

23rd Congregation (FH) – Opening Remarks by Professor CHU Hung-lam

Dear Graduates, Parents, and Friends,

Welcome to the 23rd Congregation of the Faculty of Humanities. We gather today to honour the achievements of our new graduates. On behalf of the Faculty Members, I offer my heartfelt congratulations to all our graduating students! My congratulations also go to their parents, family members, teachers and friends. Dear graduates – let's join in a big round of applause for these people who have supported, strengthened and inspired you on this journey.

New graduates here today: You have come a long way to reach the milestone of graduation – but the journey does not end here. People often say: Every ending is the beginning of something else. Every exit is an entry somewhere else. It is true. Many other milestones are awaiting you on the road ahead. The knowledge and skills you acquired, as a humanities graduate, extend across academic disciplines and far beyond the classrooms. As a humanities graduate, you were given chances to read across languages and cultures. As a humanities graduate, you were trained to think and act critically and creatively. As a humanities graduate, you were taught to see things beyond your own accustomed perspectives – knowing your place in the world with deeper humanity. There is a saying in the *Analects of Confucius*: 知者不惑，仁者不憂，勇者不懼 — Wise ones are never confused; kind ones are never anxious; brave ones are never afraid. As you embark on a new venture, I hope that you, as a humanities graduate, keep on your quest for the true, the good and the beautiful.

We are about to enter a new year: 2018. The year 2018 marks another important milestone of the Faculty of Humanities. It is the 10th anniversary of the renaming of the Faculty. Faculty of Humanities aspires to provide an education that encourages students to begin a journey of transformation: to explore and understand the complex world and people through languages and cultures; and to imagine and to build the future through lessons and insights drawn from the past – transforming both oneself and the world. Over the past years, the Faculty has also been transforming itself to meet the changing needs. With a concerted effort, PolyU's Arts and Humanities is ranked among the top 20 in Asia, and PolyU's Linguistics is ranked 34th worldwide. You are all part of this success and we count on your continuous support for the years to come.

New graduates: Thank you for entrusting FH to underpin your life's journey. We will always take pride in your achievements, travel beside you in your phases of life and welcome you back on many, and varied returns. We trust that PolyU is where dreams take flight. May all of you — our new graduates — fly high and shine bright in your journey ahead.

Congratulations!