

Address by Honorary Graduate

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Doctor of Laws *honoris causa*

Council Chairman Mr Andrew Yao, President S. Joe Qin, distinguished guests, and fellow honorary graduates,

Today, I stand before you with a profound sense of gratitude. I am deeply honoured to receive this honorary degree from my alma mater, and it is a distinct privilege to have been asked to deliver this address on behalf of the other four remarkable individuals who have made such significant contributions in their respective fields.

Professor Samuel C.C. Ting, Nobel laureate and esteemed physicist, has left an indelible mark on particle physics and astrophysics; Dr Mahesh Nagarajan is an exemplar of scholarly excellence in the field of optimisation and mathematical modelling; Dr Peter Wong Tung-shun not only heads one of the world's leading banks, but has also played a pivotal role in shaping Hong Kong's financial landscape; and Professor David Bordwell, the internationally renowned film authority, has had a powerful impact on the world of cinema. In light of their remarkable achievements, you may wonder how come I have the good fortune to be in such distinguished company today.

On a personal level, I would compare my first encounter with Lingnan as a student to that of the fisherman in the Peach Blossom Spring story (桃花源記) of Tao Yuanming (陶淵明). By pure chance and good fortune, it was here that I was led into the fascinating world of classical Chinese studies. Like in Tao's story, the inhabitants of this land were cut off from the outside world, living blissfully oblivious to warfare and instability of the times. The discovery of this world completely changed my perception of the possibilities of China, a perception unaffected by the melancholy and self-doubt so prevalent in the discourse on traditional Chinese culture at the time. China can be so good and her language can be so beautiful, I discovered. There is no need for a reason to like these classical Chinese works, just as there is no need for a reason to love good food or good wine.

This personal discovery, at a time when the rest of the world had hardly begun to appreciate the possibilities of China, has somehow inspired in me a strong confidence which has proven an invaluable asset in many ways ever since. For example, my early years as a legal practitioner coincided with the profound reform of state-owned enterprises in China, a reform championed by a new breed of executives and professionals. All these champions are characterised by an avid appetite for new knowledge and quite often also an interest in traditional Chinese culture. My passion for the Chinese classics has enabled me to connect with many of them in ways that would otherwise be impossible. This has made my practice a rewarding one. For this, I always feel that I owe a debt of gratitude to Lingnan.

Six years after leaving Lingnan as a student, and just as I embarked on a new career in law, I was approached by the late Dr Wai Kee-kau and Dr T S Tong, two founding directors of the organisation that established Lingnan College in 1967, to join Lingnan Education Organization (LEO) which was then responsible for the

College's operation. I stood witness to the tireless efforts and selfless contributions of Lingnanians which made the relocation of Lingnan College to this beautiful campus and its retitling as Lingnan University possible. My connection with the University through LEO has continued ever since.

In 2017, on the fiftieth anniversary of Lingnan University's rebirth in Hong Kong, I was given the privilege of writing the foreword for the first official publication on its re-establishment in Hong Kong. As the President has mentioned in his address earlier today, the first institution that came to be called Lingnan University was established in 1888 in Guangzhou and, until 1952 when it ceased operations, this former Lingnan University had 64 years of glorious achievements and unmatched prominence in higher education. I called this, in my foreword, the Guangzhou story of Lingnan University.

On the other hand, today's Lingnan University, from the time it was re-established in 1967 until now, is a Hong Kong story. The College was established by a group of former Lingnan University students, led by the late Mr Chan Tak-tai to whom this auditorium is dedicated, in the spirit of giving back to Lingnan education, and cherishing the fond memories of their alma mater at a time when higher education was beyond the reach of the vast majority of Hong Kong's student population. "Re-establishment" (復校) in this context does not mean the reappearance of the former Lingnan University; rather, it means the establishment of Lingnan College (later renamed Lingnan University) by this group of Lingnanians some 56 years ago to continue the traditional spirit of service. The term "re-establishment" therefore has the dual meanings of "commencement" and "continuation". The origin of the Hong Kong story of today's Lingnan University prolongs the Guangzhou story of the former Lingnan University. So for this official publication on the re-establishment of the University, instead of using the traditional Chinese proverb of "繼往開來" (carry on the past and open up the future) as its Chinese title, we decided to reverse the order and adopted the Chinese title of "開創以傳承" (open up the future so as to carry on the past). We believe that only by opening up the future can the heritage of Lingnan University be continued. I am very glad that the President has in his installation address earlier today committed to opening a new chapter for the University and striving to make Lingnan University a world-class liberal arts research institute in the digital era.

