

Address by Professor Way KUO President

Pro-Chancellor, Council Chairman, Members of the Council, Honorary Graduates, Honourable Guests, Graduates and Colleagues:

I would like to start by offering each one of you my very best of wishes on this very important day for you all.

Today marks the beginning of a new life, the commencement of a new chapter that follows your successes as research students at CityU.

You came to study here at CityU because you wished to conduct research at the very highest level, and you have certainly fulfilled your dreams and reached your goals. Each one of you had the seed for a project, a research question that you wanted to pursue when you first arrived, and you have succeeded in nurturing that idea to fruition. And for that, I offer you my heartiest congratulations.

As you may know, we totally revamped our undergraduate curriculum, and placed at its heart the notion of discovery and innovation. The same spirit applies to postgraduate studies, if not more so. The spirit of this new curriculum has manifested itself throughout campus, especially in the area of research. Each one of you has discovered for yourself new knowledge and applied fresh ideas to produce work that has earned you your research degree.

Research is vital to society and to the world around us, which is characterised by rapid change. How many new versions of smart phones go on sale every year? How many times do you upgrade your devices? We are in the middle of an era that is constantly evolving and revolving, where the advancement of our economy and society will be supported by research and the creation of applicable knowledge in universities.

In mobile communication, energy usage, bioengineering, big data, and in understanding society, the law and business, appreciating heritage preservation and creative media, and so forth, we are witnessing remarkable transformations and creativity.

Your work in these fields and many others will have a direct impact on helping to enhance technological breakthroughs that we hope will serve to improve people's lives. Recent research among our faculty has underscored these CityU goals. For example, in areas related to public health, CityU has produced groundbreaking work in smart clothing, plasma technology for eradicating harmful bacteria, robotics for treating blood diseases and increasingly in veterinary medicine. Many of you have contributed to these, and other exciting areas, and I believe you can all feel justifiably proud of your contributions.

You are now about to join another community, one which will be as supportive to you and your endeavours as have your supervisors during the course of your postgraduate studies. You are soon to become "alumni" and CityU will be known as your "alma mater". Our alumni associations stretch all over the world, and at the various gatherings held throughout the year, you will find a huge network of like-minded people who were educated here at CityU. I urge you to be active among our alumni as you develop your careers, and later in life, when you have established yourselves professionally, you will be able to pass on your experience and learning to the next generation.

Life evolves and revolves; change is constant; and when it is your turn to give back to society, we trust that you will do so with passion and energy, remembering how your departments, schools, colleges, friends and family helped you along your academic journey.

Thank you and well done.
