

Mr Ho Sai-yiu

Council Chairman Mr Rex Auyeung, President Prof Leonard Cheng, Honorary Fellows, Lingnanians, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen,

I am deeply honoured to receive the Honorary Fellowship from Lingnan University. This award gives me the chance to reflect on what I have contributed to society, to education and related charity work. As an old boy of Lingnan Primary School and a Lingnanian, the Honorary Fellowship conferred upon me today is particularly heart-warming. I am also delighted to deliver this address on behalf of the other four distinguished honorary fellows, Mr Chan Cheuk-ming, Miss Chan Yuen-ting, Mr Mason Wu and Mr Roger Yuen, who receive this award together with me today.

Since its founding in 1888 in Guangzhou, Lingnan University has been educating the kind of talented young people who can help modernise the country, guided by the motto “Education for Service”. The essence of liberal arts education is to encourage students to “acquire broad-based knowledge and live in a noble and graceful manner”, qualities which enable students to better adapt to changing trends and developments in today’s society. The quality of education at Lingnan has been widely recognised. In 2015, the University was named a “Top 10 Liberal Arts College in Asia” by *Forbes*. As a business and community leader, I have also noticed that Lingnan University, under the leadership of Council Chairman Mr Rex Auyeung and President Prof Leonard Cheng, has risen in university rankings, improved knowledge transfer, and excelled in teaching and research. This is certainly not easy and most commendable in the highly competitive environment of the global higher education sector today.

As one of the oldest universities in southern China, Lingnan has a proud tradition, which is especially important to review now on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of its re-establishment in Hong Kong. In the biography of Dr Chung Wing-kwong, “Father of Lingnan” and former President, it is mentioned that Chung felt that China’s poverty and backwardness at the time had resulted from the ignorance of its people,

and only the revitalisation of education could tackle the problems at the root and make the country strong. He believed that students must understand society as it is and attend to national affairs in order to grow up to become responsible citizens. It also behooves us to recall our national father, Dr Sun Yat-sen’s visit to Lingnan in December 1923 at the invitation of Dr Chung. In his speech to the students, Dr Sun called on them to aim high rather than simply becoming a government official. “You welcomed me here to give a speech today. I can only tell you one thing. Be ambitious and focus on making our country strong. This business of making China strong is the responsibility of every one of you. It is my wish that every one of you will take up this responsibility,” he said.

Numerous predecessors, teachers, students, and our senior have sacrificed time and money for the sake of Lingnan University, which has travelled a long way to get to where it is today. Students, you should appreciate what you have and fulfill the expectations of your teachers, putting what you have learned to good use, turning knowledge into action. First of all, you should learn to distinguish right from wrong, study hard, and never give up. Remember Lingnan’s tradition, and the words of Dr Sun, which will help you find your positions in the rapidly changing environment of our globalised world. Let’s work together towards these goals!

The Honorary Fellowship awardees today, Mr Chan Cheuk-ming, Miss Chan Yuen-ting, Mr Mason Wu and Mr Roger Yuen, have all achieved great success and made enormous contributions to their respective fields or professions in society. May I, on behalf of these four distinguished honorary fellows, express our gratitude to Lingnan University again for the award. We would like to thank those who have gone before us, who have given us encouragement all along. We shall continue to support the development of Lingnan University and its students in our different spheres. I wish Lingnan University and all Lingnanians every success in the future! May you scale even greater heights in the days to come!

Thank you very much!