



Some 8,500 preferred graduates join the workforce



The University held its Ninth Congregation on 28 November to send forth its new cohort of graduates for various professions of the community. Presided over by Dr Sir Gordon Wu Ying-sheung, Chairman of the University Council, this year's Congregation conferred academic awards upon some 8,500 postgraduates, undergraduates and sub-degree students.

Among them, 78 were conferred Doctor of Philosophy and 22 with Doctor of Business Administration. Twenty-six programmes in the areas of logistics, China business, tourism management, health technology, engineering and Internet technology, saw their first batch of graduates.

During the ceremony, the University also conferred academic awards upon 264 Chinese mainland graduates who have successfully completed 11 PolyU programmes offered in the mainland. A total of 148 were awarded higher degrees and 116 were recipients of degree or sub-degree awards. Many of them made a special trip to Hong Kong to join this memorable occasion.



Setting sights on the Chinese mainland

In his Congregation speech, President Prof. Poon Chung-kwong cited the University's outstanding achievement in offering the largest number of accredited programmes on the Chinese mainland among universities in Hong Kong and overseas.

As of December 2003, a total of 22 academic programmes at degree and postgraduate levels offered by the UGC-funded universities in Hong Kong have been approved by the State Council's Academic Degree Committee and 15 of them are run by PolyU.

Since 1998, the University has forged alliances with leading institutions on the mainland, including Zhejiang University, Xi'an Jiaotong University, Chongqing University and Peking University, to name just a few. The University has also actively set up training bases in the cities of Hangzhou, Shenzhen, Zhuhai and Xi'an to offer internationalized training programmes, ranging from Associate Degree to Master's Degree programmes.

With the approval of the University Council and Senate late last year, Prof. Poon reported that PolyU would, for the first time, try to export its professional-oriented sub-degree programmes outside Hong Kong through licensing or franchising arrangement with partner educational institutions.

He also pointed out that the overwhelming majority of established mainland institutions are now clustered around the northern part of Yangtze River, while there are only a few reputable institutions that provide education for nearly 300 million people residing in the eight provinces in the southern China.

Prof. Poon further explained: "In view of this, the University has formulated a blueprint for the further development of outpost activities outside the territory of HKSAR in the next five years.

"Despite our priority for spearheading education development on the mainland, PolyU remains firmly rooted in Hong Kong, and we will never forget our prime concern of serving the local community. In addition to preserving our international dimension, we will always strive to meet the needs of the community in what we do, and seek to enhance the competitiveness of our industry and commerce."



Meeting new honorary graduates

The Ninth Congregation also saw the conferment of Honorary Degrees upon three distinguished figures including Prof. Sir Kumar Bhattacharyya and Mr Raymond Chan for the Honorary Degrees of Doctor of Business Administration, and Dr Stanley Ho for the Honorary Degree of Doctor of Social Science.

Prof. Sir Kumar Bhattacharyya



Founder and Director of the now internationally renowned Warwick Manufacturing Group (WMG) at the University of Warwick, Prof. Sir Kumar Bhattacharyya was a distinguished academic and innovator and was appointed as the UK's first Professor of Manufacturing in 1980.

During his service in WMG, Sir Kumar has started the unique Integrated Graduates Development Scheme which provides advanced training to industry practitioners. In 1990, WMG introduced the scheme to Hong Kong in partnership with PolyU. Since then, the programme has groomed over 1,700 outstanding graduates for the local industries. In 2000, the programme was further expanded to the Chinese mainland in collaboration with the Chiang Foundation Industrial Training Centre of the Huazhong University of Science and Technology.

Dr Raymond Chan



Dr Raymond Chan, Group Chairman and CEO of IDT International Limited, is a leader in the electronics industry. A PolyU graduate of the early '70s, Dr Chan started his company, Integrated Display Technology (IDT), in 1977. In about 20 years' time, IDT has grown from a local manufacturer to a publicly listed enterprise with subsidiaries across the world. A pioneer in LCD and microprocessor technology, IDT now offers a full range of products under the brand name Oregon Scientific.

Despite his busy schedule, Dr Chan contributes much of his time to the developments of trade and his alma mater. He is a member of the Hong Kong Trade Development Council, a member of the Executive Committee of PolyU Council and Chairman of the Advisory Committee of the University's Electronic and Information Engineering Department.

Dr Stanley Ho



Dr Stanley Ho Hung-sun, Group Executive Chairman of Shun Tak Holdings Limited, is a legend in the two Special Administrative Regions of China – Hong Kong and Macau. Making tremendous investment in Hong Kong, Macau and the Chinese mainland, Dr Ho owns an empire covering businesses in shipping, aviation, property, finance, tourism and entertainment.

A patriot at heart, Dr Ho served on a number of consultative and preparatory committees during the sovereignty return of Hong Kong and Macau to China to ensure a smooth transition. Dr Ho is also a strong supporter of education and social welfare. He is a Founding Member of PolyU Court, a Council and Court Member of the University of Hong Kong. In 1990, he founded the Stanley Ho Astronautics Training Foundation and set up the Stanley Ho Training Complex in Hebei a few years later to nurture aeronautical talents for the motherland.





First Graduation Ceremony for HKCC & SPEED



The month of November was crammed with joy and celebrations as the Hong Kong Community College (HKCC) and the School of Professional Education and Executive Development (SPEED) held their first joint Graduation Ceremony on 26 November on campus. This year, HKCC and SPEED bade farewell to some 215 graduates. Among them, 194 were conferred Associate in Business, 12 with Professional and Continuing Education (PCE) Certificate, one with PCE Diploma in Information Technologies for E-Commerce and eight with Executive Diploma in Management Studies.

In a graduate survey conducted by HKCC, about 85 per cent of respondents stated that they are continuing their study in undergraduate programmes. Among them, 24 have successfully enrolled in UGC-funded programmes and more than 70 are furthering their studies at PolyU, taking various BA programmes in the subjects of Accountancy, Hotel and Catering Management, Business Studies, Management, Marketing and Public Relations as well as Travel Industry Management.

To promote continuing education, PolyU officially set up the College of Professional and Continuing Education in 2002 to oversee its four self-financed education units, namely, HKCC, SPEED, the Hong Kong CyberU and the Centre for Professional and Business English.

PolyU started its first full-time Associate in Business through HKCC in 2001 and attracted an overwhelming number of applicants. Currently more than 2,100 students have registered with HKCC, studying Associate Degrees in Business, Arts, Science, Engineering, Information Technology and other specialized programmes.

Founded in 1999, SPEED aims to spearhead lifelong learning by offering a range of full-time and part-time award-bearing education programmes. With its unique Credit Accumulation Mechanism, learners can pursue lifelong learning by accumulating academic credits which are valid for lifetime. ◆

