

Address by Mr Patrick Wong Chi-kwong

Mr Bernard Chan, Ms Sophia Kao, President Chan Yuk-Shee, Honorary Fellows, Lingnanians, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen,

I am deeply honoured to receive this award of honorary fellowship from Lingnan University, and I am delighted to address you on behalf of the other three honorary fellows. They have made enormous contributions to the civil service, business community and civil society of Hong Kong. They deserve this honour far more than I do. May I offer my sincere congratulations to Mr Adolf Hsu Hsung, Mr Kwan Chi-sun and Mr Michael Lee Tze-hau.

This year, as we celebrate the centenary of the Xinhai Revolution, we are often reminded of the unique role that Hong Kong has played in fermenting the revolutionary spirit that fundamentally changed the fate of the Chinese nation in 1911. What has often been overlooked is the role that Hong Kong has played in continuing the pursuit of classical Chinese studies during the troubled times of the last century. Here, tertiary colleges could be formed by private citizens and organisations, perhaps with little support from the government but largely free from political influence. As China descended into the darkness and chaos of civil war and endless political struggles, these colleges provided refuge to many eminent Chinese scholars who chose to come here to continue their scholarly pursuits and mission in education.

Lingnan was one of these colleges, and it played host to two of these scholars — Prof Chan Cham-chuen and Prof Leung Kan-nang. I am the beneficiary of a Lingnan education under these circumstances. My brief encounter at the age of eighteen with an inspired student leader of what was then Lingnan College turned into an extraordinary five-year journey into the world of classical Chinese studies, a world of endless enchantment and boundless treasures. Resources available to the college were scarce, but our spirits were high. We knew what we were after. In the many years after my days as a student here, what Lingnan gave me in those days has never ceased to be a source of strength, inspiration, and above all joy.

For the last 20 years, I have had a different kind of relationship with Lingnan. I have had the good fortune of working alongside some brilliant individuals, including Dr Wai Kee-kau and Dr T S Tong, who were involved in the founding of Lingnan College in Hong Kong. They are Lingnanians of a different generation, many of them graduates of the original Lingnan University in Canton which was closed in 1952. I stood witness to their tireless efforts and selfless contributions, as they ensured that Lingnan College

was provided with significant material assets and helped reform the institution's governance structure, which led to the relocation of Lingnan to this beautiful campus and its retitling as a university. This has been a motivational experience.

Today, Lingnan has transformed into a public university commanding resources beyond the imagination of the students of my day. With a first-class faculty and an efficient management team under the able leadership of President Chan Yuk-Shee, and with a Council drawing on the talents and resources of leaders from different sectors of society, the University is entering a glorious new chapter of development. This is the greatest gift a Lingnanian could receive.

Mr Adolf Hsu Hsung, Mr Kwan Chi-sun and Mr Michael Lee Tze-hau have all made outstanding contributions to their own fields and have contributed enormously to society. Let me once again represent them in expressing our gratitude to Lingnan University and its Council for conferring this great honour upon us, and to everyone who has given us support and encouragement. We pledge to do our best to contribute in whatever way we can to the future development of Lingnan, and we wish the University every success. Thank you.



黃志光先生謝辭

陳智思先生、高靜芝女士、陳玉樹校長、各位榮譽院士、各位嶺南人、各位嘉賓：

本人深感榮幸獲頒嶺南大學榮譽院士銜，同時亦很高興能代表其他三位榮譽院士致辭。三位榮譽院士在政府、商界及社會建樹良多，比我更有資格獲得這項榮譽。本人謹向許雄先生、關志信先生及利子厚先生致以衷心祝賀。

今年是辛亥革命一百週年，不少學者均強調香港在醞釀革命精神的過程中，擔當了獨特的角色，結果於1911年把中華民族的命運全盤改寫。較少人提到的是，香港一直默默耕耘，在上世紀動盪的時局中，把中國古典學術傳承下去。在香港，個人或私營團體均可創辦專上學院；政府給予的支持或許不多，但政治干預亦很少。當中國陷於內戰的水深火熱與連綿不斷的政治鬥爭之際，這些私營學院成為很多優秀的中國學者棲身之所。他們選擇南下香港，繼續探求學問，誨人不倦。

嶺南就是這些私營學院之一，並延聘了兩位非常有名的學者——陳湛銓老師和梁簡能老師，而我正是這個環境之下的嶺南教育得益者。當時我年僅十八歲，與一名嶺南學院的學生領袖萍水相逢之後，隨即開展中國古典學術之旅，徜徉其中達五年之久。中國古典學術博大精深，典藏瑰寶之多，令人目眩神馳。雖然當年學院資源匱乏，但師生鬥志昂揚，深知自己追求的目標。畢業之後的漫長歲月裡，在嶺南所得始終是賜予我力量、靈感和歡樂的泉源。

過去20年來，我和嶺南的關係換了另一個模式。我很榮幸有機會與韋基球博士、唐天樂博士等當年參與創辦嶺南學院的前輩並肩工作。他們是另一代的嶺南人，其中不少更是已於1952年結束的廣州嶺南大學的畢業生。我目睹他們如何孜孜不倦地為母校作出無私的奉獻，確保嶺南學院獲得豐厚的校產；又積極協助學院改革管治架構，讓嶺南搬到這個環境優美的校園，並獲得重新正名為大學。整個過程令我感到非常鼓舞。

時至今日，嶺大已成為一所政府資助的大學，擁有的資源遠超過我當年在嶺南求學時所能想像。嶺大擁有一流的教授、高效率的管理團隊，在陳玉樹校長的英明領導下，加上校董會從社會各界廣納領導人才及資源，現正開啟大學發展璀璨耀目的新篇章。身為嶺南人，沒有任何禮物比這一份更感珍貴。

許雄先生、關志信先生及利子厚先生都在其專業領域表現卓越，對社會貢獻良多。請容我再次代表他們，向嶺南大學及校董會頒授榮譽院士銜予我們，衷心致謝。此外，感謝每一位曾經鼓勵和支持我們的人士。我們承諾會竭盡所能，繼續促進嶺大未來的發展，並祝願嶺大百尺竿頭、更進一步。

謝謝各位。