

Speech by Chief Executive of Macao SAR Dr. Chui Sai On

Today, we gather joyfully here at the annual graduation ceremony of Macao Polytechnic Institute to celebrate with the graduates their successful completion of university education and upcoming commencement of a novel journey of life. First of all, please allow me to express, on behalf of the Macao SAR Government, our heartfelt congratulations to all the graduates and their parents, and our highest appreciation and deepest respect to MPI's committed teaching faculty and staff for their hard work.

The present society witnesses rapid advancement of science and technology and increasingly fierce competition between countries. International competition of overall national strength all comes down to the competition for talents, and talents cannot grow without education. Respect for education helps nurture talents, and emphasis on education promises development. Education is thus

not only an essential way of enhancing our overall societal competitiveness and improving our resident's living standard, but also a solid foundation to realize national rejuvenation and push forward social progress.

The strategies of "Bolstering Macao's Economy by Education" and "Building Macao by Talents" in the first Five-Year Strategic Plan of the Macao SAR Government highlight its steadfast belief that Macao cannot develop without education and education cannot develop without innovation. The Macao SAR Government is now exerting its efforts in promoting educational development at multiple levels by guaranteeing favourable policies and support structures, investment of resources and mechanism refinement, targeting at promoting modernization, intelligentization and innovation of education and establishment of a long-term effective mechanism for development of education and nurturing of talents.

Higher education institutions are critical bases for nurturing and preparing talents for the society. In order to provide a friendly environment for the youth to enrich their knowledge, nurture their virtues and show their talent, the Macao SAR Government remains committed to implementing the administrative policy of increasing higher education input and to formulating a development plan integrating short-term, medium-term and long-term objectives, speeding up the completion of relevant laws and regulations and reinforcing institutional development of higher education. Colleges and universities are encouraged to strengthen and innovate their education programmes addressing the local needs and to guarantee the continual

upgrading of education quality by optimizing further their teaching environment and facilities, promoting their faculty and teacher training and expediting the establishment of an efficient institutional review mechanism.

The Macao SAR Government fully embraces MPI's educational policy of "dual emphasis on both teaching and research", buttresses up MPI's efforts in optimizing its advantages and characteristics to cultivate more professional and practical talents and its endeavours to accomplish its institutional review and to improve teaching quality based on its successful academic reviews by local and overseas

education accrediting agencies, and applauds MPI's unique contributions in deepening the exploitation of Macao's human resources and broadening its talents pool.

We hope that the graduates remain diligent, aspiring and innovative, to realize their dreams in their future journey of life.

Finally, I wish all the graduates phenomenal success in their future endeavours, and wish our guests a very healthy and happy life ahead!

Thank you very much!