

Graduation Ceremony

2017 / 2018

Speech by the Acting Chief Executive of Macao SAR Ms. Sonia Chan Hoi Fan

Today, we are joyfully gathering here to attend the graduation ceremony for the Macao Polytechnic Institute class of 2018. On behalf of the Macao SAR Government, I would like to extend my warmest congratulations to all the graduates and their parents, and to express our sincere gratitude and deep appreciation to all the dedicated MPI faculty and staff!

We are now living in an era characterized by a complex world, in the face of fierce competition and unprecedented opportunities. In essence, the competition among nations in power is, in fact, a contest of wisdom and talents. The accumulation of wisdom and the training of talents hinge upon the development of education. Education not only lays the foundation but also sows the seeds of social progress. It helps steer the way for both the present and the future of our societal development. Needless to say, education is our top priority in policy making and we strive to promote its development by taking deep root in the present while looking forward to the future.

The SAR government commits itself to “Developing Macao with Education” and “Constructing Macao with Talents” as our strategic goals, embracing the

pioneering innovative spirit as our fundamental principle towards establishing an efficient education system that is buttressed with supportive policy and scaled-up investment of resources. Meanwhile, we strive to achieve equity in education in the hope that all residents will be able to enjoy the final benefits of the education development in a fair and pragmatic manner, thus allowing us to accomplish social equality through equity and fairness in education.

Tertiary education has been part and parcel of the whole education ecology in that it undertakes the significant mission of nurturing talents and maintaining talent reserve. The SAR government strives to galvanize concerted efforts from all sectors of the community and to follow the blueprint outlined by our Motherland in the new era to upgrade our tertiary education to new heights. With the revised “Higher Education Regulations” taking effect, the construction of our tertiary education sector will be in full swing. Thus, we encourage tertiary institutes in Macao to further consolidate and innovate the distinctive features and advantages of the local education system; to aim at seamless integration of industry, teaching, and research; to nurture talents to contribute to developing Macao’s

economy towards moderate diversification; to optimize the learning environment and the teaching facilities, and strengthen teacher education at the institutional level, so that continuous improvement in the quality of education can be ensured; and to maintain security on campus and nurture civilized behavior, thus creating a better environment for the young generation to gain knowledge, cultivate moral standards, and give full play to their potential.

The SAR government will continue to support MPI to leverage its unique advantage in nurturing talents of practical skills. We fully endorse MPI's initiatives to go through rigorous accreditation reviews and its long-term commitments to improve the overall quality of teaching. To speed up construction of the government's grand vision of becoming the "One Center and One Platform" and to deepen regional cooperation and international exchanges, MPI's endeavors to broaden its talent reserve are highly applaudable indeed.

Dear young graduates, you are the future of our society. We therefore sincerely hope that you have realized how important the mission is that has been placed on your shoulders. We do hope that you will contribute to

building the new era as a striver, a participant, and a builder, and meanwhile realize your own dreams and the true values of life through wisdom and diligence.

Finally, I wish all graduating students a promising and a bright future ahead! May good health and happiness be with all of you who are here today! May all of your dreams come true!

Thank you all very much!

28 June, 2018