

The Education University of Hong Kong
22nd Congregation Speech
Session 2: Honorary Doctorate Conferment Ceremony
Speech of the President
Professor Stephen Y.L. Cheung

Council Chairman and Members, distinguished guests, graduates, colleagues and students, ladies and gentlemen,

First of all, my very warm welcome to you on the joyous occasion of the 22nd Congregation of The Education University of Hong Kong (EdUHK). Today is a day of celebration for you graduates, and your family members and friends. This ceremony highlights hard-earned success and marks the conclusion of your efforts over recent years. I would like to extend my heartiest congratulations to all of you.

In the ceremony this year, we pay special tribute to two exemplary figures: Professor Michael W. Apple (艾彌高教授) and Dr Eric Li Ka-cheung (李家祥博士). Professor Apple is one of the world's leading critical educators and educational theorists whose advocacy of democratic schools has resonated not only in his home country, the United States, but also worldwide. Dr Li is a well-known figure in Hong Kong. An outstanding accountant by occupation, he has tirelessly dedicated himself to serving the Hong Kong community through his involvement in academic, professional, political and public service. These two outstanding individuals will soon be conferred Honorary Doctorates by our University.

Later on, the orators will capture snapshots of the two recipients' stories in their citations.

This year we are very happy to see the very first batch of graduates to be conferred degrees under the name of The Education University of Hong Kong. I hope that you are proud of our University as much as we are proud of you. Indeed, the entire University community has worked hard to become what we are today.

The 21st century world is characterised by the increasing global connectivity made possible by the Internet and the vast opportunity for travel. At the same time, we are also facing a rapidly changing world that is increasingly unpredictable, especially when it comes to the authority and “shelf-life” of knowledge. What used to be accepted as reliable facts and authoritative views can easily be challenged when alternative sources of information surface. As such, professionals who have breadth of knowledge, open minds and most importantly independent critical thinking and problem-solving abilities are highly sought-after.

To help develop such highly valued attributes, the University provides a wide range of learning opportunities and exposure. We trust that you are now well prepared as professionals, who can contribute to our community and who fully understand the roles you will play, the impacts you will create and the challenges you will face in your future careers. Education is all about bringing changes in people’s lives to improve our society and make the world a better place. In the same spirit, I place my trust in you as the best agents to drive such changes.

Starting today, you are connected to The Education University of Hong Kong as graduates. I hope that in the months and years to come our bonds remain strong and we continue to see each other at many of our homecoming events. Last but not least, I wish you all the very best in your future pursuits.

Thank you.