

## **Address by**

### **Madam Pauline Ngan Po-ling, BBS, JP, Honorary Fellow**

Council Chairman Dr David Wong Yau-kar, members of the Council, President Professor John Lee Chi-Kin, distinguished guests, staff and friends of The Education University of Hong Kong (EdUHK),

First of all, I would like to sincerely thank The Education University of Hong Kong for inviting me to deliver this speech on behalf of this year's honorary fellows. It is an immense privilege for me to be named an Honorary Fellow of the university alongside Mr Chung Chi-kwong. I am deeply grateful for the recognition and trust from the University.

Mr Chung Chi-kwong is a well-known figure in Hong Kong, who has dedicated decades to promoting the healthy development of sport in Hong Kong and spreading its positive spirit. He comes from a modest background, and has shown great intellect and determination to obtain master's degrees in both Chinese language and literature, and philosophy. To his great credit, he commits much of his time to speaking with young people about Chinese culture, among other subjects. His appointment as an honorary fellow of the Education University today is well-deserved.

I, myself, was born in Fujian and faced many challenges during my school years due to the Cultural Revolution and class status system. In the 1980s, I moved to Hong Kong with my parents, and am grateful for the freedom and equality in the city, which has allowed me to succeed in my career and fulfil my life aspirations. Hong Kong has given me so much, and I am committed to giving back to society. Nevertheless, not being able to enter a university and receive higher education remains one of the biggest regrets of my life. Thus, as my career has progressed, I have become involved in charity work, with a particular focus on education.

When Dr Wong called to inform me that The Education University of Hong Kong wanted to present me with an Honorary Fellowship, I was truly surprised. How could someone like me, who had not even crossed the threshold of a university, be granted such an honour? Dr Wong mentioned that he had hoped my story of starting from scratch, overcoming difficulties, and venturing into Bangladesh and Mexico would inspire the young people of Hong Kong today.

Knowledge changes individual destinies, and advancing education is essential for continuing the transmission of human civilisation, driving social development, and turning impossibilities into realities. Education has different missions in different eras. In my time, the mission of education was to ensure every student entered the classroom and completed their studies. Today, as Hong Kong enters a new era of peaceful development, it is crucial to uphold the original mission of moral education and nurturing patriotism, instilling a global perspective in our students to cultivate outstanding talent.

As the saying goes, it takes ten years to grow a tree and a hundred years to cultivate a person. As a prestigious institution with over 100 years of heritage in teacher education, The Education University of Hong Kong has made remarkable contributions to nurturing education professionals and supplying teacher resources, earning wide acclaim and recognition from society. Being named an honorary fellow of the University is a validation and encouragement for me. Emotionally, this honour also helps to compensate for my own academic shortcomings and regrets, motivating me to contribute my effort to the development of education.

Once again, I sincerely thank The Education University of Hong Kong for naming Mr Chung Chi-kwong and I as honorary fellows, and I wish everyone here good health and success in all endeavours.

Thank you all!