PolyU celebrates 18th Congregation and sets sights on sustainability

致十八屆畢業典禮　放眼可持續發展

At the University's 18th Congregation held on 27 October, PolyU sent forth about 10,730 graduates, including 1,711 Doctor of Philosophy, 27 discipline-based Doctor's degree, 80 Master of Philosophy, 3,918 Master's degree, 4,386 Bachelor's degree, 63 postgraduate diploma and certificate, and 1,491 sub-degree awards. Presiding over the occasion were Council Chairman Ms Marjorie Yang and President Prof. Timothy W. Tong.

During the Congregation, the University conferred honorary doctorates on four prominent figures. Prof. Ching K. Law, Hunter B. Goddard Professor of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering at Princeton University, Prof. Harry Lee, Chairman of the TAL Group, Prof. Xie Heping, President of Sichuan University, and Mr George Yong-Joon Yeo, Vice Chairman of the Kerry Group. Prof. Law and Xie were conferred the Honorary Degree of Doctor of Engineering. Prof. Lee and Mr Yeo were conferred the Honorary Degree of Doctor of Business Administration and Doctor of Social Science, respectively.

Addressing the Congregation, Prof. Tong said that "to answer to the call of our times, we have included 'sustainability' as a priority strategic focus for the development of the University."

"We are committed to promoting environmental, economic and social sustainability through technological breakthroughs and collaborations with business and industry partners. Educator for our students is also of paramount importance as they are our bridge to a sustainable world", he continued.

SHTM named recipient of breakthrough award

酒店及旅遊業管理學院獲頒突破獎

PolyU's School of Hotel and Tourism Management (SHTM) has received the McCool Breakthrough Award from the International Council of Hotel, Restaurant, and Institutional Education (I-CHRIE). The award recognizes the SHTM's breakthrough in the form of its teaching and research hotel, Hotel ICON, the heart of its innovative approach to hospitality and tourism education.

I-CHRIE, the world's largest organization of hospitality and tourism educators, presents the annual McCool Breakthrough Award in memory of the successful astronaut Willie McCool.

In 2009, the SHTM was ranked second internationally amongst hotel and tourism schools based on research and scholarship. Wholly owned by PolyU and an extension of the SHTM, Hotel ICON is the world's first purpose-built teaching and research hotel that fully integrates teaching, learning and research in a full service environment.

The hotel, which is equipped with a range of lecture rooms and facilities, is a hub for undergraduate and graduate programmes. It features an impressive 160 guest rooms and suites, all with en-suite bathrooms and Wi-Fi access, as well as a restaurant, bar and meeting rooms.

"We are delighted to receive this award, which is a testament to the hard work and dedication of our faculty and students," said Prof. Kate Chen, SHTM Dean and Chair Professor. "This recognition is a significant achievement for the SHTM and reflects our commitment to excellence in education and research."

Hotel ICON, the world's first purpose-built teaching and research hotel, is a key component of the SHTM's mission to provide students with hands-on learning experiences in a real-world setting.

"Our objective is to prepare our students for success in the hospitality and tourism industry, and we believe that Hotel ICON provides the ideal environment for achieving this goal," said Prof. Chen. "We are committed to ensuring that our students are well-equipped to meet the challenges of the industry, and we are proud to have received this recognition for our efforts."