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Doctor of Social Sciences *honoris causa*

Address

First of all, on behalf of Dr Simon Ip and Dr Sophia Kao, my fellow graduands at today's ceremony, and myself, I would like to express our deepest gratitude to the entire Lingnan University community, for the great honour that has been bestowed upon us. We are all extremely proud to become the newest alumni of Lingnan University.

Today, I would like to take this opportunity to share my observations on the heritage of Lingnan University with you. Lingnan University was founded in Guangzhou (then known in English as Canton) in 1888, and re-established in Hong Kong in 1967. "Lingnan" is a name that has stood the test of time. Over the more than 130 years of its existence, it has produced many, many distinguished alumni.

What are the special connotations of the name "Lingnan"?

First, the characters "嶺南" themselves literally mean the region "south of the ridge" or more precisely the region "south of the five ridges (五嶺之南)". While there seems to be some disagreement among scholars about the identity of the ridges, they are, roughly speaking, all located in the borderland between Hunan, Jiangxi, southern Fujian, Guangxi and northern Guangdong. The Lingnan region lies between the five ridges and the southern coast of China. It has always been more experimental, more open, more progressive and more internationalised than the rest of the country. It should therefore be no surprise that most overseas Chinese hail from the Lingnan region and that the first foreign trading posts were in Macau and Guangzhou.

The Lingnan region also has its own unique literary, artistic and culinary tradition. It has benefitted from the quite civilised ancient imperial practice of exiling court officials who offended the Emperor to the more remote parts of the country. Two of the most famous examples of such exiles to the region were Han Yu in the Tang Dynasty and Su Shi in the Song Dynasty. Han served as an official in Chaozhou, and the people there were so grateful for what he had done for them that they named both the nearby mountain and river after him. Su served in Huizhou and Hainan, and left us the famous poem to express the sentiment that he would not mind living in the Lingnan region forever because then he would be able to eat three hundred lychees every day (日啖荔枝三百顆，不辭長作嶺南人).

In art, there is the unique Lingnan School of painting, in part because of the Lingnan region's own distinct fauna and flora and landscapes. This innovative style of painting was also significantly influenced by Western techniques. "The three greats of Lingnan (嶺南三傑)" — Gao Jianfu, Gao Qifeng and Chen Shuren — are considered the spiritual leaders of this School. And it is not necessary for me to dwell on Guangdong cuisine, which includes regional specialties in major centres like Guangzhou and Chaozhou, as well as the food of the Hakka people. The name "Lingnan" evokes all of these various associations.

Today, the Lingnan University brand is also closely associated with liberal arts education (博雅教育). Lingnan University is the standard bearer of liberal arts education not only in Hong Kong

but also in the entire East Asian region. It is the only institution of higher learning in Hong Kong that promotes and implements the idea of a liberal arts education similar to that offered by, for example, the oldest colleges at Oxford and Cambridge in the UK, and Amherst College and Williams College in the US. There is also a parallel but distinct and even older tradition of colleges (書院) in China, dating back to the Tang Dynasty in the eighth century more than five centuries earlier than the foundation of Balliol College and Merton College at Oxford in the mid-thirteenth century. Lingnan University is a spiritual synthesis of the best of these two educational traditions.

A liberal arts education aims to produce graduates who are broadly educated and intellectually curious and inquisitive, but who are also at the same time critical and thoughtful, and who are firmly committed to rational discourse and have acquired the ability to learn on their own. It encourages students to learn how to distinguish between truth and falsehood, and between right and wrong, on their own. It does not aim to produce professionals per se, but aims to nurture a holistic human being.

Unfortunately, the liberal arts education is not yet well understood in this part of the world, including Hong Kong, especially by the parents of college-bound students. Since it is neither professional nor vocational, the typical question posed by a sceptical parent is: “How will you find a job after graduation?” This is not an unfair question, because a typical liberal arts graduate has no specific employable skill. A good answer to this question might be that a liberal arts education is a foundation. In the US, many leaders in different fields are liberal arts graduates, but their undergraduate degree was just a start. Most of them went to graduate school or professional school in fields such as business, law or medicine, perhaps after working for a couple years. Sadly, there is no simple path to law or medicine for a liberal arts graduate in Hong Kong.

However, Hong Kong employers can and should be educated to understand that even though liberal arts graduates have no specific skills, they can think better, learn faster, and see the big picture. In this day and age, when things are so fast-moving and complex, these qualities can be much more valuable than specific skills. Employers should realise that it is more valuable to have an employee who can learn fast and adapt to a new situation quickly than an employee with soon-to-be-obsolete skills. Such employees are also more likely to become the leaders of tomorrow.

Lingnan University has provided and continues to provide a great service to Hong Kong by adhering faithfully to its liberal arts education mission, producing graduates instilled with the intellectual capacity and life-long self-learning ability to become potential leaders in their chosen fields of work. This is a key distinguishing advantage of Lingnan University and it should persevere on this path.

