

## **Address by Professor Way KUO President**

Honourable Guests, Graduates and Colleagues:

I would like to start by offering you my heartiest congratulations for successfully completing and earning your degree.

But I think it is also a good moment now for pausing and reflecting on what it is that you have achieved and what your degree is worth. A degree is after all not much more than a piece of paper. It is proof that you spent some time at CityU and that you completed the requirements needed for graduation. This proof can be used to secure a job or admission to another programme of academic study, but actually real knowledge is the highest degree; and only real learning is the pass for an educated person.

**Money comes and money goes  
Like endless traffic through tunnels  
Only real knowledge enriches thinking  
A degree offers only temporary pride  
Not worth holding to or relying on  
Give full play to one's potential  
For the sustained development of society  
Soulware must be assessed if we wish to avoid empty talk**

Caring for education should not be lip service only, and education means much more than a degree. For that reason, I have been championing the reinvention of the undergraduate curriculum and the integration of research and teaching since taking office in 2008. The aim has been the cultivation of creativity, innovation and entrepreneurial skills to enable CityU students to respond to the challenges and opportunities offered by the internet and globalisation.

What I hope for more than anything else is that your experience of discovery and innovation at CityU has empowered you to make a difference in the world, and has changed how you identify problems and seek solutions, and how you plan to build your post-CityU life and career.

My hope is that you will work hard to build a successful career that will allow you time to maintain close links with CityU, your alma mater. Most of all, I hope that

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your degree will inspire you to consider what I call the ‘soulware’ of life. During your studies, you made use of CityU’s hardware and the software, i.e. the facilities and the programmes, to cultivate knowledge. You had to have ‘soulware’ as well, the mindset that, if absent, means that all learning and research is empty because the heart is not present. Dedication, honesty, loyalty and perseverance are needed to add value to and sustain learning for life.

Only with the acquisition of real knowledge can your potential be unleashed to benefit society. So when you look at your degree certificate, I hope you see more than words, print, logos and signatures. I hope that this piece of paper embodies all your past studies and contains the seeds for future possibilities; proof of potential for discoveries and innovation yet to come; evidence of what you have done and signs for what you will do in the future.

Whatever path you take, I hope the knowledge you acquired, the friends you made, the teachers you met and the research you pursued will provide you with the ‘soulware’ needed to flourish in society.

Thank you.

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