

President's 23rd Congregation Address 2017 (Session 2)

Honorary Doctorates Conferment Ceremony

Professor Stephen Y.L. Cheung

Madame Chancellor, Council Chairman and Members, distinguished guests, graduates, colleagues and students, ladies and gentlemen,

Today is the joyous occasion of the 23rd Congregation of The Education University of Hong Kong (EdUHK). This is a day of celebration for our graduates, and a day of rejoicing for parents, family members and friends. The academic awards to be conferred today and tomorrow mark the hard-earned success of all our graduates' efforts in the past few years. My warmest congratulations to all of them.

In the ceremony this year, we pay special tribute to five exemplary leaders. They are Zen Master Thich Nhat Hanh, Professor Andy Hargreaves, Dr Rita Fan, Dr Thomas Leung and Professor Anthony Cheung, who will be conferred the honorary degrees of Doctor of Humanities, Doctor of Education and Doctor of Social Sciences.

Master Nhat Hanh, a global spiritual leader, has dedicated his entire life to promoting spiritual well-being of individuals through mindful living, and more broadly, striving to address contemporary global issues and world conflicts through compassion and peace. Professor Hargreaves is a global authority on teacher development, educational leadership and change with a tireless mission to empower teachers, learners, and professional and educational organisations around the world.

Dr Fan, Dr Leung and Professor Cheung share one thing in common despite their multi-faceted fields of knowledge and careers. From the conceptualisation and birth of The Hong Kong Institute of Education in 1994, to the subsequent transformations and achievements leading to the establishment of The Education University of Hong Kong in 2016, they have played extraordinarily impactful and pivotal roles in different stages of the foundation and development of our University.

Shortly, our orators will present to you more about their inspirational stories and remarkable achievements.

Among us in this hall are graduates of our doctoral programmes. Despite our brief history, more than 100 individuals have graduated from our Doctor of Education and Doctor of Philosophy programmes since their inception in 2007 and 2010 respectively. Our University is also home to students from 28 countries at undergraduate, taught postgraduate and research postgraduate levels.

As an education-focused, multidisciplinary University with an emphasis on quality research, we will continue to expand at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels and to further internationalise our student population and the University community.

Graduates, you are embarking on a new phase of your life. While I am happy to share your joy and pride today, I hope EdUHK has helped bring out your best qualities and equipped you with the skills and self-confidence to stride forward and serve our society in education and other professional fields.

In the 21st century, knowledge is key; nonetheless, what matters most – aside from the wealth of knowledge you have gained academically – is the passion for the world you live in and your aspiration to live for the better for yourself and for others, as well as your perseverance to be a positive change agent in society. Embrace the world with openness and anticipation. Make a difference, be it big or small. It is often the cumulative effect of small deeds that ultimately makes big changes to the world.

Last but not least, with all my heart I wish you all the very best and every success in your future endeavours. I hope you will have a fascinating and a truly rewarding career in the years ahead. Thank you.