Address by Professor Way KUO, President

Chancellor, Pro-Chancellor, Chairman, Deputy Chairman and Members of the Council, Honorary Graduates, Honoured Guests, Graduates and Colleagues:

I am delighted to have this opportunity to address our distinguished guests, graduating students and all the families and friends attending Congregation today. This is a very proud day for all of us and it is a great honour for me as President of City University of Hong Kong to welcome you all.

We have assembled at this venue today two distinct groups. On the one hand we have our honorary graduates, renowned leaders from a diverse range of backgrounds. From the world of science, we have Nobel Prize-winning chemist. From the IT industry, we are joined by the chairman of the largest manufacturer of notebook computers in the world. From the legal profession, we are honoured by the presence of first Chief Justice of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region. From computer science, we welcome a pioneer in internet technology. And we have our former Council Chairman, an expert in finance with years of experience in public service.

And our second group? Well, the graduating students of course.

Just as our honorary graduates are today's leaders, the younger men and women sitting before me are the leaders of tomorrow.

And I admit one of my greatest wishes would be to see graduating students return to CityU at some point in the future as honorary graduates. Could you do that for me?

As graduating students, you might think that there is a world of difference between you and the honorary graduates sitting before you. But I would disagree. Believe it or not, our honorary graduates were young once, too! They sat at their own congregations, much like this one, I should think, and contemplated their futures. Like you, they didn't know exactly where their careers would take them. Like you, they were fresh graduates with a newly minted degree certificates and a head full of ideas. But they had two very important characteristics, as many of you

do, too. What do you think they are? I'll tell you: the desire to discover and innovate.

I have met many students over the last couple of years, during my talks, through research, on home visits, in the students' canteen or over in the nearby shopping mall Festival Walk where I often take lunch. And I think it is fair to say that it is not necessarily the students with the richest parents, the biggest homes or the most stylish clothes who do well. The ones who succeed are those who are forever curious and endlessly creative.

Now it is your turn to make your entrance to the world of work, but before you leave, I would like you to do something for me. I would like you all to become ambassadors for CityU, your alma mater. It is true that you have graduated but you are an important aspect of our future now. When you go for job interviews, we want your potential employers to be impressed that you went to CityU. When you develop your careers, we want you to be our future partners. We want you to go out to the world and make us proud. And, as I said, perhaps one day, you will return as distinguished alumni, or as a member of staff, or as parents and even as honorary graduates.

Life is rarely without its challenges. But, as any decent chef will tell you, the secret to a good meal is in the preparation. You need to gather the right tools and equipment, a balance of ingredients, a promising recipe and dinner guests, of course.

We at CityU are gearing up for the new 4-year curriculum with new buildings, new courses and the belief that we are contributing to the development of Hong Kong and the region. We are prepared.

And you, the graduating students of 2010, leave us prepared, too, with the skills, knowledge and the self belief that you will create for yourselves intellectually satisfying and, we hope, financially rewarding careers.

We will meet again but until then, let me offer you all my most heartfelt congratulations and best wishes for the future.

Be curious, be innovative and go out and discover the world.