

Mr Lee Ming-kwai, GBS

Honorary Fellow

Address

Dear Mr Andrew Yao, Chairman of the Council, Professor Leonard K Cheng, President of Lingnan University, Honorary Doctorates, Honorary Fellows, Lingnanians and distinguished guests,

It is a great honour to receive this honorary fellowship from Lingnan University today. It gives me even greater pleasure to give the thank-you remarks at this Conferment Ceremony on behalf of my fellow awardees Mr Leong Cheung, Mrs Loretta Shuen Leung Lai-sheung and Ms Jessie Yu Sau-chu.

University education plays a vital role in the contemporary world. Each year, a large number of university graduates join Hong Kong's work force and devote themselves to serving society. One of the longest-established universities in Hong Kong, Lingnan has played a major role in cultivating talent for Hong Kong, Mainland China and other parts of the world. As a liberal arts university, Lingnan not only imparts knowledge and skills to its students but also trains their critical-thinking and analytical abilities. Over the past 53 years, Lingnan has provided talented and hardworking graduates to various industries in Hong Kong, in keeping with its school motto, "Education for Service".

One of the important but often overlooked roles of the modern university is to cultivate talent for the benefit of society. While there are many ways to contribute, the most rewarding is often by actively giving back to the community. Hong Kong is blessed with a tremendous number of individuals who have the knowledge, experience, enthusiasm and willingness to do so. For instance, many university alumni, philanthropists and faculty members are on university councils in Hong Kong. Regarding the individuals upon whom the Honorary Fellowship is being conferred, Mr Leong Cheung and Mrs Loretta Shuen Leung Lai-sheung have served on Lingnan University's Council over the years, in addition to their own professional work and public service aiding different social groups. Their participation in the strategic planning of Lingnan's development has been a significant addition to the school. Ms Jessie Yu Sau-chu is revered for combining expertise and generosity in her role as the Chief Executive of the Hong Kong Single Parents Association, where she dedicates herself to helping disadvantaged communities in Hong Kong. The Honorary Fellowship is a well-deserved honour for these three individuals. As for me, I have been focusing on volunteer work since retirement in an effort to repay all that Hong Kong has given to me. I feel deeply grateful to be awarded the Honorary Fellowship by Lingnan University today.

A successful university education is not complete without proper teaching objectives, distinguished faculty, dedicated staff, and hardworking and motivated students, as well as firm support from society. The intricacies of Hong Kong's present social and political situation have drawn attention to the education of the younger generation. The education sector, including universities,

is confronted with pressure and challenges as a result. Lingnan is, of course, no exception. Yet I am confident that, with the team effort of the Chairman and members of the Council, faculty, staff, students and alumni, Lingnan will continue to grow and strive to fulfil its guiding motto of “Education for Service”.

On behalf of the awardees of the Honorary Fellowship today, I would like to thank Lingnan University again for its encouragement and inspiration. We will endeavour to reciprocate your support. I wish Lingnan University the very best in its steady growth and cultivation of talents to meet the needs of Hong Kong society.

Thank you, everyone.