Welcoming Address by Dr Eddy C Fong, Chairman of the Council at the Grand Opening of Jubilee College on Thursday, 27 February 2014

The Chief Executive of HKSAR, Mr C Y Leung, Secretary for Education, Mr Eddie Ng, Council members, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good morning, a warm welcome to you all and thank you for joining us today to celebrate the opening of our Jubilee College situated at the Jockey Club Campus. Today we are particularly honoured to have the Chief Executive of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region the Honourable C Y Leung to be our guest-of-honour, and we are most delighted to have the presence of Mr Eddie Ng, Secretary for Education, Mr Brian Stevenson, Chairman of The Hong Kong Jockey Club, Dr Charles Lee, Pro-Chancellor of the OUHK, Dr Vincent Woo, Chairman of the 25th Anniversary Celebration Steering Committee and other major supporters for the Jubilee College, to officiate at the event.

This year signifies the 25th anniversary of the OUHK and today marks the grand opening of our Jubilee College at the Jockey Club Campus. Such premises, standing in a highly visible part of Ho Man Tin, bordering Princess Margaret Road on one side, and Chung Hau Street on the other, is nicely embraced in the Jockey Club Campus and serves as a landmark of the 25th anniversary of the founding of our University since 1989. Not only does it enable us to further expand to meet various learning needs of our society, it also speaks highly of the Government’s relentless support and recognition of our efforts in providing quality higher education. Providing school leavers more opportunities to pursue higher education and develop their talents in the fields of creative arts, testing and certification, and medical services, the Jubilee College enhances career prospects for the youngsters and turns a new leaf to the development of our full-time face-to-face teaching.

We share the Government’s commitment in the recent policy address to providing secondary school graduates with flexible and multiple pathways in their further studies and increasing higher education opportunities for them. In fact, the OUHK has been offering full-time programmes since 2001, making available more diversified options for young learners pursuing degree education. Growth of student number has been increasing at a rapid rate, with the number of full-time students rising from fewer than 100 in the first year to over 7,000 at present. With staunch support from the Government to offer us land and other resources, we have been
successful in bidding for the site on Chung Hau Street where the Jubilee College now locates. It would not have been possible without the generous support of our friends and the community. My special gratitude goes to The Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust, our longstanding Partner in Learning, which has contributed generously $200.7 million towards the Project. Taking this opportunity, I would like to convey my most sincere thanks to all those who have contributed to the project, and wish to call for more support from the community to provide quality higher education so as to enable students with diverse abilities, interests and aptitudes to meet with future challenges in this ever-changing world.

Once again, thank you for joining us at today’s ceremony.