

Speech by Mr. Ho Hou Wa, Chief Executive of the Macao SAR Government at the Graduation Ceremony of Macao Polytechnic Institute (MPI) for the Academic Year 2008/2009 September 26th, 2009

President Lei Heong lok,
Distinguished Guests,
Dear parents, MPI staff and students,

Today, it's my great pleasure to join you here in the annual graduation ceremony of MPI and share your joy and happiness.

The successful implementation of the "one country, two systems" policy since the handover has propelled the development of tertiary education in the Macao SAR to an unprecedented high level, and marked a great new step forward in both the quantity and quality of the college students. This June, the 9th Session of the Standing Committee of the 11th National People's Congress passed a bill to authorise the Macao SAR to have jurisdiction over the new campus of the University of Macau (UM) on Hengqin Island. This authorisation not only demonstrates the strength of the "one country, two systems" policy, but also reflects the Central Government's concern and vigorous support for the development of Macao's education. The SAR Government should seize the right moment, and accelerate the growth of tertiary education, so that it can meet the demands of proper diversification of economy, sustainable development and construction of harmonious society.

Last year, as required by developments in Macao society, MPI took the advantage of Macao's unique position of "being backed by the mainland" to highlight its features, optimise the teaching staff, strengthen curriculum construction and improve teaching and learning conditions. An internationalised school environment has been built and its capacity and reputation have been greatly improved. I sincerely hope that based on its own features, MPI will unwaveringly promote reform and innovation, develop quality-oriented education and cultivate more talents in various specialised fields to provide professional services to our society, and meet the requirements of economic construction and social development on human resources.

Dear graduates, Macao is now in a vibrant period with a brilliant future ahead. So are you. Because you are both vibrant and energetic, opportunities are always open for those who have both talent and virtue. I sincerely hope that you shall cherish the youth to cultivate good personal character and enhance your abilities so that you can realise your dreams through diligence and achieve brilliance by adhering to the spirit of continuing to forge ahead.

Finally, I sincerely hope that all the graduates will constantly strive to become stronger in the days ahead and wish you every success in the future.

Thank you!