**Graduation Speech in 2021 Commencement (MScPACG session)**

*LEUNG Chak Yan Frankie, MScPACG (CG Stream), Cohort 2019*

To celebrate the significant milestone of the MScPACG students, the Department of Accountancy has invited one of the graduates, Frankie, to present his graduation speech on the stage. Though the Commencement was held in hybrid mode (face-to-face and virtual), everyone was enjoying and found it very memorable and unforgettable.

Dear Department Head, Professors, Fellow Graduates, Family and Friends:

Greetings. It is my honor to stand here and give a speech on behalf of my fellow graduates today.

My name is Frankie. I am graduating from the Corporate Governance Stream (CG) of the Master of Science in Professional Accountancy and Corporate Governance programme at the Department of Accountancy. I joined this programme two years ago in 2019.

I want to begin my speech by congratulating my fellow graduates on achieving this milestone. Two years ago, when we received the admission offer, all of us must have imagained how proud we would be on this day.

But back then, we had never imagined the challenge and difficulty we were about to experience during the next two years. During the two years of study, we have experienced social unrest, and a global pandemic. We had to adapt to online learning, which is a totally different learning style. We did not have face-to-face interactions with our professors and classmates. We did not know if we could focus and if we could learn effectively. We were not able to enjoy campus facility during most period of our study. Many of our activities such as study tours and alumni connections were cancelled. However, we do not let those challenges and lossess defeat us. We have adapted to the critical circumstance, preserved with our work, life and study, and stayed strong mentally and physically.

So here we are today, gathered together to celebrate our accomplishment. I would like to thank those who support us through this exhausting but rewardng journey: our family who are always there when support is needed; our Professors who try their best to adapt to the new form of teaching and deliver their knowledge effectively; and every staff from CityU and the department who continue to work efficiently during the turmoil and uncertainty. I also want to thank all my teammates for their hard work. We have finished so many projects, presentations and assignments together across all the subjects. Without your help and collaboration, my two years of studies would not be that smooth and fun.

We are privileged to live in a developed economy. We have enough stock of masks and sanitizers in the shops everywhere. We have well-equipped hospital facilities and well-trained medical doctors and nurses to take care of those who are infected. We have free access to vaccine shots. Therefore, we can gather here today to celebrate our graduation without worrying too much about our safety. However, in some less developed regions of the world, people are struggling to make ends meet and waiting desperately for proper treatments and vaccines. Every one of us now holds a master's degree and has earned solid knowledge and developed our critical thinking ability while studying for the degree. I believe there is a bright future waiting for us, no matter if we are going to stay with our current employer or seek opportunities elsewhere. However, what about those people who are suffering in the other part of the world or even in our local society. Let us also think about what we can do for those unprivileged and what we can do to change the divided world, while trying to make a better life for ourselves. Let each of us take a small step toward that big goal.

Congratulations again to all of us on our graduations. Thank you, my classmates, professors, family and friends for helping me go through this challenging, yet remarkable and unforgettable two-year experience. This is not the end. It is the beginning of a new journey. The courage and wisdom we have gained from our past experiences will guide us in this new journey.

Please keep in touch, and I wish the best to you all. Thank you.