

## **Address by Mrs Laura Ling Lau Yuet-fun, Honorary Fellow**

Council Chairman Mr Pang, Professor Cheung, Members of the Council, Deans and Faculty Members, Distinguished Guests and Fellow Students,

It is my immense pleasure today to be making this address on behalf of all the Honorary Fellows this year – Dr Betty Chan Po-king, Mr Cheng Kok-kong, Ms Rowena Cheung Po-man, Dr Francis Cheung Wing-ming, Mrs Chu Tang Lai- kuen, Mr Kwan Kee, Mr Lee Park-keong and myself. I would like to express our heartfelt gratitude for having such a great honour conferred on us by The Hong Kong Institute of Education. I also thank the other Honorary Fellows for entrusting me with this responsibility.

This is a hugely exciting occasion with much personal significance, because I return to my alma mater on this joyful occasion after graduating 48 years ago. The establishment of HKIEd and its development over the past two decades have greatly furthered the advancement of education in Hong Kong, both in terms of the quality and quantity of our work. It is a delight to see such commendable achievements. Looking back over the past five decades, Hong Kong has made tremendous political and economic progress, and people's livelihoods have also improved significantly. The face of Hong Kong society has gone through remarkable transformations. Although there are still continual debates on various education topics and issues, the achievements made are evident. For example, both primary and secondary schools in Hong Kong have won numerous awards in international competitions over the years, and Hong Kong is consistently ranked among the top three in the Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA). This is testament to the success of our secondary and primary education. We must not neglect to acknowledge these achievements as well as the hard work by teachers who dedicate themselves to their students' development. Teacher education is HKIEd's primary mission, and it is an immense responsibility demanding long-term dedication.

Many of the Institute's Honorary Fellows over the past few years work at the frontlines of education, arts and cultural promotion, in addition to various educational institutions. Other Fellows dedicate themselves to sports development and service, including sports for people with disabilities. Some of this year's Honorary Fellows, for example, come from that sector.

I firmly believe that regardless of the era in which we graduated, we all share the conviction that education is a lifelong endeavour. We understand that in addition to the role to nurture, education can also create new knowledge, and it has the capacity to transform lives and society, and enable upward social mobility. The ultimate goal of education is to contribute to

society's development and the next generation's education. This belief is a perfect match with the Institute's mission and vision.

The 21st century is one of infinite creativity. In addition to knowledge, we also require the skills needed to adapt to change, development and the demands of society to remain competitive in our respective fields. Since the handover, Hong Kong society has evolved rapidly and dramatically, in politics, economics and people's livelihoods. Our next generation must be equipped for the future. They need to be innovative, receptive to change and welcoming of new challenges. The key to their success begins in school education, and education begins with us, fellow practitioners in the field of education. Whether we are currently working in education, or have already retired, we must join hands with HKIED to continually move forward, dedicating ourselves to education itself and teacher education, for a life- changing impact on all!

Thank you everyone.