

Professor Wang Gungwu, CBE, BBM, PBM

Doctor of Humanities *honoris causa*

Address

I am sure I speak for my fellow graduands when I say we are honoured to stand before you here. Lingnan University stands for a great liberal arts tradition that has its modern roots in the West but is also linked with the Confucian values in education that evolved over the centuries.

Connecting the two traditions has been a responsibility the University had undertaken from its beginnings in Guangzhou. And Hong Kong is fortunate that its alumni and supporters took pains to rebuild that mixed tradition afresh after its campus in China was closed down.

I vividly recall the moment when my colleague at The University of Hong Kong, Edward Chen, became Lingnan's first Vice Chancellor. He has the capacity to integrate the latest economic ideas with Chinese entrepreneurship and I was convinced that Lingnan under his leadership will offer the kind of holistic view of human and social capital that our region needs. I am proud to see what Lingnan has done as a university during the past two and a half decades.

Reflecting on its achievements, I would like to talk about what I expect of the liberal arts today. I hope it is not too presumptuous of me to talk about matters that you know so well. But the challenges to higher education today suggest that two key issues need further thought.

The first concerns the relations between the humanities and the social sciences. In the two universities I worked during the past 31 years, I was struck by the fact that one retained the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences as a community of students and scholars while the other chose to divide the two into separate Faculties. The two different experiences have made me think about the consequences of having done that.

Where it was one Faculty, I note the rich texture of performances arising from staff and students in humanities and social science because they have more opportunities to connect with one another. In particular, that enabled students to better mix their choice of subjects and broaden their horizons. I was impressed to see how everyone appreciated the learning environment.

Where the Faculties were separated, however, both staff and students lost by having minimal exchanges with one another. Both humanities and social science education missed what greater proximity and regular cooperation could provide. This is why I believe that universities would gain much from reinstating the liberal arts approach. Thus when Lingnan University keeps that flag flying in the face of the narrowing instincts that prevail today, I feel reassured by its success in so doing.

The divisions between humanities and social science and, for that matter, between both and the natural sciences, are becoming obstacles to understanding the world's deeper needs. Many of the best scientists in the world are also aware that they need to cooperate and work with people educated in the liberal arts.

My second observation concerns the longstanding dichotomy of East and West that Chinese thought leaders have taken for paying a great deal of attention to the differences between China and the West. Some today even view the phenomenon as Sino-American competition for influence and power.

However justified that might have been, it ignores the fact that the world has been modernising

fast. Every society and culture has been adapting to common global challenges. Many of their experiences deserve now to be studied with sensitivity and care. To continue to talk only in terms of the divide between China and the West would be misleading and can create serious distortions in our understanding of what is really happening.

The world has moved on. More attention should be given to how different cultures and societies have adapted to modernisation. Issues of wealth and security, of science and education, are common to all, not least to China's close neighbours. More people wish to work together for peace, order and development. The urgent challenges are to find new ways to overcome the dangerous pursuit of national power and superiority and focus on issues that can change people's lives for the better.

Let me conclude by saying that a new age of enlightenment is achievable only if we confront the realities of global proximity. Universities like Lingnan can contribute much to that task by affirming their successes and take their rightful place at the high tables of human development.

On behalf of the other two honorary doctorates Prof Simon Marginson and Dr Frank Law, and everyone graduating today, I offer congratulations to the University for its commitment to what truly matters. We look forward to seeing it produce graduates who will always be dedicated to this great cause.

王廣武教授

榮譽人文學博士

謝辭

我深信台上兩位同獲頒授榮譽博士的全人，與我一樣感到非常榮幸。嶺南大學是優秀的博雅教育傳統的代表，扎根於現代西方文化，亦聯繫著源遠流長的儒家教育思想。

早於廣州創校初期，嶺大已把揉合中西兩大傳統視為己任。當廣州的校園關閉後，幸得一班校友和支持者不畏艱辛，努力在香港籌備復校，再次將優秀的傳統建立起來。

我還清楚記得，當年我與陳坤耀教授在香港大學共事，他其後出任嶺南大學第一任校長。他擅於把新的經濟思想與華人的創業精神結合。我當時深信，在陳教授的領導下，嶺大一定能夠栽培出亞洲所需的人力資本和社會資本。回望嶺大在過去二十多年所創造的佳績，我感到自豪。

說到嶺大的成就，我想談一下對現今博雅教育的期望。恕我冒昧，畢竟在座多是博雅教育的專家。我認為，今天高等教育面對種種挑戰，有兩個問題需要我們深思。

第一個問題是有關人文學與社會科學的關係。過去31年我服務過兩所大學，其中一家把文學院和社會科學院合為一體，而另一所大學則選擇分為兩個獨立學院。兩個不同的經驗，讓我思考不同做法所帶來的影響。

首先，把兩個學院合二為一的大學，我注意到人文學和社會科學的師生有更多機會互相接觸，學術素養因而變得更豐富和多元化，特別是學生可以選修兩個範疇內的不同科目，視野得以拓闊。看到師生都喜歡這樣的學習環境，我很欣慰。

至於在另一所大學，兩個學院各自獨立，結果是師生甚少有機會交流。人文學與社會科學的教育，同樣失去了兩者因著經常交流和合作所帶來的優勢。因此，我深信大學若能堅持博雅教育的方針，一定會帶來莫大裨益。在今天的大學，鼓吹學院各自為政，互不相干，但嶺南大學能夠篤定提倡博雅教育，我有信心嶺大將會越來越成功。

把人文學、社會科學以至自然科學的教育完全割裂，令知識面無法匯通，無法讓我們更深入地理解世界的需要。世界上許多優秀的科學家，已意識到需要與受博雅教育的同儕合作。

第二個問題是長期存在的東西方二分法，中國的思想家一直非常關注中國與西方的差異。現在甚至有人視此為中美權力和影響力的角力。不管有多合理，這說法卻忽略了一個事實，就是世界正在快速現代化；每個社會和文化都在適應全球的共同挑戰，而不同社會的種種經驗，很值得我們細心和敏銳地研究。如果我們繼續只談論中國與西方之間的鴻溝，不單流於偏頗，而且有可能嚴重扭曲了事實的真相。

世界不斷前進，我們應該更關注不同的文化和社會如何適應現代化。有關財富與安全、科學與教育等問題，在所有地方都存在，不限於中國的鄰近地區。越來越多人希望為和平、秩序及發展而一起合作。現在我們面對的最迫切的挑戰，就是要設法令各國放棄追求國力和優越感的危險舉措，轉為把焦點放在如何改善人民的生活。

作為總結，我想告訴大家，要達至新的啟蒙時代，我們必須面對一個現實，就是全球變得

越來越緊密。嶺南大學和其他大學一樣，只要在推動人類發展方面發揮應有的作用，努力爭取成就，這樣就是為社會作出貢獻。

嶺大致力為重要的目標而努力，有目共睹，我謹代表另外兩位榮譽博士Simon Marginson教授及羅世傑醫生，以及今天所有畢業生向大學致以祝賀。我們期盼嶺大培育更多畢業生，繼續造福社會和人類文明。