In closing, all of us—Dr Ip, Dr Kao and I—want to thank the Lingnan University community once again and wish Lingnan University even greater success in the future!

劉遵義教授

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謝辭

首先，我謹代表今天獲頒授榮譽博士學位的葉錫安博士及高靜芝博士，向嶺南大學表達由衷的謝意，感謝嶺南大學頒授這項殊榮給我們。能成為嶺南大學校友一分子，我們感到十分榮幸。

今天，藉著這個難得的機會，我想與各位分享一下我對嶺南大學的傳承的一些觀察。嶺南大學於1888年在廣州創校，其後於1967年在香港復校。「嶺大」創校至今逾130年，培育無數人材，是一所經得起時間考驗的高等學府。

「嶺南」一詞，使人聯想起甚麼特別涵義呢？

首先，「嶺南」兩字，按字面的解釋，就是指「山脈之南」，或更精準的說，是指「五嶺之南」的地區。學者們對五嶺由哪五座山脈組成，並沒有統一的說法，但大體而言，五嶺指湖南、江西、福建以南與廣西及廣東北部接壤一帶。位處五嶺與中國南部沿海地區之間的嶺南地區，相比中國其他地區，一直較為敢於創新、開放、先進及國際化。正因如此，海外華僑也大多來自嶺南地區。近代歷史上，國際貿易活動也率先出現在澳門和廣州。

嶺南地區亦擁有其獨特的文學、藝術和飲食文化傳統。古時一些因開罪帝皇而被貶謫流放至嶺南地區的官吏，也對嶺南文化有一定的影響。當中最為人熟悉的兩位，就是唐朝的韓愈和宋朝的蘇軾。韓愈於潮州當官期間，治績甚佳，當地民眾感念他的恩德，因此，山（韓山）與水（韓江）都因他而命名。至於被流放惠州及海南的蘇軾，則給世人留下名句：「日啖荔枝三百顆，不辭長作嶺南人。」

藝術方面，嶺南有自成一格的「嶺南畫派」。除了嶺南地區特有的動植物和風景元素，這創新畫派亦深受西洋畫法影響。「嶺南三傑」——高劍父、高奇峰及陳樹人，則被視為嶺南畫派的精神領袖。馳名獨特的粵菜，由廣州菜、潮州菜和客家菜組成，粵菜如何精妙，大概不需我多作詳述了。

這許許多多的聯想，都是由「嶺南」一詞引發出來的。

今天，嶺南大學的形象與博雅教育緊密地聯繫在一起，成為不僅在香港，而是整個東南亞地區的博雅教育先鋒。作為香港唯一一所宣揚及推廣博雅教育理念的高等教育學府，其教育理念與英國牛津和劍橋的古老學院成立初期，以及美國的阿默斯特學院和威廉斯學院相近，亦與歷史更悠久的一些中國書院相類似——這些中國傳統書院的創

辦，可追溯至公元八世紀的唐朝，即比於十三世紀中創校的牛津大學貝利奧爾學院和墨頓學院早了五個世紀。嶺南大學的教育理念可說是結合中西傳統教育的精神而成的。

博雅教育旨在栽培博學、對知識的追尋充滿好奇、擁有批判能力、有想法、主張理性辯論而且具有自主學習能力的學生，並鼓勵學生學習如何分辨真假、明辨是非。博雅教育，就其本身而言，並非旨在栽培具有專業職能的人士，而是以培養全人為目標。

可惜的是，在世界的這一邊，包括香港，一般人對博雅教育的認識並不深，很多準大學生的家長根本不理解博雅教育的理念。由於博雅教育並非以專業職能或職業教育為目標，對其抱有懷疑的家長一般會問：「學生畢業後可以找甚麼工作呢？」這並非不合理的問題，因為一般博雅教育畢業生的確沒有具備特定的職業技能。也許最合適的答案是，博雅教育只是學習的根基。在美國，眾多領袖也是博雅教育畢業生，但他們的學士學位只是開始。他們大多會於工作數年後回到研究院或專業學院修讀商業、法律或醫學專業。可惜，香港現時並沒有途徑讓一名博雅教育畢業生進入法律或醫學領域。

我們要讓香港僱主明白，也許博雅教育畢業生沒有特定的職業技能，但他們比較懂得思考、學習能力更快更高、看事物的角度更廣闊。在現今瞬息萬變並越趨複雜的環境中，這些能力比只擁有一門專業技能更有價值。僱主應意識到，聘用學習效率高、能迅速適應新環境的員工，比聘用只懂舊式技術的員工更有價值。再者，這些也是出色領袖需要具備的素質。

嶺南大學一直堅守其博雅教育的理念，為香港培育具智慧及終身學習能力、有潛力成為出色領袖的畢業生。這是嶺南大學的獨特優勢，亦是其應該堅持的路向。

最後，我們再次感謝嶺南大學，並祝願嶺南大學百尺竿頭、更進一步！