

Address by President Way KUO

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

I am delighted that City University of Hong Kong (CityU) is conferring honorary doctoral degrees on Professor Evelyn L. Hu and Dr John Maeda in recognition of their significant contributions to education and the well-being of society.

Professor Hu, Tarr-Coyne Professor of Electrical Engineering and Applied Science at the John A. Paulson School of Engineering and Applied Science of Harvard University, will receive an Honorary Doctor of Science. She is internationally recognised for her leadership in nanoscale science and engineering, and for her seminal contributions at the intersection of semiconductor electronics and photonics. Professor Hu will join us through a live broadcast.

Dr Maeda, Vice-President of Design and AI at Microsoft, will receive an Honorary Doctor of Engineering. A globally recognised technologist, award-winning designer, and celebrated author, Dr Maeda is well known for his innovations at the intersection of design, computing, art and education, especially in generative art and computational design for commercial applications across Web2 and Web3.

The reason I am so delighted that our awardees today will receive honorary degrees is they are joining the greater CityU family at an extremely exciting stage in our development.

We are thrilled to learn that Professor Alain Aspect, a Senior Fellow at the Hong Kong Institute for Advanced Study at CityU, won the Nobel Prize in Physics 2022. Professor Aspect is a great friend of CityU and was conferred an Honorary Doctor of Science by CityU in recognition of his significant contributions to education and society.

Another piece of exciting news is that in the 2021 top 100 universities granted US utility patents by the National Academy of Inventors, CityU is placed 29th in the world, our highest-ever position and 22 places better than last year, and that we are ranked 1st among local institutions for the 6th consecutive year. In addition, over 180 CityU faculty members are among Stanford University's list of the world's top 2% most-cited scientists in 2022.

We are also incredibly pleased that innovation and technology investment companies continue to provide millions of dollars in angel fund investment each year to selected start-ups under our flagship innovation and entrepreneurship programme, HK Tech 300.

Moreover, our CityU Farm is now in full operation following the arrival of cattle from Australia. The Farm is integral to the training we provide for students on our pioneering Bachelor of Veterinary Medicine programme.

And so I sincerely thank both Professor Hu and Dr Maeda for accepting our invitation to join the CityU community today. Your support goes a long way to endorsing the mission that we have set ourselves, giving us the confidence to move forward under the philosophy of the “integration of teaching and research” that underpins our work in higher education.

As role models, you will inspire our students to get the performances they deserve for the careers they aspire to, and you will encourage our faculty to reach beyond boundaries in their pursuit of excellence in research.

Thank you.
