

The Hong Kong Polytechnic University
 Fourteenth Congregation (Doctoral and Honorary Degrees Conferment)
 香港理工大學第十四屆畢業典禮 (博士學位暨榮譽學位頒授)

A Memorable Congregation



The University sent forth over 9,600 students at its 14th Congregation, which was for the first time this year, held in a series of conferment sessions on a Faculty/School basis, spanning from 23 October to 12 November. On 23 October, the main session of the Congregation, conferring the doctoral and honorary degrees, was officiated at by Mr Donald Tsang, Chief Executive and Chancellor of PolyU; Council Chairman Mr Victor Lo; and President Prof. Poon Chung-kiung.

This year, the University awarded altogether 99 Doctor of Philosophy, 44 discipline-based Doctor's degree, 3,383 Master's degree, 4,483 Bachelor's degree, 135 postgraduate diploma and certificate and 1,491 sub-degree awards.

Honorary Degrees

During the Congregation, the University conferred honorary doctorates upon four prominent figures in recognition of their distinguished accomplishments.

Dr William Fung Kwok-lun, Group Managing Director of Li & Fung Ltd, was conferred the Honorary Degree of Doctor of Business Administration. Dr Fung graduated from Princeton University with an engineering degree and earned his MBA at Harvard Graduate School of Business in 1970. He returned to Hong Kong in early 1970s and was instrumental in the successful public listing of Li & Fung. He was voted one of the world's Top 25 Managers in 1995 and 50 stars of Asia in 2000 by *Business Week* and *Businessmen*





14th
Congregation

(From left)
Dr Fung, Dr Tsang,
Prof. Woo, Dr Li

of the Year by *Forbes* in 2006. He has held key positions in major trade and business associations.

Dr Fung has also rendered strong support to PolyU through his membership on the University Court from 1995 to 2000 and his involvement in various educational initiatives. These have included the establishment of scholarships for students and the setting up of a research fund to support the work of the PolyU-PekingU China Social Work Research Centre. This year, he was honoured with the Silver Bauhinia Star by the HKSAR Government for his contributions to trade promotion and economic development.

Dr Li Ning, Olympic medallist-turned-entrepreneur, was conferred the Honorary Degree of Doctor of Humanities. Dr Li is one of the most outstanding Chinese athletes and a successful entrepreneur. In 1982, he made history by winning six of the seven gold medals at the Sixth World Cup Gymnastics Competition. Two years later, he astonished the world by winning three golds, two silvers and a bronze at the Los Angeles Olympic Games. Since then, he has been affectionately known as the "Prince of Gymnastics". In 1987, he further became the only Asian member of the Athlete's Commission of the International Olympic Committee. In 1999, he was voted one of the "World's Most Excellent Athletes in the 20th Century" by the World Sports Correspondent Association.

After retiring from his gymnastics career in 1989, he established his own company in the following year and launched the LI-NING

brand, which has now become a household brand name. Dr Li is also an exemplary role model for lifelong learning by completing a Bachelor's degree in Law and an EMBA degree at Peking University.

Dr Tsang Hin-chi, Chairman of Goldlion Holdings Ltd, was conferred the Honorary Degree of Doctor of Social Science. Born in 1934 to a poor peasant family in Guangdong, Dr Tsang started his business from scratch in 1968 by making and selling neckties. Today, Goldlion has become a Hong Kong listed corporation offering diverse products in different countries. Dr Tsang has adhered to his principles of conduct which require him to be hardworking, thrifty and trustworthy, and grateful to the people who have lent him a helping hand.

Dr Tsang has never forgotten to repay the motherland for its nurturing. His generous donation to China's education, space exploration, sports, culture and medical care has reached a cumulative figure of \$700 million so far. He has said, "Education is the foundation of a person's future and a country's strength. If I leave my possessions to my off-spring, only my own family is well-off. If I use it to nurture the younger generation of the motherland, the whole country can prosper." His contributions were publicly recognized and the Nanjing Purple Mountain Observatory named an asteroid after him in 1993. He was further honoured with the Grand Bauhinia Medal by the HKSAR Government in 1997.

