

Speech at Graduation Ceremony 2010/2011 of Macao Polytechnic Institute

By President Lei Heong lok

17 September 2011

Your Excellency Chief Executive of Macao SAR, Dr Fernando Chui Sai On;

Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture Mr Cheong U;

Representative of the Liaison Office of the Central People's Government in Macao SAR Mr Li Zhengqiao;

Deputy Commissioner of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China in Macao SAR Mr Mao Siwei;

Consul-General of Portugal in Macao Mr Manuel de Carvalho;

Honourable guests, teachers, parents, students;

Ladies and gentlemen:

It is my great pleasure to welcome you all to this year's graduation ceremony on behalf of Macao Polytechnic Institute. In a very special way allow me to welcome and acknowledge the presence of Dr Fernando Chui Sai On, Chief Executive of Macao SAR, who has come to officiate at this Ceremony. I also want to extend my greetings to all the distinguished guests, parents and friends who are present here. Thank all of you for gracing this occasion and making it all the more meaningful for our graduates. We have been looking forward to sharing with the graduates this momentous occasion and it is a real joy to convey congratulations to each of the 1,004 students who are awarded the Higher Diploma or the Bachelor's degree today. You have worked hard through college; now it is time to remember and celebrate the journey you have taken to get here, and to acknowledge those people whose support has made this day possible.

First of all, I wish to acknowledge our appreciation to the Macao SAR Government and its leadership at all levels, in particular the Chief Executive, for their unswerving support to MPI. Thanks to the Government's steadfast commitment to higher education, MPI has been able to improve its facilities and personnel all the time. A recent example is the new MPI Meng Tak Building built with government funding. The 17-storey building occupies a base area of approximately 1,200 square meters and has a construction area of about 25,000 square meters, consisting of 3-D workshop, bookstore, canteen, student association, alumni association, amenity centre, academic staff offices, classrooms, laboratories, leisure areas, and hostel with total capacity of nearly 300 students. The building was completed in August last year and opened in February this year. Our students and staff can take advantage of our state-of-the-art facilities that help promote an even better learning environment.

Our appreciation also goes to the parents for all the sacrifices made to ensure the success of our graduates. Thank you for your support and the trust you have placed in MPI. After several years of hard work and perseverance, your child has successfully earned a college degree, and stands ready to use their talent to contribute to society. I am proud to say that MPI graduates' accomplishments have been widely recognized, and more and more high-calibre candidates seek to enrol on MPI's degree programmes. For example, over 75% of Macao's graduating high school students applied for MPI this year; in addition, 119 Mainland students were admitted by MPI this year, out of a total of 2,155 applicants, according to MPI's entrance requirement for Mainland students (current-year National University Entrance Examination score above the cut-off line for admission to Mainland key universities). I solemnly pledge, in the presence of this assembly, that MPI will continue to live by its motto "Knowledge, expertise, global vision" and never be confined in its quest for excellence. Nurturing talents to serve community needs has always been MPI's goal, our dedication, and our pledge.

Of course, how can I forget the faculty and staff of MPI who have been working tirelessly to sustain and maintain the programmes and activities of the Institute! As a higher education institution striving for the highest academic standards, MPI boasts a high calibre academic team. Over 94% of its academic staff members have a research degree, among whom over 55% holding doctorates. During the last academic year, more than 200 research reports were published by MPI academic staff. Allow me to take this opportunity to commend our committed and competent academic and administrative staff. Thank you for always being professionals in your various areas of concentration. I know how ready you are to meet academic and social challenges as you endeavour to render quality service and make MPI proud through your contributions, especially by being hard working, innovative, committed, and ethical in your work. I am confident that as we join hands to take MPI to greater heights, we will live up to the expectations of our students, parents, the Government, and the community at large.

Dear Graduates: Congratulations on the completion of your degree programme at MPI. You deserve to be proud of this academic achievement. Now as you stand ready to embark on a new journey in life, I wish you well in all your future endeavours. It is my sincere hope that you will cherish knowledge and learning and look at education as a continuous life-long journey, and persevere in whatever you set out to accomplish. The future is what we make of it; much is expected of you; make us proud by your contributions.

I wish everybody here good health, a successful career and the very best of luck! Thank you!