

Address by
Venerable Kuan Yun, BBS, MH
Honorary Fellow

Council Chairman Dr David Wong Yau-kar, members of the Council, President Professor John Lee Chi-Kin, distinguished guests, staff and friends of The Education University of Hong Kong,

It is a great honour for me to attend today's conferment ceremony at The Education University of Hong Kong alongside five distinguished scholars, who are being awarded Honorary Doctorates. Their remarkable achievements in the fields of public policy, economics, climate science, and psychology are truly admirable. As a humble Buddhist monk, I feel both joy and a sense of humility in receiving the Honorary Fellowship. I am delighted that the spirit of compassion and service embodied in Buddhism has been recognised, yet I am also aware that my own efforts remain modest and that I must continue to strive forward.

I grew up in a Mongolian Autonomous County under the jurisdiction of Chaoyang City in Liaoning Province, China. In my youth, I followed the Venerable Master Wing Sing to Hong Kong and entered monastic life. Never did I imagine that one day I would stand on such a solemn stage to receive an Honorary Fellowship. This journey has been deeply moving. I am grateful to my mother for her kindness and compassion, which planted in me the seed of the Buddhist faith from an early age. I am also thankful for Master Wing Sing's guidance. Despite enduring many hardships throughout his life, he never complained and often reminded us monks to cultivate compassion and care for others. Through him, I saw a monastic role model and came to understand the profound impact of education. Since the 1980s, we have been building Hope Schools, making our modest contributions to the development of education in China. We have witnessed how education can transform the lives of impoverished children, helping them find direction amid confusion and regain hope from adversity.

I am also grateful for the freedom and openness of Hong Kong society, where diverse religions, cultures, and philosophies coexist peacefully and inspire one another. This environment has allowed me to study Buddhism with peace of mind, promote its spirit, and fulfil the monastic mission of "seeking the Buddha's path and helping sentient beings." Respect and tolerance for religion in Hong Kong reinforces my belief that this place is not only a blessed ground for spiritual cultivation but also a fertile soil for practising the values of
Buddhism.

Buddhism emphasises “compassion as our foundation and wisdom as our essence.” This is not only a motto for practitioners but also a cornerstone for societal progress. In today’s turbulent world, we hope that Buddhism can bring peace to the hearts of people and inject harmony into society. Rather than seeking to change the world directly, Buddhism begins with the transformation of the human heart, making the world better through inner change.

The Education University of Hong Kong is a higher education institution dedicated to teacher training. It has long been committed to nurturing individuals with a strong sense of mission and social responsibility. It values the character, emotional development, and spiritual growth of students, promoting holistic education, which aligns closely with Buddhist principles. I firmly believe that education is not merely the accumulation of knowledge but also the cultivation of virtuous, loving and wise individuals who sow the seeds of hope for society.

Receiving the Honorary Fellowship from the University today is not only a personal recognition, but also an acknowledgement of the Buddhist community, the millions of Buddhists in Hong Kong, and the values of compassion and wisdom. I shall take this as encouragement to continue striving to spread the Dharma, advance our society, and contribute to the growth of future generations and the welfare of our community.

I extend my sincerest gratitude to The Education University of Hong Kong and wish you all good health, peace and lasting joy.