Prof. Savio L.Y. Woo, University Professor of Bioengineering at the University of

Pittsburgh in the US, was conferred the Honorary Degree of Doctor of Engineering. Before departing for the US to pursue his studies, Prof. Woo attended school in Hong Kong and was admitted to the then Hong Kong Technical College in the early 1960s. Prof. Woo's research interests encompass many areas in biomechanics, and for over 35 years, he has studied knee ligament healing and repair. His work has contributed enormously to novel orthopaedic sports medicine and rehabilitation treatments that can lead to a quicker and more complete recovery from sports injuries.

Prof. Woo's distinguished accomplishments have been widely recognized. He has been inducted into the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences, the National Academy of Engineering, and the Academia Sinica. Only four persons in the world have ever received all three honours. Prof. Woo is one of them. He is also the first person to receive an Olympic Gold Medal, not for athletic prowess, but for his extraordinary contributions to the science of sports medicine for the betterment of human kind.





President's words to graduates

Prof. Poon will be retiring from his 18-year Presidency by the end of this year, and in his last Congregation Address, he shared his views on education, and gave answer to a question often asked by students...Below is an extract of his speech:

"A full 40 years have passed since I joined the education sector in December 1968, and I have been President of PolyU for 18 years. Here I would like to express some of my views on education.

Prof. Joseph Nye, a well-known Harvard University scholar, was the first proponent of the concepts of 'Soft Power' and 'Hard Power' in 1990 as a means of interpreting international relations. Hard Power refers to a country's military, scientific, technological, and economic strength. Soft Power, which has become an increasingly popular topic of discussion, refers to the attractiveness and influence of a country's culture, values and ideas to other countries. I believe that in the 21st century, for any country, institution or organization, or any university and individual for that matter, equal emphasis should be placed on developing Soft Power and Hard Power.

...In line with this concept, PolyU has made the cultivation of Soft Power and Hard Power its top priority, and has incorporated such a



goal into its motto: 'To learn' means to enrich one's professional knowledge, or Hard Power. 'For the benefit of mankind', which refers to the application of such knowledge, is a sign of good virtue, the result of the cultivation of Soft Power.

...I believe that Hard Power and Soft Power go hand in hand. On a personal level, as one becomes increasingly learned and successful, or has growing Hard Power, one is prone to being self-important and obsessive. With great fame and success come great temptations. That is why we need virtue, wisdom and compassion as a counterbalance, so that we will not lose our sense of purpose or direction.

...Over the years, many students have asked me, 'What attitude shall we have in the face of this world so full of challenges and temptations?'

In his teaching Zhuang Zi once quoted Confucius's remark: 'changing in appearance but remaining steadfast in one's heart'.

I would like to take this opportunity to share this remark with our teachers and students present here today. Society is constantly changing and the objective world poses challenges all the time. We must 'change in our appearance' so as to adapt to social changes and be flexible in using the correct approach to overcoming the challenges. But, at the same time, we should also 'remain steadfast in our hearts' — retain the moral values and ideals in our hearts and not change with the changing environment. To be able to 'change in appearance and remain steadfast in our hearts', we must strengthen our Soft Power and use the strong Hard Power that we have to face our challenges.

...Our graduates, I am confident that you are fully prepared to strive for the best interests of your families, society and country. Please keep in mind that you need to cultivate both Soft Power and Hard Power. Only with development in both will you be able to find your place in society and do the right things."

Prof. Poon concluded his speech by thanking the PolyU Council and Court, as well as the Government and various sectors of the society, for their support over the years. He also restated his never-ending support for PolyU. For the full text of the speech, please see http://www.polyu.edu.hk/cpa/polyu/media/14congregate_e.php

Sichuan Reconstruction

Passion for Long-term Commitment



Immediately after the devastating earthquake in Sichuan on 12 May 2008, the University launched a fund-raising campaign following the President's appeal. Consequently a total of \$3.4 million was raised in support of the relief effort. Half a year later, PolyU is continuing with its commitment, prepared to provide long-term support for reconstruction in Sichuan. Much lies ahead in the University's multifaceted support drive.

