

**Address by**

**Mr Dieter Yih, JP, *Honorary Fellow***

Council Chairman Dr David Wong, members of the Council, President Professor Stephen Cheung, distinguished guests, staff and friends of The Education University of Hong Kong (EdUHK),

Thank you very much for inviting me to deliver the thank-you address today.

Joining the Hall of Fame of EdUHK's Honorary Fellows is a great privilege, for which Ms Pau and I would like to express our heartfelt gratitude.

It is very humbling for me to receive such recognition together with Ms Pau, a well-respected figure who is so dedicated to preserving Chinese cultural heritage. She helps ensure that it remains relevant in the hearts and minds of young people, so that they may be guided and enlightened through the often confusing and complex world in which we live today. Her great commitment to education and promotion of Chinese culture is highly admirable. As a beneficiary of education, I feel greatly honoured and proud to stand here next to her, and in front of so many distinguished educators in this theatre.

One may say that practising as a lawyer is not the most likely stepping stone into education. Some years ago, I started my public service in education through the Standing Committee on Legal Education and Training. One thing seemed to lead to another, and education has become a part of my public service ever since.

On reflection, though, perhaps education has never really left me. It is such an integral part of everyone's lives that perhaps it never actually leaves any of us. Along with the influence of our parents and family, our experiences in full-time education form the cornerstone of our growth. Indeed, my mother who is here today to witness this happy occasion, graduated and started her career as an early childhood teacher!

Education goes much further than merely preparing us for examinations. It helps us develop our characters. It teaches us to have a sense of responsibility and integrity, to show kindness and generosity, to be empathetic and respectful, and to remain humble and open to learning throughout.

I joined the then Institute in 2012, shortly before Professor Stephen Cheung took up the presidency. Time certainly flies, and he is now about to pass on the torch. In my time as a Member and then Deputy Chairman of the Council, and Chairman of the Staffing Committee, I was privileged to witness the transformation of the then Institute into what it is today. It seems like only yesterday that we were toasting the passage of the amendment bill to change the then Institute's name to University.

In my encounters and interactions with EdUHK faculty members over the years, what has struck me most is the care they have for students and the passion they have for teaching and research. I have seen for myself how teachers can make a difference in students' lives. And I have no doubt that teachers are irreplaceable, even in the face of technological advances.

As a staunch supporter of EdUHK, I am glad to witness its significant transformation and impressive growth on different fronts in recent years, from programme offerings, research and knowledge transfer to regional and international collaboration. I have every confidence that the University will continue to go from strength to strength.

When I stepped down from the Council in April last year, it was a sad moment for me as it marked my departure from the EdUHK family. I am very happy today that as an Honorary Fellow, I am again a member of the EdUHK family, through which I hope I can contribute more to the University and its work. May I wish you all the very best in your endeavours. Once again, Ms Pau and I thank you very much for this honour.