

ADDRESS BY PROFESSOR LEE S. SHULMAN
DOCTOR OF EDUCATION, *honoris causa*

Council Chairman Mr Pang Yiu-kai and members of the Council, President Professor Stephen Cheung Yan-leung, staff, students and friends of The Hong Kong Institute of Education:

I thank you on behalf of my colleagues Professor Michael Fullan, Ms Christina Noble, and Sir Gordon Wu Ying-sheung,

My fellow honorees and I express gratitude to The Hong Kong Institute of Education for the honour you have bestowed upon us. We are particularly pleased to be connected with the important work of this institution, the value of its contributions to the society it serves and the students it educates. Indeed one of us, Professor Michael Fullan, had the privilege of helping to recruit the second head of HKIEd, Professor Ruth Hayhoe. And what greater value can any institution offer its society than to educate the teachers who in turn teach the next generation? A democratic society is utterly dependent on the intelligence of its citizens. An educated citizenry has acquired, through the diligence, skill and commitment of its teachers, the dispositions needed to lead, to invent, to nurture and to inspire all those with whom they live. This is the mission of HKIEd. We are deeply grateful to be associated with this mission.

Teaching is the most complex and challenging act in which our species engages. To teach well is to engage the mind, the heart, and the hand. To educate is to teach students to think deeply and flexibly, to perform their tasks skillfully and smoothly, to act with responsibility, compassion and even love for one's fellow beings. How does a teacher accomplish so much with large groups of young people? By becoming a gifted and committed educator who is deeply schooled in the subjects to be taught, who is technically skilled in the pedagogical arts, and who is morally committed to the well-being of the most humble as well as the most advantaged of students. And who is qualified to prepare such teachers? Accomplished educators organised in an institution like this one, the faculty and leaders of The Hong Kong Institute of Education.

Nineteen years ago, in November of 1994, my wife Judy and I were privileged to join with the faculty members of the Institute in a week-long series of workshops and seminars. At the end of that week, we gathered for a marvellous ceremony, the ground breaking for the new campus that would serve as the home for this new resource for Hong Kong. The breaking of new ground was both a physical act and an apt metaphor for the event that took place that autumn afternoon. There had been excellent teacher education colleges in Hong Kong for many years: The Northcote College of Education, Grantham College of Education, Sir Robert Black College of Education, Hong Kong Technical Teachers' College, and the Institute of Languages in Education. They had been created over a period of more than half a century and had done fine work with excellent faculties.

The leaders of Hong Kong dreamed a bigger dream. They imagined the consolidation of the five colleges into a distinguished new institution that would raise the level of teacher education even higher, an institution that would educate a new generation of professional educators and conduct research to add new knowledge to the world of education. This would be a place where educators could pursue advanced degrees and conduct the investigations needed to achieve a deeper understanding of the complexities and challenges of education. It would be an institution with a global perspective and international standing even as it fulfilled faithfully its local responsibilities.

To achieve those ends ground had to be broken, as five older colleges dissolved into a new, ambitious centre for teaching, learning and research. I recognise that using the term "university" in this context may be somewhat intriguing. But when a place does the work of scholarship, is recognised internationally, and takes pride in the manner in which it assumes those responsibilities, I do not know what else to call it.

The logo of HKIEd graphically represents the formation of one institution growing out of five rich and fruitful sources. Like any serious act of teaching, parts of the past had to be broken, what existed before required disruption to make room for a new beginning. Isn't that what happens in any act of deep teaching and learning? Doesn't a teacher often have to disrupt and disturb students' prior understandings to make room for new ideas, new skills, and new appreciations of fellow human beings who may be different from those with whom they are familiar? Great teaching is groundbreaking, and it isn't work for anyone who lacks courage, wisdom, talent or commitment. It is work for those who have earned the privilege of being educated at The Hong Kong Institute of Education.

The four of us have, in our own lives, also had the privilege and excitement of breaking new ground. It is a great pleasure to acknowledge the great work undertaken by the Institute, and to thank you for your recognition of our achievements.