Four Taskforces

PolyU has carried out services, training and research in the affected areas through the Sichuan Post-disaster Reconstruction Support and Research Centre, jointly set up by PolyU and Sichuan University in June 2008. Under the Centre are four taskforces, namely Taskforce on Health Services, Taskforce on Psychological Counseling and Social Reconstruction, Taskforce on Construction and Engineering Technologies, and Taskforce on Economic Reconstruction.

Community-based and Interdisciplinary Approach

Leading the management committee of the Sichuan Post-disaster Reconstruction Support and Research Centre are representatives from both universities, including PolyU Deputy President Mr Alexander Tzang and Associate Vice President Prof. Angelina Yuen.

Prof. Yuen, who is also Head of Department of Applied Social Sciences (APSS), emphasizes the community-based and interdisciplinary approach of the reconstruction effort. It draws on PolyU's renowned expertise in fields such as rehabilitation



sciences, physiotherapy, social work, nursing, occupational therapy, prosthetics and orthotics, business and engineering.

It also marks the beginning of the University's medium and long term commitment in various parts of Sichuan. The worthy cause has won the support of tycoon philanthropist Dr Tsang Hin-chi who has donated \$10 million in support of the Centre.

Training Frontline Professionals

The Centre is the base for training various professionals playing a key role in the reconstruction of Sichuan, from health care professionals, social workers, teachers, businessmen, local officials, engineers, hotel and tourism industry figures to designers.

Regular trainings will remain on offer in the next few years to help the province through its reconstruction process.

In collaboration with the centre, various “Training the Trainers” programmes were already undertaken during the summer, benefiting more than 3,000 mainland frontline professionals from areas such as healthcare, rehabilitation, social work and psychological counseling. Many academic, professional, voluntary organizations and business enterprises from Hong Kong have also been roped in to bolster the level of support.

Meeting Physical Needs

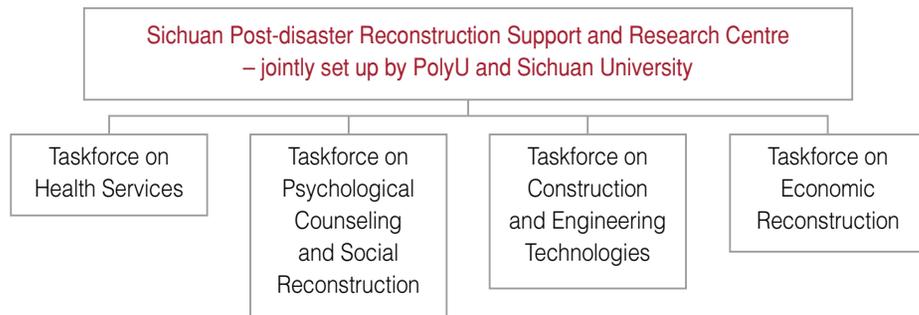
On the healthcare front, the School of Nursing joined hands with World Health Organization (Western Pacific Region) in training 80 nurses in Chengdu on treating traumatized patients. An international seminar and a two-day workshop on post-disaster care held in Hong Kong in early July was attended by about 550 healthcare professionals.

The Faculty of Health and Social Sciences trained a total of 200 medical, health care, prosthetics and orthotics workers to meet the urgent needs in the quake-hit cities and counties.

The Departments of Health Technology and Informatics, and Rehabilitation Sciences are offering direct services and training for professional workers in the city of Deyang for disabled persons in collaboration with the Red Cross and the Federation of Handicapped Persons.

Strengthening Psychological Support

In view of the huge need for psychological



counseling services, APSS partnered with mainland and Hong Kong charitable organizations such as Caritas Hong Kong, Hong Kong Boys' and Girls' Club Association and the Hong Kong Federation of Youth Groups to run workshops and training programmes for social workers, village officials, non-governmental organization workers, and school teachers. “Training the trainers” sessions on handling emotional traumas have been held in cities including Beijing, Jinan, Guangzhou, Chengdu and Wuhan. Also held were programmes focusing on community reconstruction issues such as conflict resolution and assessment of community needs.

