

Opening Speech by Mr. Yen Yuen Ho Tony, S.B.S., J.P., the Supervisor
at the 41st Graduation Ceremony of
Kiangsu-Chekiang College (Shatin)
on December 8, 2022

Mr. Yau, Mr. Chang, Vice-chairmen and Directors of the Association, School Managers, Ms. Chan, Distinguished Guests, Parents, Teachers, Graduates and Students,

Time flies! It was about 12 months ago when I last stood here to deliver my speech on the occasion of the School's previous graduation ceremony. In those past months, the world was still under siege by the Covid pandemic, and the going was tough for all. Today, I am here again, seeing that the tough is going, and seeing many happy faces all wearing a cheerful spirit. The feeling is so good!

In recollecting the events that happened to our School in the past months, it can be said that our School endured many difficult challenges. Because of the pandemic, special measures such as social distancing and rapid tests, need to be taken to keep the school environment impeccably safe and hygienic. However, while these measures were effective in maintaining a hygienically safe environment at the School campus, they at the same time impeded also to a large extent the normal operation of school teaching.

Thanks to the dedication and perseverance of our strong and caring team of teachers and staff, under the capable leadership of School Principal Chan, we all saw in the past a school which maintained a safe and orderly place for our students to continue with their normal education. This was not easy to achieve. And there are simply not enough words here to describe and make out all the hard efforts that our school teachers and staff have put into this in those difficult months! My hats off to our teachers and colleagues!

The collaboration and joint efforts from our school parents and students also made possible for us all to keep this School a safe and caring place to receive education. I would like here to express my sincere gratitude to the parents. I hope to have their continued trust and support. Dear parents, if we could together overcome all the difficulties in those dark months, there is no reason why we cannot achieve the same again should the School face other challenges in the future.

In the last academic year, students of our School again did well and came off with flying colors in many ways. In a moment, Principal Chan will tell us in more detail regarding the excellent performance and achievements that our students have made, in both academic and non-academic areas. Suffice it for me to say now that among all the secondary schools in Hong Kong, KCC(Shatin), which includes of course her students, remains to be one of the best! The school sponsoring body, the school board and myself are very pleased with our students' excellent performance. We are very proud of our students. Let me raise my thumbs for them all!

To our graduating students, today is an important occasion for you. For you will all leave KCC(Shatin) to pursue an advanced and yet different career from that of a secondary school environment. Whatever you choose to pursue, do your utmost always and you would have had a sense of fulfilling. I would also urge you that, in navigating through your career and voyage of life, always bear deeply in mind our school moto "Be orderly and respectful" —

in the sense that you should make critical analysis on all the information and problems that come to you, and accept the fact that other persons may hold different views from that of yours. In addition to remembering the school motto, do also remember the 10 Students' Code of Behaviour. They together constitute 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. I must say 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 lies ahead of you. Where there is a will, there is a way! With these words, I wish you all the best in all your future endeavors!

Now allow me to present to you today's officiating guest! He is Mr. Yau Kwok Ting Tony who is a year 1988 graduate of this School. After graduation from KCC(Shatin), Mr. Yau was admitted into The University of Hong Kong where he obtained a Bachelor's Degree in Civil Engineering. After becoming a professional civil engineer, he worked as an engineer in a contractor, a consulting firm and the MTR Corporation Limited. He later joined the public service. While in the public service, Mr. Yau has worked in two different Government Departments, namely the Highways Department and the Transport Department. He is now the Deputy Commissioner of Transport Department.

Today, Mr. Yau is back to his Alma Mater. He will in a moment share with us about his experience (or shall I say, his exploration). I am sure that all of us here, in particular Mr. Yau's junior schoolmates, will find it both interesting and aspiring to hear how a dedicated and outstanding engineering expert serves the Hong Kong people, and contributes to Hong Kong public transport.

Finally, may I now close my words by wishing everyone here safe, healthy and happy always!

Thank you!