

Opening Speech by Mr. Yen Yuen Ho Tony, S.B.S., J.P., the Supervisor
at the 39th and 40th Graduation Ceremony of
Kiangsu-Chekiang College (Shatin)
on December 9, 2021

Mr. Ng, Mr. Chang, Directors of the Association, School Managers, Ms. Chan, Distinguished Guests, Parents, Teachers, Graduates and Students,

Two years ago, on 12 December, 2019, I stood here at this very same place, in my first appearance at the Graduation Ceremony as the School's new Supervisor. Then and here I gave a message that it was my wish to meet the school teachers and school parents often. I must say to you all today that, with much regret, I have not been able to deliver what I said, for reason of the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic in Hong Kong. The need to keep a safe social distance for public good means, in the context of a school environment, that teachers, parents and students were all not able to have close face-to-face communication with each other in the past twenty odd months.

We have all seen in that period of time a world lashed by pandemic each day, and life transitions more precarious than ever. The situation was no doubt both daunting and disheartening. However, there is this English saying "Every cloud has a silver lining" and the Chinese saying "辦法總比問題多". I am sure you will all agree with me that human beings always have the wisdom to find light in the darkness and success in the struggle. Indeed, this is exactly what was witnessed at our School in those dark months. In striving to maintain normal operation of school teaching while ensuring at the same time that all our students were safe and healthy, our school teachers and staff have worked extraordinarily hard. With the use of modern information technologies and equipment, and the taking of various effective precautionary measures, our School was able to, in the past months, keep maintain a safe and orderly place for our students to continue with their normal education. These were not easy to achieve! I would like here to express my deep gratitude to School Principal Chan, our school teachers and staff for their hard efforts, dedication and perseverance in those difficult times, not forgetting of course to express my sincere gratitude also to the school parents, as well as the students, for their collaboration and joint efforts.

To our graduating students, today is an important occasion for you. For you will all have to leave KCC (Shatin) to pursue an advanced and yet different career from that of a secondary school environment. In navigating through your career and voyage of life, I would urge you to always bear in mind our school motto "Be Orderly and Respectful", and the 10 students' Code of Behavior which I will not recite here. Suffice it to say here that these are important ethical guides useful life-long for all of you, even after you have left school.

Fellow students, I know young minds have much uncertainties about the future, especially after the happening of the social unrest in 2019 and earlier. It is perhaps difficult or even scary to face a wall of choices not knowing if there is a right decision. There is no clearly delineated path or recipe for a successful personal development. All I can tell you in this short while is

that you should keep a positive thinking always about every challenge and about every problem that lie ahead of you. Where there is a will there is a way! Do make a distinction between “knowledge” and “information”, and make a critical analysis or facts-checking upon every information that comes to you, whether from known or suspicious sources. Let sense, and not emotion, prompts your mind.

With these words, may I wish you all the best in all your future endeavours.

I now come to an important task that School Principal Chan has asked me to perform today. This is to present to you all a distinguished officiating guest. He is Mr. Ng Sum Chun who is a year 2007 graduate of this School. After graduation from KCC (Shatin), Mr. Ng was admitted into the Chinese University of Hong Kong, where he obtained a Bachelor of Arts degree, with honours.

At young age, Mr. Ng had developed much interest in athletics, especially dance sport. Over the years, he has turned this interest into a professional and successful vocational career. He has won much fame and obtained many prizes and medals, both locally and oversea. Mr. Ng is the Champion of the Latin Dance Open League and Professional League in Hong Kong, and is named an Elite Dancesport Athlete of Hong Kong. He is a Gold Medalist in the World DanceSport Federation Asian Championship, a Silver Medalist in the European Latin Dance Grand Prix, a Silver Medalist in DanceSport in the Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games and a two-times Bronze Medalist in the Latin Dance (Jive) in East Asian Games.

Mr. Ng is now a director of Viva Dance Company Limited. Not forgetting to serve the community, Mr. Ng now also serves as a Non-official Member of the Government’s Youth Development Commission whose primary function is to oversee the Government’s formulation and implementation of youth-related policies.

Today, Mr. Ng is back to his Alma Mater. He will in a moment share with us all about his most unusual experience. That, I am sure, is going to be a time particularly interesting and aspiring for his junior schoolmates.

Lastly, at this time when the pandemic is still threatening and casting shadow on us, may I wish everyone here safe and healthy. Do keep a positive mind, and remember—Every Cloud has a Silver Lining!

Thank you!