To support the worthy cause, Mindset, a Jardine Matheson Group's philanthropy initiative to raise awareness of mental health, has donated \$1 million to help quake victims restore mental well-being.

Two-month summer camp series were run from July to August by the Department at four sites in Mianju, Pengzhou and A Ba Zhou. They served about 1,500 children each day,

helping them regain hope and confidence for the future and establish support networks.

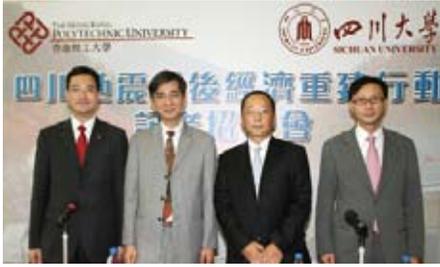
Construction and Engineering Services

In other aspects, PolyU and Sichuan University are collaborating on several projects. Among them are two study projects, one concerning the living conditions of the transient housing facilities where many victims are staying, with hopes of improving their design. The other project is a geological and dynamics study of the affected areas to provide recommendations for the Sichuan Bureau of Transportation on feasible road and bridge projects.

Industrial Mentorship Scheme

PolyU also took steps to support distraught owners of private enterprises in Sichuan by pairing them up with a group of Hong Kong industrialists under an industrial mentors scheme. Having visited the quake-hit areas in the summer, the industrialists would provide advice for their mainland counterparts on reviving their businesses.





In October, the first batch of 11 mainland businessmen representing different enterprises attended a five-day training on business knowledge and strategy at the University. The economic reconstruction attempt has won the backing of more than 50 business associations in Hong Kong.

Departments such as the School of Hotel and Tourism Management and the School of Design are also prepared to help on the training front should the need arise.

Scholarship Offers

The University has offered 10 scholarships to distinguished students from the affected areas to pursue undergraduate study here. In September, offers were made to nine students upon Sichuan University's recommendation.

Application of Strengths

Plans are also underway to establish a Community-based Support and Research Centre in an affected area, as a local base for direct interdisciplinary services as well as longitudinal studies on disaster prevention and reconstruction for the next few years.

A comprehensive three-year "Training of

Trainers" programme will also be launched to train social workers, NGO workers and local government officials from November onwards.

In the counties of Dujiangyan, Mianju and Yingxiu, three-year community-based social reconstruction projects will be launched to provide comprehensive counseling, school social work and outreach services. The purpose is to reach out to more schools and local communities, and to establish community support or mutual help networks to facilitate reconstruction.

There is no denying that catastrophes like the earthquake provide a rare chance for research. The School of Nursing, for example, is undertaking action research on post-disaster healthcare provisions and infection prevention in Du Jiangyan, where it is also providing community-based nursing

care and medical education for earthquake victims. Research teams from PolyU and Sichuan University are looking into the issue of revitalization of psychological well-being.

Prof. Yuen (above right picture, third from right) remarked, "By putting our strengths into use, PolyU aims to provide ready, most-needed services in Sichuan. Hopefully, in the long term, we can develop, share disaster relief management and social reconstruction knowledge with mainland and international communities."

"Obviously, much more is needed to continue with our commitment in the region. We need additional funding for our massive involvement to rebuild and revitalize Sichuan."



As a place to become, and belong

Mr Ng Wing-hong, the first alumnus of the then Government Trade School, the earliest predecessor of PolyU, speaks of his deep bonding to the University.

Back in 1937, Mr Ng Wing-hong, then 20-year-old, decided to join the Government Trade School in order to climb the social ladder. Little did he know that he was then making the most important connections which would shape his life—all through the world war, economic depression, and to his now ripe retirement at the age of 93.

Born as the eldest son to a humble family, Mr Ng was forced to quit school at the age of 15 and work alongside his father, then a construction site sub-contractor. Having spent two years' time driving the trunks and doing manual work at the construction site, Mr Ng pleaded with his father to return to school.

