

Dr Alice Piera Lam Lee Kiu-yue GBS, JP

DOCTOR OF LAWS *honoris causa*

Address

Chancellor, Council Chairman, President and honoured guests,

I am privileged to address you, on behalf of all recipients of this wonderful gesture of recognition—an honorary degree from Lingnan University. It is a great honour to be granted an honorary degree and we all wish to thank the University for its generosity and for the very kind words spoken about each of us.

Being given this opportunity to speak, I should like to focus on two important elements in the progress of higher education in Hong Kong. Higher education has long been close to my heart and I must say Hong Kong has come a very long way in the last 15 years or so. We really can hold our heads up and look other world class systems in the eye. This has been due to the hard work of all concerned in higher education—and due to the strong support of the government in providing a decent level of funding which universities can rely on. In a small way, I believe I have been able to help in two important elements of this success—elements which I think will be crucial in maintaining and advancing our position as a world class system. These are internationalisation and quality assurance.

Internationalisation has long been one of my interests and concerns. It is vital—both for Hong Kong and for students' personal development—that Hong Kong students are exposed to other cultures and realities. We need this if we are to nurture mature, outward-looking residents who will feel comfortable—and be effective—in engaging not only with mainland China but also the rest of the world. Having an internationalised campus environment and the opportunity to go on student exchanges is crucial to that personal student development. The faculty—the academic staff—has an important role here. Faculty need to identify with the internationalisation theme, need to adjust the curricula to embrace it, and need to be aware of the different cultural needs of a mixed student population.

I started the push for internationalisation when I was the Chairman of the University Grants Committee (UGC) and I have been pleased to note that the UGC made internationalisation a central theme of its recent Higher Education Review, entitled “Aspirations for the Higher Education System in Hong Kong”. It is indeed a crucial area for our universities to focus on. As a small, intimate university, I think Lingnan has great potential to excel here: with the close interaction between your multicultural staff and the student body; with hostel life for almost all students, local and non-local alike; and with the opportunity for local students to go on overseas exchanges, probably at a level well beyond what bigger universities may be able to achieve. This will give Lingnan students an extra edge—and a more rounded character.

Quality assurance is a key element to the success of any education system and higher education is no different. It is more complex in universities because one of the important defining characteristics of universities is precisely that they are free to set their own curricula and standards. But the public must be assured that universities are setting appropriate goals and outcomes—and achieving them. Large amounts of public money are being invested, and the careers and opportunities of countless students depend on rigorous quality assurance. It is an inconvenient truth, however, that universities (and faculty) tend to judge themselves in terms of their research quality and output, rather than on teaching quality and output or outcomes. The Quality Assurance Council (QAC) is an essential factor in ensuring balance between research and teaching, as it is focused solely on the taught programmes being offered.

The UGC has a long history of working with institutions to drive quality, but I believe we made a considerable breakthrough with the establishment of the QAC a few years ago. This relatively new Council for Hong Kong has quickly made its mark in reviewing the quality of all UGC-funded institutions—the last review just being completed. It is a partnership relationship with institutions, designed to encourage them to strive for the best they can achieve, and to put the student at the centre of the institutional endeavour.

Putting the student at the centre of the institutional endeavour is something Lingnan takes firmly to heart. It is wonderful that in Hong Kong we have a true liberal arts university whose mission is to provide, and I quote from your Mission Statement: “a whole person approach to education which enables its students to think, judge, care and ultimately, act responsibly in the changing circumstances of Hong Kong, the region and the world.”

I can think of no more fitting way to conclude my thanks to the University for the honour it has bestowed on us recipients today.

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林李翹如博士

榮譽法學博士

謝辭

校監、校董會主席、校長、各位嘉賓：

本人十分榮幸，今天能代表諸位榮譽學位領受人，向嶺南大學表達衷心的謝意，感謝大學對我們的認同。獲授榮譽學位，是我們莫大的榮耀，在此，感謝嶺南大學嘉惠之學、溢美之辭。

今天，藉著這個機會，我希望與在座各位集中談談香港高等教育進程中的兩個重要元素。我關注高等教育的發展已有相當時日，不能不指出，香港高等教育在過去十五年間可謂成就驕人，我們終於能夠切切實實地昂首挺胸，與其他世界一流的教育體系平起平坐。如此豐碩的成果，全賴高等教育界同儕辛勤耕耘，以及政府可觀的資助，令大學有所憑靠。在成功背後，我認為有兩個重要元素，對保持香港高等教育的世界級水平，推動我們繼續向前發展是至為關鍵的，那就是國際化和質素保證，而我在這兩方面，有幸能參與其中，薄盡綿力。

高等教育國際化，一向是我感興趣及關注的。我認為，假如香港社會希望培育學生成為心智成熟、視野廣闊的新一代，使他們在面對內地以至世界各國的合作伙伴和競爭對手時，不僅充滿自信、揮灑自如，且能有效處事，那麼，香港的高等教育就必須走向國際，讓學生接觸其他文化，體驗其他生活。這對香港整個社會以至學生的個人發展，至為重要。造就國際化的校園環境，給學生到外地學習交流的機會，對成長的重要不容忽視。教學人員在這個進程中，發揮着舉足輕重的作用，他們需要確立國際化發展的主要方向，為配合發展而調整課程，清楚瞭解不同背景學生的文化需要。

我在擔任大學教育資助委員會主席期間，開始推動國際化，也很高興教資會在最近發表的《展望香港高等教育體系—大學教育資助委員會報告》中把國際化

列為重點。的而且確，這是我們大學發展的焦點之一。嶺南大學是一所小型大學，師生關係密切，在實踐國際化方面，具有出類拔萃的潛力。因為你們有不同文化背景的師生，互相溝通交流；你們為大多數學生提供宿舍，讓本地生和外來生共同生活；你們為本地學生創造大量機會往海外交流，這方面大概比其他大型院校做得更好。凡此種種特色，都讓嶺大培養的學生更勝一籌，品格更完整。

質素保證是所有教育體系賴以成功的關鍵，高等教育自不例外。對大學而言，這一範疇的工作更為複雜。大學其中一項重要特質，就是可以自行決定課程內容和評核標準，但也必須向社會公眾保證，大學訂立了適當的目標和預期成果，並能如實達致成功。教育投資浩大，公帑不斷投入，無數學生的事業和機遇將繫於嚴格謹慎的質素保證之上。可是就實況來看，大學和教學人員皆傾向把研究質量和成果而非教學質量和果效，作為自我衡量的標準。質素保證局集中評核大學開辦的修課式課程，對於平衡研究與教學所作出的努力，可謂舉足輕重。

長久以來，大學教育資助委員會與高等院校共同努力，追求教研質素。然而，我相信數年前質素保證局的成立，堪稱一大突破。這個相對年青的機構甫一成立便做出成績，著手檢討所有受教資會資助院校的課程質素，而最近一次檢討已剛剛完成。質保局與高等院校是合作伙伴，推動院校精益求精，以學生的裨益為重。

學生的裨益，是嶺南大學無時無刻不關注的。我們喜見香港有這樣一所真正推行博雅教育的大學，正如貴校使命所言，以「全人教育，培育學生獨立思考、判斷、關懷他人和勇於承擔責任，立足於香港、亞洲地區以至全球瞬息萬變的環境中。」

我想不出一句更適合的說話，可以總結我代表諸位領受人對貴校授予榮譽學位的感謝。