Please therefore join me in wishing President Qin every success in leading our University to new heights. Thank you.

榮譽博士致謝辭

黃志光先生

榮譽法學博士

校董會主席姚祖輝先生、校長秦泗釗教授、各位嘉賓、各位榮譽博士：

今天站在大家面前，我實在滿懷感激。獲得母校頒授榮譽博士學位，我深感榮幸；對於獲邀代表其餘四位在各自領域中有卓越貢獻的傑出人士致辭，我尤感欣悅。

丁肇中教授，諾貝爾獎得主及著名物理學家，在粒子物理學和天體物理學領域留下永不磨滅的印記；Mahesh Nagarajan博士是最優化應用和數學建模的傑出學術典範；王冬勝博士不僅是全球龍頭銀行之一的掌舵者，更在塑造香港金融發展方面發揮了舉足輕重的作用；David Bordwell教授乃國際著名電影權威，對電影世界影響深遠。你們或許會問，是甚麼機緣讓我今天能與如此傑出的精英為伍。

個人而言，我會將自己在學生時代與嶺南的初次相遇，比作陶淵明筆下的漁人邂逅於「桃花源」。機緣巧合之下，我走進了一個引人入勝的國學世界。正如陶淵明所述的故事般，這片土地與外間的動盪時局隔絕，人們活得怡然自樂。這發現徹底改變了我對中國機遇的看法。當時人們關於中國傳統文化的論述，往往瀟灑著憂傷的情緒和自我懷疑，但在嶺南這個國學世界裡，我卻偏偏不會受到這些負面情緒影響。我發現，中國可以如斯美好，中文可以如斯優美。對這些中國傳統經典作品的傾慕毋須原因，正如喜愛美酒佳餚毋須理由一樣。

可能因為當時世界其他地方尚未開始意識到中國的機遇，我的這個個人發現莫名地給予我一種強烈的自信，並在往後的歲月裡以無數方式證明了其無價之處。例如，我早年從事法律工作時，正值中國的國有企業進行深度改革，並由新一代行政人員和專業人士主導。這批精英的特點是渴求新知識，並且往往愛好中國傳統文化。我對國學的熱愛，正好讓我與他們不少人建立了聯繫，結果這也讓我在工作上收穫頗豐。為此，我對嶺南常存感激。

在嶺南畢業六年後，我在法律界剛開展了事業的新一頁。曾參與1967年創辦嶺南書院（1978年中文改稱嶺南學院）的韋基球博士及唐天樂博士邀請我加入當時負責營辦嶺南學院的嶺南教育機構。我從而得以親身體會到嶺南人努力不懈和無私貢獻的精神，使嶺南學院得以遷到現在這個美麗的校園，並最終得以正名為嶺南大學。這些年來透過嶺南教育機構，我與母校的聯繫從未間斷。

2017年，適逢嶺南大學在香港復校50周年紀念，我有幸為講述嶺南復校的第一本官方刊物撰寫序言。正如校長剛才在演講中提到，第一間名為嶺南大學的教育機構於1888年在廣州成立，直到1952年停辦。這所前嶺南大學有著64年輝煌的成就，在高等教育界聲名卓著，我的序言中稱之為嶺南大學的廣州故事。

今時今日的嶺南大學，從1967年復校至今，開展了一個香港故事。抱著對嶺南的懷念和回饋母校教育的信念，以及彌補當時香港專上教育學額的不足，當時一群前嶺南大學的舊生在陳德泰先生帶領下成立了嶺南書院，而這個大會堂正是以陳先生的名字命名的。在這個背景下，「復校」並非指前嶺南大學的重新出現，而是指這群嶺南人傳承前嶺南大學的傳統服務精神，並於56年前成立嶺南書院（最終正名為嶺南大學）。因此，「復校」這詞具有「開創」和「傳承」的雙重含義。今天的嶺南大學，傳承了前嶺南大學在廣州的歷史淵源，開創了現在這個香港故事。有見及此，在這本關於嶺南大學復校的官方刊物中，我們決定把字詞調動一下，採用「開創以傳承」作為中文標題，而不是成語「繼往開來」。我們相信，只有開拓未來，才能延續嶺南大學的過去。我很高興校長在他今天的就職演講中承諾開啟大學的新篇章，並努力帶領嶺南大學成為數位時代世界一流的博雅研究學府。

請與我一同祝願嶺南大學在秦校長的帶領下再創高峰。謝謝！