"Without education, there will be no future for me and there will be no change to the family," Mr Ng said. "That's what I told my father. And he agreed with me."

Being the first batch of building students of the Government Trade School, then mainly taught by British, there was room for development and endeavour. Acknowledging Mr Ng's work experience and knowledge of the local construction industry, the teachers invited him to be the first teacher in its night school to local workmen, while he was still in the school.

"It was a move of great trust. I was very grateful," said Mr Ng.

The incidents that forged his loyalty towards the school, however, took place after the World War II, which left the construction company started by Mr Ng after graduation in tatters. Trade documents and contracts were destroyed as Mr Ng and his family fled to Guangzhou, and everything was wrecked by the War.

After the cease fire, Mr Ng returned to Hong Kong, all capital and connections lost. Travelling all over the city to look for support, he went back to his old school, which still stood miraculously, albeit battered by war, in 1945.

The school principal and teachers welcomed Mr Ng with open arms, and the same kind of trust and caring that he experienced as their student. Recognizing his plights, the teachers immediately referred Mr Ng to various government schools and government officials as the contractor for the rebuilding and repairing of schools.

"Education is the best one can give to the younger ones. I have always remembered the way my teachers supported and guided me," he said.

"It has always been my wish to give back – to the place where I have gone through the most important changes in my life."

What followed was the building of a successful career in architecture and construction.

Mr Ng said he would attribute one-third of his success to PolyU, one-third to his hard-work, and one-third to his girlfriend, who has later become his wife, and mother to their five sons and one daughter.

"Education is the best one can give to the younger ones. I have always remembered the way my teachers supported and guided me," he said. "It has always been my wish to give back - to the place where I have gone through the most important changes in my life."



Mr Ng was elected President of the first alumni association of the Institution's forerunner, Hong Kong Technical College in 1953. However, he had lost touch with the school later as the society went through many changes.

Keeping his deep linkage to the school at his heart for all these days, Mr Ng was not aware of the ways to connect to the school, until one day he met an old school friend on a bus, who said, to his delight, that there was an alumni affairs office at PolyU. He contacted the office right away and has become one of the most active alumni since.

Mr Ng and his family have participated in the alumni activities, which he showed

enthusiastic support. His dentist-scientist son, Dr Ng Tze-chuen, has been working with PolyU researchers since 1995 in developing space tools.

As a tribute to Mr Ng's commitment to the University, PolyU named a big tree in front of its Library after Mr Ng in 2002. It has also conferred on him the title of University Fellowship in 2005 to acknowledge his professional achievement and contribution to the community.

"Here I get recognition as part of the University. Many of the fellow alumni call me their big big brother, because I am among the first batch of graduates from the school. I forge friendships with those who have also



benefited from the education of the school. Where else do I want to go? I feel that I belong there."

"Money, fame or power are not the most important things in life...what makes you happy is a grateful heart, and healthy, fruitful relationships." ❖

A Standing Testimony

On 16 September, more than a hundred alumni, friends and families had gathered to witness, honour and celebrate the ceremony that named the ST wing of the campus after Mr Ng Wing-hong.

Mr Ng officiated at the naming ceremony, in the company of Deputy Chairman of PolyU Council Dr Ng Tat-lun, and President Prof. Poon Chung-kwong.

Speaking on the stage, Mr Ng shared with the audience, among which seated his wife and family, the journey of his life from late 30s to the present. "My life was so closely entwined with the school...from when I was young, until now," he said.

Prof. Poon expressed his gratitude and respect to the dedication and continued support of Mr Ng to the University. "I have been with PolyU for 18 years now...but never have I been so touched by a ceremony," Prof. Poon said.

The ceremony wrapped up by a cheerful

question-and-answer session between Mr Ng and a fellow building student. "Students nowadays are very lucky because the society is more affluent...but work hard and hang in there," Mr Ng advised the young lady, to the delight of the audience. "And after you have succeeded, don't forget to buy me tea."

