

# Graduation Ceremony 2012/2013

Speech by  
Chief Executive  
Mr Chui Sai On

Today marks the joyful celebration of Macao Polytechnic Institute's annual graduation ceremony. On behalf of the Macao SAR Government, I would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations to all the graduating students and your families.

In an era of knowledge economy, competition among societies is essentially competition among talents. Talents are regarded as the primary resources and impetus of technological innovation and socio-economic development. And education is the foundation for nurturing talents. Promoting educational development, therefore, provides the surest safeguard for elevating the overall competitiveness of society and people's livelihoods.

Giving top priority to implementing the administration directions of "Improving Macao through Education" and adhering to the principle of people-oriented governance, the SAR Government has actively promoted

the development of non-tertiary education and tertiary education in Macao. Whilst continuously enhancing the 15-year free education scheme to provide residents with the opportunity to receive non-tertiary education, we have redoubled our efforts to elevate the overall standard of local tertiary education, expediting the promulgation and perfection of relevant laws, regulations and bylaws, and building up the long-term mechanisms for sustainable development of Macao's tertiary education, with a view to promoting economic development and social progress in the Macao SAR.

We have steadfastly increased resources for tertiary education, giving assistance to local tertiary institutes in facility upgrading and staff's professional development, in order to create a favorable environment for teaching and research, build up a strong team of tertiary educators, and improve overall quality and academic standard. In keeping with local situations and international trends, we have implemented an array of policies aimed at providing residents with more opportunities to receive higher education, fostering talents in various fields and raising overall competitiveness of local human resources, so as to achieve Macao's adequate economic diversification and sustainable development.

The SAR Government has fully supported Macao Polytechnic Institute's educational principle of being rooted in Macao and serving society. We will continue to create favorable conditions for MPI to demonstrate its strengths and characteristics through offering education programmes to foster vocationally-oriented talents of different fields to meet local needs. We will continue to encourage MPI to exercise autonomy according to law, and to establish an evaluation system in keeping with international standards, so as to contribute to the sustainable development of Macao's human resources.

Finally, it is my sincere hope that all the graduating students will commit yourselves to serving the community with your knowledge and skills, pursuing lofty ideals in your lives, and becoming outstanding all-round citizens in this new era.

Thank you all very much.