

## Address by President Way KUO

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

I am thrilled that City University of Hong Kong (CityU) will confer honorary doctoral degrees on Professor Gérard Mourou and Dr Rimsky Yuen Kwok-keung in recognition of their significant contributions to education and the well-being of society.

Professor Mourou is the Director of the International Center for Zetta-Exawatt Science and Technology at the École Polytechnique. He is also A.D. Moore Distinguished University Emeritus Professor at the University of Michigan. Professor Mourou will receive an Honorary Doctor of Science for his pioneering work in the field of electrical engineering and lasers, and he will join us on a live broadcast as he cannot attend in person due to the pandemic.

Professor Mourou has made numerous contributions to the field of ultrafast lasers, high-speed electronics, and medicine. His breakthroughs won him the Nobel Prize in Physics in 2018, along with his former student, Professor Donna Strickland.

Dr Yuen, who is currently Senior Counsel in Hong Kong, will receive an Honorary Doctor of Laws from CityU. During his tenure as Secretary for Justice from July 2012 to January 2018, Dr Yuen led the Department of Justice to serve the community and provided legal advice to the Chief Executive and the Government.

In addition to upholding the city's rule of law, he was dedicated to fostering exchanges between the legal professions in Hong Kong and the mainland as well as promoting Hong Kong as an international dispute resolution and legal services centre in the Asia-Pacific region.

Our two honorary awardees this year represent two sides to CityU's operations. Professor Mourou embodies all that we have set out to achieve in research into science and technology. We have performed remarkably well and I am proud to inform you

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that more than 140 CityU faculty members are ranked among the top 2% of the world's most highly cited scientists, according to Stanford University. We are also ranked top among local universities for the 5th consecutive year in the top 100 worldwide universities granted US utility patents by the National Academy of Inventors.

Meanwhile, Dr Yuen's life philosophy aligns with CityU's values in that we inspire students to pursue excellence with integrity, determination and commitment in their chosen fields of study and embrace diversity, learning to appreciate life from different perspectives. In addition, seeking harmony for the long-term interest of Hong Kong is a positive voice for the opportunities waiting for the youth of this city.

Harmony is also derived from balance. At CityU, we encourage our students to live by the pen and the sword. By that I mean, pursue academic studies enthusiastically but don't forget to commit to a healthy life, filled with sports and exercise.

Our students' dominance in intervarsity sports competitions is well known among student athletes in Hong Kong. In the sports leagues in which 13 local tertiary institutions have participated in the past 15 years, CityU has won seven out of 11 grand slams. Our achievements spotlight the quality of our student athletes, the professionalism of our trainers and coaches, and the effectiveness of our mentoring structures and programmes set up to nurture sporting excellence.

Sporting success lifts the spirit in much the same way as our new University Anthem. I am very proud that we now have our own uplifting song to sing on special occasions. Themed "Beyond Boundaries", our Anthem symbolises our unity, shared passions and a vision for an international education.

And so I thank both Professor Mourou and Dr Yuen for accepting our invitation to join the CityU community. You will both serve as excellent role models for our students as we advance towards our future goals.

Thank you.

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