Mr Irons Sze, GBS, BBS, JP

Honorary Fellow

Council Chairman, President, Members of the University Council and Senate, Distinguished guests, and friends of The Education University of Hong Kong,

It is an immense privilege and pleasure to stand before you today on behalf of my fellow awardees to express our deep gratitude to the University for conferring upon us these Honorary Fellowships. We are deeply humbled to receive this prestigious recognition from such a distinguished institution of higher learning. This honour represents not merely a celebration of our past endeavours, but as a renewed call to serve our community, our nation, and the generations that will follow.

Each of today's recipients brings a unique life journey shaped by different professional experiences, yet we are closely united by a shared dedication to public service, the advancement of youth, and the sustainable progress of Hong Kong.

The Honourable George Lau Ka-keung has devoted nearly three decades of corporate leadership to public life. As a Hong Kong Delegate to the 14th National People's Congress and a Member of the Legislative Council, he has consistently championed the potential of our younger generation. Through initiatives such as the "We Venture" project and extensive Chinese Mainland study and internship programmes, he has opened vital pathways for over thirty thousand young people to broaden their horizons across the Greater Bay Area. Furthermore, his steadfast commitment to education, national affairs, and community safety continues to foster civic responsibility, crime prevention, and social security across our city.

The Honourable Jimmy Ng Wing-ka, a distinguished solicitor and Chairman of the Finance Committee of the Legislative Council, has rendered decades of exemplary service to Hong Kong's legislative, commercial, and legal sectors. Serving on the Court and Council of The University of Hong Kong alongside numerous public boards, his exceptional leadership in public governance, economic development, and cross-strait trade cooperation exemplifies the highest standards of professional integrity and public duty.

Mrs Mei Ng Fong Siu-mei is a pioneering force in environmental protection whose vision spans more than four decades. As Honorary Patron and former leader of Friends of the Earth (HK), her tireless advocacy has shaped local environmental policy and sparked crucial green initiatives ranging from urban tree planting to decarbonisation. Her global leadership, recognised by the United Nations Environment Programme, and her dedicated work through the Earth Academy continue to empower young people to safeguard our natural heritage and build a sustainable future.

As for myself, throughout my four decades in the industrial and commercial sectors, I have remained steadfastly committed to supporting Hong Kong's economic vitality, advancing our integration into national development, and contributing to higher education and vocational training. From my family roots to my business leadership and public service roles, my objective has always been to strengthen our local community and nurture young talent for tomorrow's challenges.

Higher education serves as the bedrock of societal progress and prosperity. Universities nurture the leaders, innovators, and thinkers who shape our collective future. To be associated with this esteemed institution is a privilege that all four of us hold in the absolute highest regard.

On behalf of all four Honorary Fellows, I extend our most sincere thanks to the University Council, and the University as a whole for presenting us with these honours. We express our deepest gratitude to our families, colleagues, and friends, whose unyielding support, encouragement, and understanding have made our work possible. As a new member of the EdUHK family, may I wish that everyone connected with the University continue to work to inspire our youth, foster social stability, and contribute to the long-term prosperity of Hong Kong and our country.

Thank you very much.