

# Graduation Ceremony 2015/2016

Speech by President of Macao Polytechnic Institute  
Prof. Lei Heong lok

First of all, on behalf of Macao Polytechnic Institute, I wish to express our warmest welcome to the Chief Executive of Macao, to the Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture and to other distinguished guests for attending the graduation ceremony. My heartfelt congratulations also go to all our graduates and their parents. I would also like to take this opportunity to extend our sincere gratitude to the Macao SAR Government and other sectors in Macao for their long-term support and commitment to MPI.

The graduation ceremony and the opening ceremony are cyclical annual events that constitute an integral part of MPI's mission to educate and nurture talents for the community. Up to this year, MPI has witnessed over 16,000 students graduating from its many degree programmes, and I myself have been fortunate enough to stand behind this same podium for 17 consecutive years to express congratulations to MPI faculty, staff and students. Speaking as a teacher with nearly 40 years of teaching experience, I now would like to make a new call to all our teachers and students.

Dear fellow students, I sincerely hope that, besides learning knowledge and developing competence at university, you can also foster a strong faith that will guide you through your whole life, that is, by spreading your wings of imagination and being relentless in your pursuit of the innovative spirit. Albert Einstein, the father of modern physics, once remarked cogently, "Imagination is more important than knowledge. For knowledge is limited to all we now know and understand, whereas imagination embraces the entire world, stimulating progress and providing endless sources for progressive knowledge." Innovation as we call it here, encompasses both an *expanding* and an *expelling* element from a philosophical point of view, which implies both learning from our past experience and expanding our traditional wisdom. In terms of teaching and learning then, students are not only expected to acquire established knowledge and skills, but also should be ready to challenge or even cast doubt on existing knowledge under the spirit of the maxim "To hypothesise boldly; and to triangulate

meticulously”, so that new questions can be raised and innovative perspectives be proposed. As teachers, we should never be content with just repeatedly instilling fixed knowledge from textbooks into our students; while as students, you should not just aim at obtaining the degree and confining yourself solely to the viewpoints offered by the textbooks and your teachers. Only when this happens, can MPI live up to its historical mission of “building upon the past; striding ahead towards the future”; only then, will our students be transformed into talents upon graduation to stimulate social development and to break new ground in their future endeavours.

Today, Macao Polytechnic Institute is proud to be the first tertiary institution in Asia to have been successfully reviewed by the authoritative Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education in the UK. MPI currently boasts an unparalleled competitive edge and wide-reaching influence with its teaching and research expertise in gaming and in

the Portuguese language. It has maintained its top-ranking of college enrolment choice among Macao’s senior high school graduates for many consecutive years. Over 90% of our surveyed employers in Macao have spoken highly of MPI graduates. All these remarkable achievements on our part are the direct results of MPI’s unwavering adherence to the guiding principle of “advancing with the times” and its never-ceasing quest for innovation ever since the handover, coupled with gracious support from relevant authorities and the general public in Macao.

The whole world is now heading towards a new era that is characterised by highly diversified political pluralism, economic globalisation, Big Data and Cloud Computing technologies, and Macao has already been ushered into a new historic moment. Under these circumstances, history has thus bestowed a solemn mission onto our shoulders, which entails a full embrace of the innovative spirit to adapt to these dynamically changing social, economic and political

situations and to facilitate effective enforcement of policies from the Macao SAR Government. No doubt, MPI will work unsparingly in concerted efforts with relevant sectors in the community to bring about a brighter future for Macao.

Finally, please allow me to congratulate again all of our graduates and their parents and to express our sincere gratitude to all our distinguished guests for coming to our graduation ceremony.

Thank you all very much!