

**The Education University of Hong Kong**  
**23rd Congregation**  
**Words of Appreciation by Chan Wai Ki Vicky**  
**(Session 1)**

Professor Cheung, distinguished guests, fellow graduates, ladies and gentlemen, good morning!

I'm Chan Wai Ki, Vicky, a graduate of the Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Language Studies Programme. To begin with, I would like to express my gratitude for all the great support I have received from the Faculty, teachers and friends throughout these years. It is my honour and delight to deliver a speech on behalf of my fellow graduates, and I would like to congratulate all of them.

Every ending marks a new beginning. Today is a day of joy and celebration, of happy ending and new beginning, of friendship and solidarity, of achievements and hopes. It is also a day for us to reaffirm our goals, motivation and inspirations. We grow up in a fast-changing era. You are probably familiar with the following sayings: "It was the best of times; it was the worst of times. It was the age of wisdom; it was the age of foolishness." Advancement in technology brings changes to our life and to our learning. Knowledge and technology help us advance, yet they also turn us into foolish copy machines. In our university life, both temptations and choices exist. We have everything before us; we have nothing before us. It is all about our decisions.

When we first entered The Education University of Hong Kong, we were timid, fearful of uncertainty and changes. It seemed to us that stepping out of our comfort zone was difficult, not to mention the fear of being too different from others. There were many ideas and wants, but we were too shy, too hesitated to voice them out. Today, we are all sitting here: brave and daring, eager to excel in different directions and ready to soar high.

If I have to sum up my university life, it would be: "take action". During these four years, I chartered a service club with my board members, joined an exchange programme and visited countries across Europe, led service projects to distant countries including Ethiopia. All these experiences told me not to hesitate from "taking action" because every story I am connected with, every memorable moment, every accomplishment is the result of taking action. To be frank, it is not easy to strike a work-life balance. Yet, I do not regret doing the right things I believe in and do not hesitate to do so. Try your very best and take action. You can either be a passive victim hiding behind the curtain, or you can become the protagonist in your life.

Also, I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude to all the lecturers for their companionship throughout the years. Without their help, I would not be able to enter a world of knowledge. They have not only taught me academic subjects, but also lessons about life. Whenever I show up with questions and a face in frustration, they will always be there, giving me the support I need. They show me how to be caring educators and how university life is not limited to studying. Someday, when today's achievements fade out, when memories become dusty and rusted, every single lesson I have learnt here will always pop up in my mind.

Last but not least, another important part of my university life is every friend I have met. Hard times in completing assignments we shared and adventurous moments we experienced together were all part of youth and passion.

Again, allow me to express my heartfelt gratitude to the University and every treasured memory with my tutors and friends. Congratulations and I wish you all a bright future!