

Address by Professor Way KUO President

Council Chairman, Honourable Guests, Graduates and Colleagues :

I would like to offer my heartfelt congratulations to all of you on this memorable day!

The past few years might have seemed a long and, at times, rocky journey. But whether your journey has been smooth or bumpy, you will have changed a great deal compared with when you first entered CityU. You are wiser, more confident, and more prepared for your new role in society and a new chapter in your life.

CityU has also changed a great deal, too. Together we have grown and developed over the years, and our remarkable academic achievements and strong student performances are highly recognised on the international stage.

All of you gathered here today have contributed to CityU's impressive development. We have created our success stories together because of our willingness to embrace a new type of culture, mentality, behaviour and thinking pattern, which I refer to as the "soulware" of higher education.

Universities today generally recognise the importance of having good facilities and modern technology as their essential "hardware." Increasing attention is also paid to enhancing the training and quality of faculty and staff, and defining a clear set of rules and procedures as the "software" to guide development.

But much effort is still needed to develop the "soulware" of higher education in order to respond to today's fast-changing global world.

By "soulware," I mean the commitment to concentrate our heart and soul earnestly to embrace the highest international standards in all our educational endeavours. In practice, this means making the best use of the "hardware" and "software" at our disposal to spearhead innovation for the benefits of students and the well-being of society.

As a forward-looking institution for higher education in the 21st century, CityU has been putting great effort into the development of our “soulware” to complement the University’s excellent hardware and software.

Examples are our transformational Discovery-enriched curriculum; our ground-breaking School of Veterinary Medicine; the heritage preservation project on the work of the Italian missionary Giuseppe Castiglione; and the launch of the Institute for Advanced Study for the promotion of innovative research by world-leading scholars to address critical global challenges. In summary, the “soulware” is based on facts, it is conscious of the environment and it puts academics first.

CityU’s success is due to all of you here today. I hope you will become active members of our alumni associations and continue to give us your input and support after your graduation. You are an important driving force to enable the University to continue to move forward in the days and years ahead.

Do stay in touch with your alma mater. We want to hear from you, about your careers, your achievements, your plans.

Once again, congratulations to you and your families.

And we wish you all a bright future on this commencement day.

Thanks.
