

**Speech by Professor Lei Heong lok, President of MPI,
at the Graduation Ceremony of MPI for Academic Year 2009/2010
2010/09/18**

Your Excellency Dr Chui Sai On, the Chief Executive of Macao Special Administrative Region,

Your Excellency Mr Song Yanbin, Deputy Commissioner of the Office of the Commissioner of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China in Macao SAR,

Your Excellency Mr Zhang Xiaoguang, Representative of Minister of the Liaison Office of the Central People's Government in Macao SAR,

Your Excellency Mr Manuel Carvalho, Portuguese Consul-General in Macao,

Distinguished guests, teachers, parents and students,

Ladies and gentlemen,

Flowers bloom and fade when seasons turn; seasonal changes witness new cycles of life and the prime and charm of each generation. Rich soil breeds spring flowers and fall fruits; an ideal institution of higher learning brings up talents of integrity in large numbers successively. As a college student, you certainly need to work at your utmost for four years before you could pick the pearl of success and, with joy of triumph, step onto this platform. Being a higher learning institution, we would, every year at this particular moment, ceremoniously hold for you a grand graduation ceremony, and would have academic gowns draped over your shoulders, sending you towards a much higher starting point in your life.

The flowers are the same each year, yet the faces are different as time goes by. The names of the graduates we send out each year may differ, yet all the graduates share one thing in common, which is, success. If the precious memories of one's life could be collected, the four years you have spent in MPI could then be made into an exquisite and sparkling string of pearls, illuminating your life-long journey. It is a treasure that all of you should cherish forever. If all the students in the history of MPI, with both academic excellence as well as good merits, are to be portrayed in a great book, then in that case, every student present here today would undoubtedly compose an illustrious chapter for this magnificent book, which would be treasured always, and which would remain a fond memory in the history of this institution.

Today at this memorable and joyful moment, please allow me, on behalf of the whole teaching staff, students, administrative personnel and workers of Macao Polytechnic Institute, to extend our warmest welcome and express our most sincere gratitude to the Chief Executive of Macao SAR, Dr Chui Sai On, and to all the distinguished guests and parents who are present on this occasion. In the meantime, I would like to, on behalf of the Institute, extend our warmest congratulations to the 1,213 graduates, and express our best wishes at this

jubilant moment in your life – you are the fruits and achievements of MPI, nurtured with the best of care from the Institute. Congratulations to everyone of you!

First of all, please allow me to extend our sincere thanks to Macao SAR Government, the Chief Executive, as well as the leadership at different levels, for, throughout the years, you have continuously shown great concern and have given significant support to the development of higher education in Macao. Without your consistent and immense support, Macao Polytechnic Institute would not have, in recent years, progressed so rapidly in various aspects, and would not have ascended onto a new platform in terms of both software and hardware constructions, with the focus put on the most urgent and substantial key issues. For example, the new building's coming into use is an index of the important fact that Macao Polytechnic Institute has, to a large extent, already stepped onto a brand-new terrace. The present achievement of MPI has obviously laid a solid foundation for its future development, and it has also prepared the preconditions for achieving our goal to orientate MPI as a "petite yet beautiful, petite yet exquisite higher learning institution, aiming at first-class teaching and research".

I would also wish to give my heartfelt thanks to the dear and respectable parents of our students. Several years ago, you made the decision to send your own children to study in MPI, which clearly demonstrated your great trust in and great expectations for Macao Polytechnic Institute. Four years have slipped in an instant and everything has become a past memory. Now I could responsibly let you know that, Macao Polytechnic Institute has not let you down – the children you sent here years ago have developed their individual capabilities and have also cultivated their characters through their college life, which will facilitate their success in fulfilling themselves as useful persons to serve for the betterment of society. In recent years, there has been a decline in the total number of secondary school graduates in Macao. However, MPI's student intake has been encouraging. Take this year as an example, 68% of graduating students from Macao's secondary schools having chosen to apply for MPI's programmes. MPI has, in consecutive years, become the higher learning institution in the locality that has attracted the greatest number of secondary students enrolling on either Bachelor's Degree programmes or Associate Degree programmes offered by the Institute. In addition, I would like to take this opportunity to make a solemn pledge in front of the parents. My promise is, the children you are to send to Macao Polytechnic Institute in the future will be nurtured and educated in a completely new and far better environment, for, we would wish to see them grow into towering trees in the future and become pillars of society.

We would also like to extend our sincere thanks to the whole teaching and administrative staff, as well as the workers, for your committed efforts dedicated to hosting the “Macao-wide English Speech Contest”, “Macao-wide IT Competition – ALICE 3D Programming Contest”, “Distinguished Lecturers’ Seminar Series”, “Humanities and Social Science Seminar Series”, “Advanced Academic Seminars on the Basic Law of Macao”, “Global Gaming Management Seminar Series”, “The Spring Book Fair”, “The Macao Summer Book Fair”, as well as artwork exhibitions of various kinds and academic conferences and seminars at all levels. You have devoted your utmost commitment to enhancing the optimization of the campus environment, fostering a distinctive MPI campus culture; and what is more, you have spared no efforts in unceasingly upgrading the cultural status of the whole city of Macao.

My dear students, I would like to congratulate you once more for your commencing a new life-journey! With the rapid change of the social environment and the popularization of tertiary education, a graduation certificate is quite unlikely to guarantee you an ideal job and smooth professional advancement. As college students after the 80s, you will be faced with far more rigorous and demanding requirements after stepping into the society. Therefore, you should keep in mind expectations from your Alma Mater – “Unceasingly keep forging ahead, and never easily give up”. You should strive for every possible chance to further your studies, proceed onto life-long learning in the university of society, so that you can create a splendid and brilliant future. I firmly believe that, someday you will bring honour and glory to Macao Polytechnic Institute, and will become the pride and honour of your Alma Mater!

To conclude my speech, I would like to wish all the distinguished guests, friends, and parents, health, happiness, and prosperity. I wish you all the very best luck in everything! Thank you!