

Graduation Ceremony 2011/2012

Speech by Chief Executive
Dr Chui Sai On

Today is a day for MPI's commencement celebration. I am very glad to be here on behalf of the Macao SAR Government to give my heartfelt congratulations and best wishes to the Class of 2012 and their parents.

Since the establishment of the Macao SAR, Macao's economy has developed rapidly, people's livelihoods have been improving gradually and society has been peaceful and harmonious. With the rollout of the blueprint to make Macao a "world tourism and holiday resort" and an "economic and trade cooperation service platform for China and Portuguese-speaking countries", Macao is in great need of talented professionals. To produce more professionals we will position education as one of our top priorities.

The Macao SAR Government resolutely carries out the administrative priority of "invigorating Macao by upgrading education", sticks to the "people-first" administrative ideal, and puts every effort into developing tertiary and non-tertiary education. We will continue to implement our 15-year free education policy, optimise educational facilities, ensure Macao residents' legal rights to receive non-tertiary education, and remain devoted to improving Macao's tertiary education. We will step up our efforts for the construction of the tertiary education system, continue to improve related rules and regulations, take advantage of new opportunities to deal with new challenges and carefully make plans for mid-term and long-term development.

The Macao SAR Government will continue to increase the resources devoted to tertiary education, optimise the educational environment and facilities, support teacher training, build up a high quality cohort of teaching staff, and carry out our plan to establish the "Tertiary Education Fund" to upgrade Macao tertiary education. We will continue to improve and publicise preferential policies for Macao residents to receive tertiary education, exert every effort to construct a society, and gradually of life-long learning and upgrade Macao residents' cultural qualities as well as their competitiveness.

The Macao SAR Government will continue to give its strong support to MPI's ongoing development, and encourage MPI to give full play to its advantages and strong points to strengthen its three functions: teaching, research and social services, in the hope that MPI will effectively use its initiative and flexibility to actively apply practical, internationally recognised mechanisms for its academic evaluation, and make contributions to Macao human resources development.

Finally, I sincerely hope every one of you, Class of 2012, will be ambitious, pioneering and down-to-earth, and keep abreast of the times to achieve a bright future! Thank you!