

Address by **Dr Anissa Chan Wong Lai-kuen, BBS, MH, JP**, *Honorary Fellow*

Council Chairman Dr Pang Yiu-kai, President Professor Stephen Cheung, Members of the Council, professors and lecturers,

students, distinguished guests and ladies and gentlemen, It is my immense pleasure to make this address on behalf of all Honorary Fellows this year. We would like to express our heartfelt gratitude for the honour conferred on us by The Education University of Hong Kong and for the very warm reception that we have received at this vibrant campus.

Mr Chan Hung, Mr Fung Sun-kwan, Dr Lam Tai-fai and myself may have different backgrounds and different upbringings, yet we have one thing in common, and that is our passion for education. We are equally passionate about nurturing and reshaping our future generations for the long-term development of our society.

In my different capacities, I have had the privilege of working with many excellent schools with outstanding and caring educators who are truly dedicated to their cause. Day in and day out they work tirelessly to chart the right directions for their students and schools in order to improve the lives of our next generation. Hong Kong has been doing exceptionally well in international comparative studies. Much of this success is due to the quality of leadership and teaching in our schools – our principals and teachers really caring about their students, their own professionalism and their ongoing professional development.

As such, I believe it is crucial for our teachers and principals to expose themselves to the best education practices from around the world. Not an easy task though due to the lack of means and other reasons. It was against such a backdrop that I and a group of principals worked to establish the Hong Kong Principals' Institute a few years ago with a mission to nurture new and serving principals, widen their exposure and promote school leadership. I think this captures the feeling of all of this year's Fellows – it is our mission to nurture in every way possible education in Hong Kong.

In this regard, I have had the pleasure to work closely with The Education University of Hong Kong through my involvement with its Presidential Advisory Group, and as a Scholar-Practitioner Fellow at the Asia Pacific Centre for Leadership and Change (APCLC).

For education to succeed, the Government must make it the top priority. As partners we must build professionalism, build capacity, build leadership at all levels, and connect this tightly with family and society education, which is too often neglected. In short, Hong Kong should be a learning society and the education sector a professional community.

To make this happen, we must respectfully empower our educators financially, morally and professionally to enable them to do their jobs, even better. We should build people, build hope and build a better tomorrow.

On behalf of all Honorary Fellows this year, I would like to once again express our heartfelt appreciation towards the conferment of this award, and may I wish the University every success in your future endeavors in education for the betterment of Hong Kong and beyond.

Thank you.