



Vote of Thanks by Prof. John C Y Leong
President of The Open University of Hong Kong
at the Grand Opening of OUHK Jubilee College at Jockey Club Campus
on Thursday, 27 February 2014

Hon Mr Leung Chun-ying, Hon Mr Eddie Ng, Mr Stevenson, Dr Charles Lee, Dr Eddy Fong, Mr Edward Cheung, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of The Open University of Hong Kong, I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to all of you for your gracious presence at the Grand Opening of OUHK Jubilee College at Jockey Club Campus. My special thanks go to The Honourable C Y Leung, Chief Executive of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, Mr Eddie Ng, Secretary for Education and Mr Brian Stevenson, Chairman of The Hong Kong Jockey Club who spare time out of their busy schedules to officiate at the Ceremony.

From a humble beginning in 1989, being established by the then Hong Kong Government as The Open Learning Institute of Hong Kong, we have come a long way to become a “Multimode University”, offering a diversity of teaching and learning modes to 19,000 students. This number will surpass 21,000 when Jubilee College enrollment reaches steady state.

Distance learning for working adults was the only mode from the beginning. We broke new ground in our programme offerings in 2001 when full-time programmes were introduced in 2001 to meet the various educational needs of society. Based on the solid foundation of its distance-learning operations, full-time programme offerings have since been expanded to include bachelor, master, and doctoral degrees. Presently full-time students number is over 7,000. We also offer top-up degree programmes to many associate degree graduates from other institutions. Since 2007, the majority of our full-time undergraduate programmes have been offered under the Joint University Programmes Admissions System (JUPAS).

Throughout the years, we are indebted to the support of the HKSAR Government and the Education Bureau. From the Ho Man Tin campus to the campus extension opened in 2008 and the Jubilee College embraced in the Jockey Club Campus where we are now, the Government has unremittingly lent us support by offering the most-needed land and financial aid. This indeed is a great encouragement to the OUHK and recognition of the University’s ability and dedication in providing quality higher education.

As you have already learned from the video just now, the construction cost for the Jubilee College is about \$710 million. Apart from the \$317 million interest-free government loan, we are very grateful for the generosity of our longstanding friends and the community in meeting the cost. Our special thanks go to The Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust which has contributed \$200.7 million towards the Project. We are also heartened by the generous contributions of the Wu Jieh Yee Charitable Foundation, Dr Bunny Chan, Miss Connie Fong, Fu Tak Iam Foundation, and many other enthusiastic friends and supporters. And we would like to speak our thanks to the students, alumni and colleagues who joined hands with us in realizing the Project. We are proud to announce that the Project, from ground-breaking to grand opening, is completed in just two years' time.

The Open University of Hong Kong, a self-financing institution, is proud to celebrate its achievements in the last 25 years. This would not have been possible without the passion, dedication and hard work of all staff, the support of its alumni, students and all our benefactors. Even with the addition of Jubilee College, our campus size is still not commensurate with the size of our student population. However, we believe that it is people that is most important in driving the success of an institution. We believe that peoples' passion generates quality work.

We look forward to your continued support in providing more quality higher education opportunities for various learners, to open their minds, shape their lives and reach high for a brighter future.

Thank you.