

Opening Speech by Mr. Yen Yuen Ho Tony, S.B.S., J.P., the Supervisor  
at the 42<sup>nd</sup> Graduation Ceremony of  
Kiangsu-Chekiang College (Shatin)  
on December 7, 2023

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

I am very delighted to join you all here to see so many happy faces on this very important occasion of the School's graduation ceremony. I recall that when I last stood here to deliver my speech, Hong Kong was still under siege by the Covid pandemic. Now, almost a year later, we see a gradual cessation of the pandemic and a rapid resuscitation of this lovely City's spirit. This is no doubt something we should all feel gratified about. Let us now take a moment's pause here to mourn for those unfortunate few who suffered loss and pain during those dark years, whilst at the same time count ourselves fortunate to have carried through the pandemic.

Ladies and gentlemen, we now live in a rapidly changing world. Climatic changes due to global warming, coupled with various kinds of pandemics and diseases, are still threatening our lives and health. While we are confident that human beings have the wisdom and power to overcome all these difficulties, we should nonetheless be vigilant at all times to prevent the happening of these disasters. Using a Chinese saying, we should "be prepared for danger in times of safety (居安思危)". For our young students especially, do always maintain a good health and a good physique, for only with a fit and healthy body could you then pursue a sustainable personal development.

Let me now continue with something more delightful. In the last academic year, students of our School continued to perform well, in both academic and non-academic areas. In a moment, Principal Chan will tell us in more detail regarding the excellent performances and achievements that our students have made. Suffice it for me to say now that among all the secondary schools in Hong Kong, KCC (Shatin) remains one of the best! The sponsoring body, the school board and myself are very pleased with our students' excellent performance. We are very proud of our students. May I raise my thumbs for them all!

Apart from the efforts made by students, credit must also go to the teachers and staff for their valuable contributions. Together with the capable leadership of School Principal Chan, teachers and staff of our School have all put an enormous amount of time, care and efforts to make our School remain a safe and orderly place for our students to receive high quality education. I would like to express here my heartfelt gratitude to them all. Thank you, teachers and colleagues!

The collaboration and joint efforts of our school parents have also made it possible for us to keep this School a good, safe and caring place to receive education. The School cannot progress further and our teachers and staff cannot alone give their full attention to every aspect of our students' adolescence without the assistance and collaboration from the parents. I would like to express here my heartfelt gratitude also to the parents for their past support, and hope to have their continued trust.

To our graduates, today is an important event 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, I would urge you to always bear deeply in mind our school motto “Be Orderly and Respectful (整齊嚴肅)” — in the sense that in making all important decisions about your livelihood or career, you should make critical analysis on all the information and problems that come to you and let sense, not emotion, direct your mind. In addition to remembering the school motto, do also remember the 10 students’ Code of Behaviour. They together constitute important ethical guides useful lifelong for all of you even after you have left school. With these words, I wish all graduates a happy and bright career in the many years to come!

Now allow me to present to you today’s officiating guest. He is Mr. Yeung Yan Kin, Andy who is a 1988 graduate of this School. After graduation, Mr. Yeung pursued further studies at various universities, both locally and overseas. He holds a Bachelor’s Degree in Engineering and a Master’s Degree in Public Sector Management. He also completed the Executive Leadership Programme at Australian Institute of Police Management in Australia, National Studies Course at the Chinese Academy of Governance in Beijing, and Advance Management Programme at INSEAD in Singapore. Professionally, he is a Registered Professional Engineer, a member of the Hong Kong Institution of Engineers (Fire Discipline) and a member of the Institution of Fire Engineers (Hong Kong Branch).

Mr. Yeung joined the Hong Kong Fire Services Department in 1992 and rose through the ranks to Chief Fire Officer in 2017. He was appointed as the Director of Fire Services in March 2022. Mr. Yeung has worked in various echelons of the Department, responsible for duties including firefighting and rescue operations, plan processing, planning, technical study for 4<sup>th</sup> generation mobilizing system and policy making. He is now the head of a strong force of heroic firemen who have dedicated their time and efforts, and even lives to rescuing and protecting the lives and properties of all of us in times of grave danger and disaster. Let us salute them for their bravery.

Today, Mr. Yeung is back to his Alma Mater. He will in a moment share with us about his experience and expedition. I am sure that all of us here, in particular Mr. Yeung’s junior schoolmates, will find it interesting and even gratifying to hear how a dedicated and outstanding member of the Fire Service Force serves and safeguards the Hong Kong people.

I now end my words here and wish each and every one of you healthy and happy always.