重要的一項就是：要有基本學識加上本行知識，一邊做，一邊學，在實際的營商工作中不斷積累經驗，從小錯中找出原因，及時改正，並吸取經驗教訓。無論營商或做其他工作，都要做到老學到老。投資技巧日新月異、變化多端，我們要認真分析，步步為營，慎思慎行方為上策。

我相信有緣、隨緣、友緣。我和陳坤耀校長從港大到嶺大相識已有卅餘年，今天能夠成為嶺大榮譽校友確是光彩的事。同時，我的孫兒也曾是嶺南幼兒園的學生。

我是基督徒，嶺大也是以基督精神辦學的。戰前，香港不少富有人家讓兒孫到嶺大讀書，嶺大的舊生遍佈世界各大城市。嶺大的許多校友在經濟、學術等方面創造顯著的成績，社會地位崇高，這是嶺大的光榮。因此，我很高興能夠成為嶺大這個大家庭的成員。

最後，我為本屆畢業同學們祈福，祝願大家前程似錦，正如聖歌“生命如光歌”一樣，將來你們事業上的輝煌成就，嶺大也將引以為榮的。

謹向貴校教授們表示由衷的敬意。祝嶺大校務昌隆，蒸蒸日上，祝各位身體健康、生活愉快。多謝大家！