

Mr Irons Sze, GBS, JP

Honorary Fellow

Address

Council Chairman the Hon Andrew Yao Cho-fai, President Professor S. Joe Qin, Honorary Fellows, Lingnanians, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen,

It is a profound honour and privilege for me to be conferred an Honorary Fellowship by Lingnan University, an institution with nearly 140 years of educational heritage that is deeply rooted in both Guangdong and Hong Kong. Please allow me, on behalf of all the Honorary Fellows of this cohort, to express our most heartfelt gratitude to Lingnan.

This year's recipients of the fellowship are exemplary leaders across diverse sectors of society, each having served the community and inspired younger generations with professional excellence and selfless dedication over many years. Among them, Ms Katherine Cheung Marn-kay, a finance expert and former member of the Council and Court of Lingnan University, has wholeheartedly supported the development of the University for many years, contributing immensely to its steady progress. Ms Guo Jingjing, a star athlete, has devoted herself to public welfare and youth development, guiding the new generation with positive energy. Mr Ma Fung-kwok, a leading film producer and distributor, has been directly engaged in cultural heritage and public service for decades, actively promoting cultural and educational exchanges between the Chinese Mainland (the Mainland) and Hong Kong and thereby advancing Hong Kong's cultural affairs and youth development. Mr Yeung Fan, a business titan, has long supported education and talent development. They have all given back to society in their own ways.

I had the privilege of serving as a member of the Council and Court of the University in my earlier years, witnessing first-hand how the University has blazed a trail in liberal arts education. Lingnan seamlessly integrates the best of Chinese and Western cultures, placing equal emphasis on academic foundations, critical thinking, open-mindedness, and empathy.

My devotion to education and public service draws on the deep well of ink and inspiration — a well that was dug by my father. He was a calligrapher who dedicated his life to traditional brushwork and the preservation of Chinese cultural heritage. He was also a captain of industry who did business in order to contribute to society. In his early years, he helped set up schools himself. Later on in life, he established scholarships at the Mainland institutions. His belief in cherishing and nurturing talent has guided my own involvement in the University for many years, as well as my active support for youth exchange between the Mainland and Hong Kong.

Today, with the rapid advancement of artificial intelligence and digital technology, and alongside changing social and international landscapes, the spirit of Lingnan — characterised by inclusiveness, perseverance and innovation — provides students with the qualities they will need to navigate contemporary trends and thereby secure their futures. For, as our nation advocates high-quality development, the HKSAR, leveraging its unique geographical advantages, serves as a hub connecting the Mainland with the world. Furthermore, the Greater Bay Area represents a broad stage for young people's development. I hope our students will make full use of the cross-cultural learning resources and opportunities offered here, actively participating in various Mainland exchange and internship programmes, and aligning their personal strengths with the real needs of society. As you enter your respective professions in the future, uphold our University motto "Education for Service", align your aspirations closely with national development, and serve Hong Kong well with your professional skills.

This honour symbolises the profound trust that Lingnan University has placed in me and the other fellowship recipients. To me, it also signifies a solemn duty. I shall continue to walk hand-in-hand with Lingnan, nurturing talent for the nation and cultivating the leaders of tomorrow, young people who are capable of bearing the heavy responsibilities of our era.

Finally, I wish to express once again my sincere thanks to Lingnan University for conferring upon me this precious honour. May this institution we all hold dear remain steadfast in its liberal arts foundation and achieve even more and greater breakthroughs and accomplishments in the future.

Thank you very much.

施榮懷先生，GBS, JP

榮譽院士

謝辭

校董會主席姚祖輝議員、校長秦泗釗教授、各位榮譽院士、各位嶺南人、各位嘉賓、女士們、先生們：

今日承蒙嶺南大學頒授榮譽院士榮銜，置身這所辦學近一百四十載、底蘊深厚、紮根粵港兩地的學府，我滿心榮幸與感念。請允許我代表今屆的所有榮譽院士，向嶺南大學致以最誠摯的感謝。

今天與我一同獲頒榮譽院士的皆是社會各界的典範翹楚，長年以專業成就與無私擔當服務社群、啟迪後進。當中，章曼琪女士作為嶺南大學校董會及諮議會前成員，多年來鼎力支持大學建設與發展，為學府穩步前行貢獻良多；郭晶晶女士縱橫體壇屢創佳績，退役後積極投身公益與青年培育工作，以正能量引領新一代成長；馬逢國先生深耕文化傳承與社會服務多年，積極推動內地和香港文教交流，助力香港文化事業與青年發展邁步向前；楊勳先生立足商界、心繫社會，長年支持教育育才事務，積極回饋社群。

我早年有幸出任校董會及諮議會成員，親身見證大學走出獨特的博雅育人路徑，兼容中西文化精髓，除了重視學術根基，更着重培養學生慎思明辨的能力、包容胸懷與同理心。

我對教育與社會事務的投入，源自家風的浸潤與啟迪。家父身為書法家，畢生深耕翰墨，一心傳承中華傳統文化；同時經營實業，持續以行動回饋社會。他早年親自出力興辦學校，其後亦於內地院校設立獎學金。這份惜才育才的價值理念，亦指引我多年參與大學校務，積極推動內地和香港青年往來交流。

現今人工智能、數碼科技急速發展，社會環境與國際形勢瞬息萬變，而嶺南精神所蘊含的包容、堅毅與求新求變，正是同學們應對時代轉變、立足未來的珍貴素養。今日的國家正全力推進高質量發展，香港特別行政區憑藉獨特的區位優勢，成為內地連通全球的雙向樞紐，大灣區更為青年提供廣闊發展舞台。期望各位同學善用校園提供的跨文化學習資源，積極參與內地不同的交流與實習計劃，將個人所長對接社會真實需求；日後步入各行各業，謹守「作育英才，服務社會」的校訓，將自身理想與國家發展緊密相連，以專業所長服務香港。

這份殊榮承載校方的厚愛與認可，對我來說，更是一份責任。往後我將繼續與嶺南大學並肩同行，秉持育才報國之心，與大學一同培育能擔當時代重任的青年。

最後，再次由衷感謝嶺南大學授予我這份珍貴榮銜，期盼這所我們共同珍視的學府，堅守博雅之本，迎來更多突破與成就。

多謝各位。