



新聞稿 PRESS RELEASE

TO NEWS EDITORS
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A university education must, besides imparting professional knowledge, nurture prudent and discerning citizens, Vice-Chancellor of The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Professor Charles K Kao told over 4,000 graduates and guests today.

Addressing the 49th Congregation, Professor Kao wished the graduates would leave the campus able to shape the world successfully through their knowledge and analytical skills and bring harmony to the world through their aspirations for social justice and righteousness.

"We must be conscious that our freedom to speak and to act can all easily trespass on the rights and dignity of others, or even stray beyond the confines of law," said Professor Kao.

Only by using reason and restraint wisely and shouldering the responsibility for their words and actions, he added, graduates will command real respect and support from the community.

Retiring at the end of this academic year, he also reviewed with the congregation the University's achievement over the past nine years.

"As Vice-Chancellor, my task is to create space for everyone to grow. That has sometimes meant removing a few obstacles to growth, and it has always led me to insist on quality," he said.

Over the past four years, the University ranked first for total research funding obtained from the Research Grants Council. This year it attracted more first choice students than any of its sister institutions, he told the congregation.

Urging the University community to give the new Vice-Chancellor their support, Professor Kao believed that under the leadership of Professor Arthur Li, the University will continue to develop and achieve successes worthy of the new century.

Later addressing at the Graduation Ceremony of Chung Chi College, Professor Kao recalled that the University had grown rapidly both in size and stature during his Vice-Chancellorship. The University now have 12,000 students and over 4,000 staff.

He praised the University's administration system that supported academic endeavours but did not rule over them. Faculties are responsible for their own affairs and provided with adequate resources for operation.

The University excels through the collegiate structure which adds varied dimensions to university life, builds academic linkages with external universities, Professor Kao said.

Colleges are also means to deliver informal general education and influence the course of a person's education. With this extra strength, the University is able to deliver the education needed for the people of Hong Kong, he concluded.

A total of 485 postgraduate students were awarded higher degrees during today's ceremony. Among them were Hong Kong's first two Masters of Fine Arts – sculptor, Ms Camille Yeung Sau Ying and oil painter, Li Yau Mang, and the territory's first batch of 34 Executive MBA graduates.

First-degree graduates totalled 2,483 this year, and the Department of Pharmacy has produced Hong Kong's first batch of 31 prospective pharmacists.

Photos and speech by Professor Charles Kao will be issued via GIS press boxes.

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