

The Education University of Hong Kong
23rd Congregation
Words of Appreciation by Mr Chan Tak Wah
(Session 8)

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

First of all, thank you for coming to the 23rd Congregation today to witness the fruits of our efforts in learning and to share our joy. I am Chan Tak Wah, graduate of the Bachelor of Education (Honours) (Special Needs) degree programme. I am honored to be able to speak on behalf of the graduating students.

Students who studied BEd (Honours) degree programme came from different positions, shouldering the responsibility of educating different groups of students. Among us are preschool teachers, primary school teachers, secondary school teachers and special school mentors; some are teaching assistants and school social workers. Our education and career background may slightly differ, but we share the common teaching philosophy: to take better care of children with different learning needs. Through theoretical discussions and practical study in the core curriculum, students gradually grasped the fundamental knowledge and understanding of the full spectrum of structure and development in special education. Teachers took classroom teaching seriously and made their lecture easy to understand; students participated actively and exchanged their views enthusiastically in the study group. It is because everyone comes from different positions and professional fields that different approaches to thinking will be inspired. Thanks to such exchanges, students are led on to a more profound reflection on special education, which helps promote our professional development.

In the programme, we had the opportunity to conduct fieldwork experience activities within the institution where we work. Our teachers also provided helpful guidance and professional advice so that we could apply the knowledge-based theories learned in the classroom to a realistic teaching environment as well as the learning needs of our students.

Towards the end of the programme, students' thesis and report sharing were the greatest return to all our teachers for their devotion to teaching during the three years. Apart from integrating classroom theories and textbook knowledge, our thesis also included students' practical experiences in teaching. Even if the topics chosen may be similar, different strategies would be applied due to differences in school environments and students' learning needs. I deeply believe that this is the result of students' thoughtful reflection in their teaching career. This is the spirit of "harmony in diversity" as emphasized in "Inclusive Education", which allows us to take one step further in reflecting on the education rights of people with different abilities.

It is indeed sad to bid farewell. I sincerely thank all our teachers for their dedication, encouragement and support all along, which not only equipped us with their teachings but also allowed us to play to our strengths in our work positions, and the spirit "education for all" can be passed on. Finally, to our graduating students, I wish all a very bright future. Thank you!