

Address at the Graduation Ceremony 2024

4 and 5 December 2024

Yip Kit Chuen and Yuen Yuk Hing Hall, Yuen Campus, HSUHK

Dr. The Honorable Moses Cheng, Chairman of the Council, Governors, Council Members, Graduating Students, Parents, Colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen,

My heartfelt congratulations to the 2024 class of The Hang Seng University of Hong Kong! Congratulations as well to parents and family members of all the graduating students.

The Graduation Ceremony is a time not only for students to celebrate your achievements, but also to show gratitude to those who have accompanied and supported you throughout your learning journey at HSU, including your family, teachers, mentors, fellow classmates and friends.

As you step into the next chapter of life, many of you may have already set some new goals. You may aim to find a job that pays well and offers good career prospects; or you may pursue further study, seeking to deepen your knowledge and refine your skills for a profession you plan to enter. These may seem to be sensible steps to build your bright future. However, your role in this world extends far beyond personal career achievements. You can also help and enjoy making this world a better place.

Beyond the unique local and regional issues, today's world faces many common complex challenges. Pressing issues such as climate change, geopolitics, poverty, social inequality, aging society and unstable financial system are just a few examples of the interconnected problems that we need to tackle together. As global citizens, I hope you will help address some of these challenges.

For instance, you can help address some of the United Nations' 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Think about how you can leverage your knowledge and expertise to contribute to some of the Goals you are keen on.

For example, one of our BBA-SCM 2016 alumni founded a green tech start up that not only sells cleaning and disinfectant products but also helps solve some environmental problems. The company develops and manufactures naturally derived plant-based powder which has extracted all the water typically found in cleaning and disinfecting products in the market. This powder can be dissolved in water quickly when in use,

which reduces the single use of disposable plastic liquid bottles. This new product reduces 98% transportation carbon emission and saves 95% storage space due to the light-weighted concentrated powder. The company has won multiple start-up awards in Hong Kong since its establishment. Like our alumnus, you can help promote green while making good business.

To solve some sustainability problems more effectively, emerging technology, especially AI and data analytics, are always indispensable tools. A team of our BSc-DSBI Year-3 students demonstrated the use of AI technology to address pressing ecological issues. They developed an AI model to detect “damaged” and “undamaged” coastal infrastructure after Hurricane Maria, a catastrophic storm that struck the island of Puerto Rico in September 2017. The team prepared a comprehensive proposal which outlined the implementation of their model for local beneficiaries, covering damage assessments, socioeconomic impacts, and future climate change risks. Their proposal convinced the judges of the prestigious EY Open Science Data Challenge 2024 and won the World Championship over 1,800 teams from institutions worldwide.

Another team of BBA students developed a smart watch using AI technology that was specifically tailored for the elderly with dementia symptoms. Featuring real-time location tracking and a fall detection system, the watch was designed to allow health carers to locate the lost elderly’s location in real-time and receive an emergency alert immediately through an app if an accident occurs. Their innovative ideas won the second runner-up in the 2024 Design Competition for the Three Assistive Devices for Dementia, organised by the Jockey Club Gerontechnology and Smart Ageing in Place Project. Clearly, AI has the potential to improve social inclusiveness.

So whatever your areas of expertise, interests and goals, let humanity and technology be your ally in making a meaningful difference in the world. Having said that, we should not over rely on AI technology, but be mindful of the risks that come with them, such as system security, personal privacy, consequences due to data inaccuracy and programming biases, inter-personal isolations, and so forth. When making decisions using AI, please always consider the human side and ethical issues. After all, human wisdom and human caring should be the fundamentals which transcend other considerations. And you should know yourself well including your strengths, weaknesses, potentials and interests, pick up your own values system earlier, and always make your own decision choices in work and life instead of letting AI control your choices.

I am very glad to see many HSUHK students and alumni have actively applied their expertise to make visible positive impacts on society. I believe the value of higher education is not measured by how well you score in your examinations or how much you earn after graduation. Rather, it is about how much you have grown and enriched

yourselves throughout your cross-disciplinary learning and actions journey, thus making more impacts on our society.

As HSUHK graduates, our unique “Liberal + Professional” (L+P) education model has helped you know yourself more and build your personal values, and has equipped you with the 5 “C” transferrable core competencies, namely Critical thinking, Creativity, Communication/Collaborations, Caring attitude, and Continuous active learning. I urge you to continue sharpening these 5 “C”s which will give you more strengths to transform in your future work and life. Naturally, there will be leaps and dives, ups and downs in your journey. By discovering, adjusting and improving yourself continuously, you will build up your resilience and confidence.

Lastly, I hope you will continue to keep close ties with the HSUHK family after graduation. Contribute to your alma mater which can remain as a second home in your journey ahead.

Once again, congratulations to the Class of 2024! May you find values and fulfillment in all your future endeavours.