

Address by
Dr the Hon Starry Lee Wai-king, GBS, JP
Doctor of Social Sciences, *honoris causa*

Council Chairman Dr David Wong, Council Members, President Professor John Lee, distinguished guests, and friends of The Education University of Hong Kong,

It is indeed a great honour to be conferred this Honorary Doctorate by EdUHK, particularly as I receive it with two distinguished individuals, who are iconic figures in their respective fields.

Professor Ambrose King Yeo-chi, an Emeritus Professor of Sociology and former Vice-Chancellor of The Chinese University of Hong Kong, has spent over three decades shaping the study of Chinese society, modernisation, and the holistic mission of higher education, bridging Eastern and Western traditions through both his landmark scholarship and his celebrated calligraphy.

Professor Jeffrey Pfeffer, the Thomas D. Dee II Professor of Organizational Behavior at Stanford University, is a globally renowned pioneer whose ground-breaking research on power, resource dependence, and evidence-based management champions the creation of fairer, healthier, and more humane workplaces. They have all played hugely important roles in bridging gaps, fostering understanding, and driving meaningful societal progress.

My connection with EdUHK has given me the distinct privilege of serving directly as an Honorary Professor, contributing to the development of future leaders through public administration and governance programmes. Having spent 25 years in public service, aligning policy with community needs, it is truly fulfilling to see our shared commitment to civic responsibility shine in the classroom.

Although we come from different backgrounds, one thing we all share is our deep passion for education and its transformative capacity.

This is because education forms the basis of our society, bringing a community together. It helps shape our future, enlighten our minds, and broaden our horizons, so that we may build a better future together by fostering positive values and mutual understanding. Now, and highly consistent with the University's mission, teaching, public administration, and organisational leadership are understood as both critical intellectual work and deeply relational efforts that support social, civic, and moral development.

While technologies evolve at great speed, it is crucial that all members of the global community are included socially, economically, and institutionally. Failure to achieve this would have a devastating effect on the underprivileged and on overall human well-being. Education is the tool with which we can ensure all sections of

society are offered equitable opportunity. It is therefore highly commendable that EdUHK is at the forefront of development and use of technologies in a human and ethical manner, for the benefit of all people, irrespective of age or background.

In Hong Kong, we take pride in the quality of our education system, with its wide variety of institutions focusing on values formation, academic achievement, and professional development. Of course, we cannot rest on our laurels. Our educational and professional frameworks must constantly move forward to remain relevant, continue to nurture talent, and adapt to an ever-changing world. Education is a catalyst for a thriving Hong Kong, which enjoys a unique position as an international hub, in the Greater Bay Area, and part of China, providing a host of opportunities for those across the community who wish to make a difference with their knowledge.

All three of us are united in the firm belief that education is the ultimate pathway to bridging gaps and creating a more humane society. We are therefore truly honoured to be here today, to be conferred these Honorary Doctorates, and we will continue to play our part in realising the goal of making learning and progress accessible to all.

Thank you.