

## Introduction

It is my great pleasure to be here today at the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Speech Day of Hong Kong Chinese Women's Club College. Let me start by offering my warm congratulations to all of the S.6 graduates! I am honoured to be here to share this day with you, your dedicated teachers and school staff, and your proud family members.

I still remember my own school graduation. It was more than 50 years ago but it remains one of the treasured moments of my life. When I look back to that time, it is astonishing to think about how much the world has changed since then.

We had no MTR and no cross-harbour tunnels. Mobile phones had not even been invented! The ways we can travel today and the ways that we can communicate and access information are so much more convenient than in my younger days. I could never have imagined these advances as a young graduate.

The changes that I have seen have really transformed everyone's lives and the pace of these changes only seems to be getting faster. New technologies like A.I., V.R. and big data are now leading in another wave of transformation and no doubt there will be many more new technologies to come in the future.

New graduates may wonder about how they can ride this wave of change. What are the important capabilities and qualities that they should strive to develop? What type of human capital will our society need for the future?

## The 7 'haves'

Many students ask me these questions in my capacity as Chairman of EdUHK. To my mind, there are seven "haves" that the younger generation should aspire to develop. Seven may sound like a lot, but I am sure that the CWCC graduates already possess some of these qualities.

The first one is **Virtues**, such as honesty, decency and trustworthiness. These are a critical foundation of our personal and professional relationships.

The second 'have' is **dreams and aspiration**. These are the vital qualities that make us look forward to every new day and give us the hope of creating a brighter future.

The third one is **drive and zeal**. It is very important that we motivate ourselves to take positive actions. Otherwise we will not reach our goals.

The fourth 'have' is **perseverance**. All of us will face challenges in our lives and need to overcome obstacles. We have to remain focused on our objectives and work hard to overcome the difficulties.

It is also crucial that we have **commitment**. This is the fifth 'have' - and it applies equally to our personal and our professional lives. We must follow through on what we have promised to our family members and our professional colleagues to earn their trust.

The first five 'haves' are mainly our character. The remaining two 'haves' add another layer on top of that - they are really about the way that we think and our ability to be adaptable and agile. These are the additional 'haves' that are needed to excel in our technology-driven economy.

**Creativity and independent thinking** is the sixth 'have'. How can our companies flourish in the future and how can we as individuals develop a successful career and a rewarding life when the world is changing quickly? We certainly need to be forward-thinking to stay ahead of the crowd. We also need to innovate and solve problems quickly. So the ability for original and creative thinking is becoming of paramount importance.

And the seventh 'have' is **global vision**. You may have heard the saying that the world has become flat. It means there are no more barriers between different countries. New ideas and new products and services circulate so quickly all around the world. Even strong established business can be quickly threatened or undermined by disruptors with a new approach. So it is important that we think globally and not just locally and stay up-to-date with all the latest global trends and technologies.

### Wrap-up

Let me say a few final words to our graduates here today. I am very confident that your education at CWCC has already laid strong foundations for the next stages of your lives by inspiring you to be outstanding individuals with all-round development.

Please keep up the good work! I hope my guidance is of use to you. I strongly encourage you to always aim high and to proudly pursue your dreams and aspirations. With your continued efforts, I am sure that this year's cohort of graduates will achieve great success in the future and bring more pride to your family members and your school.

Thank you very much.