

Graduation Ceremony

2014/2015

Speech by

President Lei Heong lok

Today, Macao Polytechnic Institute joyfully welcomes many distinguished guests and friends for a gathering here to celebrate the graduation of over 600 students who are now firmly holding their hard-earned qualifications and ready to enter society. On behalf of MPI, I wish to express our heartfelt congratulations to all our graduates and their parents. Meanwhile, we also gratefully acknowledge our thanks to the Macao SAR Government and other sectors of Macao for their long-term support, commitment and precious advice for MPI. We are particularly honoured and pleased to have our Acting Chief Executive Ms Chan Hoi Fan as well as other distinguished guests and especially the President of the University of Lisbon to attend our graduation ceremony today. The warmest welcome to all of you!

Recently I have been approached by many people to talk about the issue of university rankings. By coincidence, my views on this actually concur with those of Professor Yuk-Shan Wong, an eminent educator in Hong Kong. Let me put it this way; among all the controversial and debatable university ranking parameters there are two criteria that are

most important and most objective. The first criterion should be based on what contributions the university has made to the society; and the second criterion should be dependent on the overall quality of its students.

It is for the first reason that MPI has consistently given top priority to its social responsibility as a tertiary institution. Since the return of Macao to the motherland MPI has been firmly upholding the educational principle of “taking root in Macao; serving the society”. For example, in meeting the ever-changing demands of the community we have subsequently launched a whole array of programmes in Chinese-English Translation and Interpretation, Chinese-Portuguese Translation and Interpretation, Sino-Lusophone Trade Relations, E-Commerce, Gaming and Recreation Management, Arts Education, Physical Education and Nursing, to name just a few. So far many of our graduates from these programmes have contributed to Macao with their practical skills and much sought after expertise. As a result the number of applications for admission to MPI has ranked No.1 among all higher education institutions in Macao for nine consecutive years.

Last year we invited a world-renowned higher education quality assurance agency from the UK to conduct an institutional review of MPI. One notable outcome from this institutional review exercise indicated that employers' satisfaction level with MPI graduates' performance exceeds 90%. The agency awarded MPI with a rating that runs parallel with some of the most well-known and prestigious universities in the UK! MPI thus became the very first tertiary institution in Macao higher education to be successfully reviewed by such an internationally reputable educational evaluation authority from Britain. Currently most of our academic programmes have either successfully completed or are actively undergoing programme review exercises by well-established quality assurance agencies from Portugal, the US, the UK, Taiwan and Hong Kong. Finally I am also glad to report that our *MPI Journal* has been ranked highly and listed in the much-coveted "National Elite Journals of Social Sciences". Overall, these achievements have greatly assured and further enhanced the supreme quality of MPI's social service to the community as a whole.

For a similar reason MPI has consistently aimed at "cultivating quality students", and we sincerely embrace this mission as both the starting point and ultimate goal of our academic endeavours. Indeed, during this academic year our MPI students have achieved many notable accomplishments which are testimony to the supreme quality of their education. For example, our student Cheong Wai Hang won a world championship in the Adobe Certified Associate (ACA) World Championship; another student, Wang Kun has respectively won the Championship, 1st and 2nd runner-up places in international marathons in Hong Kong, Taiwan and mainland China; Huang Junhua and his team members won a silver medal in martial arts in the Asian Games.

In addition, MPI's dragonboat team won second prize in the City Cup International Dragonboat Championships in Taiwan; while our MPI basketball team has won the championship in the Macao-wide Basketball Matches in the men's category and second place in the women's category; Fan Yubo won second prize in the 12th Portuguese Speech Contest. Furthermore,

Filipe Miguel das Dores was awarded a prize from the Royal Watercolour Society in the UK. Finally three MPI students, Li Yi, Huang Junhua and Cheong Wai Hang, have received the most applaudable "Certificate of Merits" from the Macao SAR Government. On top of all these achievements, MPI will strive to work closely with the SAR Government in implementing its policies by supplying more capable talents to its workforce.

Today we are all gathered here again to celebrate the graduation of over 600 MPI students who are now well-positioned to devote their services to Macao. So please allow me to express on behalf of all the faculty members and students of MPI our most sincere appreciation to all of our graduates and their parents for their trust in and support for MPI. Above all I would like to extend my best wishes to our graduates for a glorious and rewarding journey in life and a promising and prosperous career in the future. Thank you!