

Address by Professor Way KUO President

Council Chairman, Honoured Guests, Graduates and Colleagues:

It is to my great delight that I have this opportunity to congratulate you, the graduates, at the 2018 University-wide Congregation.

I never tire of this time of year. For the past four years, I have had a front row seat staying in touch with many of those young students who entered CityU, with some trepidation at first, and seeing them transform into outstanding members of the University community.

Your time at CityU has been an amazing era for us all. During your studies, we rapidly rose up world rankings and have outshone many of our sister institutions in a variety of areas. Even more inspiring, we pioneered Hong Kong's unique school of veterinary medicine. Over the summer in the presence of the Chief Executive of the Hong Kong SAR, Mrs Carrie Lam, we celebrated the naming of Hong Kong's first and only veterinary college: the Jockey Club College of Veterinary Medicine and Life Sciences. At the same event, we heard that the Hong Kong government would be signaling its support for our Bachelor of Veterinary Medicine as a publicly funded programme.

This was, of course, very exciting news. CityU is now the proud provider of the first such veterinary programme in Asia designed to meet strenuous international accreditation standards.

During your time at CityU, we also attracted more donations than ever before from the government and from private citizens, and the research and scholarship of our faculty have shone on the world stage. All these served a purpose to enhance the learning environment for you at CityU.

However, as I give thought to the Class of 2018, I can say with hand on heart that what has left the most indelible memory for me is the talent among our student body. Year in, year out, the quality of our incoming students has improved remarkably, and our graduating students are much in demand among employers and postgraduate admissions tutors at other institutions, both near and far.

Your contributions, your work ethic, your enthusiasm and your sense of team spirit have been very impressive. I enjoyed joining you for long-distance running races, experiencing your projects at various festivals and exhibitions, participating at orientation activities and reading about your success stories in competitions and events.

It has been my great honour to serve as your president. I hope very much that you won't be strangers to CityU and that you will join our rapidly growing alumni networks very soon. Many of them have already been successful in contributing to society in Hong Kong and beyond.

One day some of you, I am sure, will return to CityU to give talks on your success stories.

Many thanks and best of luck to you all on your future careers.

Thank you.
