

**Speech at Graduation Ceremony 2010/2011 of Macao Polytechnic Institute**  
**By Dr Fernando Chui Sai On, Chief Executive of Macao SAR**  
**17 September 2011**

Distinguished guests, parents, teachers and students,

On this annual occasion of Macao Polytechnic Institute's graduation ceremony, I would first convey my hearty congratulations to all graduates of the Institute.

The SAR Government has a tradition of placing first priority on education as evidenced in its adherence to the administrative policy of "building Macao's prosperity on educational development", affording generous support to developing local higher-education as well as other education sectors. In particular, the Government provides the higher-education sector with adequate resource allocations to ensure continuous functional upgrades in teaching, research and social-service achievements which constitute better conditions for local higher education institutions to maintain sustainable development. The Government also helps the local higher education sector to enhance its teaching abilities as well as in its effort to meet international standards.

The recently publicized outline of the national Twelfth Five-Year Plan endorses the close cooperation between Hong Kong, Macao and Guangdong as a national development strategy. Since this is the first year of implementing the Plan as well as the Guangdong-Macao Cooperation Framework Agreement, we have urgent and significant missions to complete. The SAR Government will echo the effect of the Plan by committing itself to implementing the Framework Agreement for the continuous proliferation of regional cooperation achievements in the spirit of regional cooperation. It will help bring Macao's higher education in line with international standards, and raise the educational level of Macao's people for a harmonious society with a reasonably diversified economy complementary to the national development goals.

To meet the needs of social development, the SAR Government is undertaking the amendment of the Higher Education Act and related regulations, while further providing local higher education institutions with stable and adequate support in enhancing teaching and research attainments by allowing them greater autonomy and flexibility, so that their staff and students may progress together. The SAR Government will

also explore the possibility of institutionalizing a “Higher Education Fund”, and continue to make various funding options available to undergraduates as well as postgraduates. The Government will also seek to provide better conditions for citizens to further their education, with a view to creating a life-long learning community with enhanced humane education and better competitive abilities that enables it to seize the new opportunities and meet the challenges of the times.

The SAR Government will continue to provide full support to the development of Macao Polytechnic Institute, and enable it to foster a quality labour force for the community.

On this occasion, I hope that you graduates will aim far and high, as you are the people who will shape Macao’s future, and you are the epitome of its hope. You should avail yourselves of the opportunities that come with the strategic positioning of Macao as one of the world’s “tourism and leisure centres”. You should also bear in mind the missions of the times, and start from where you are and prepare yourselves for higher aspirations, in the spirit of life-long learning and moving ahead with the times, to better serve the community.

To conclude, let me wish great success to all you graduates in your future life and careers. Thank you!