

Address by Professor Way KUO President

Council Chairman, Members of the Council, Honorary Graduates, Honourable Guests, and Colleagues:

Today is a very special day. We are celebrating not one but two conferment ceremonies for honorary doctoral degrees.

As you well know, we had to postpone last year's ceremony as the social conditions were not conducive at that time so it is with great pride and a sense of relief that we can now confer our 2019 awards on two very distinguished persons, who have had to wait a whole year for this ceremony!

Today we are also conferring the 2020 awards. Not only that, we are broadcasting this ceremony online for those who cannot attend in person. This is indeed a sign of our determination to overcome the challenges posed by the pandemic over the past few months.

One of the 2019 awardees, Professor Michael I. Kotlikoff, is joining us on a live broadcast from New York. Professor Kotlikoff and Dr Edward Leong Che-hung are duly honoured for the excellence of their service to life within our very many communities around the world.

Professor Michael I. Kotlikoff, Provost at Cornell University and a renowned professor of molecular physiology, is an influential leader of the highest order in higher education today. For us, he helped to establish Hong Kong's first-ever school of veterinary medicine here at City University of Hong Kong (CityU). Cornell's friendship and support have been invaluable as we progressed to set up the Jockey Club College of Veterinary Medicine and Life Sciences. He will receive an Honorary Doctor of Science.

Dr Edward Leong Che-hung, well-known both in his profession of medicine and in the sector of public service, has been a keen supporter of CityU. In his illustrious

career of more than 50 years, his accomplishments are remarkable in pioneering new surgical procedures, educating generations of doctors, initiating discussions and promoting awareness of diverse medical and social issues. He will receive an Honorary Doctor of Social Science.

We now move to the 2020 awardees. CityU will confer honorary doctoral degrees on Mr Harry S. Banga, Mr Norman Chan Tak-lam, and Mr Wong Chun-hong, in recognition of their significant contributions to education and the well-being of society.

Mr Harry S. Banga, Chairman and CEO of The Caravel Group Limited, will receive an Honorary Doctor of Business Administration. A successful entrepreneur and businessman, Mr Banga is an Indian rooted in Hong Kong with a global vision. A staunch supporter of CityU, Mr Banga is a Member of the Court and the Steering Committee of the “United, We Soar” campaign, and an Honorary Patron of the CityU Foundation.

Mr Norman Chan Tak-lam, former Chief Executive of the Hong Kong Monetary Authority, will receive an Honorary Doctor of Business Administration. With his long and distinguished service for the Hong Kong government and the community, Mr Chan has made exemplary effort in maintaining the stability of Hong Kong’s banking and financial systems.

Mr Wong Chun-hong, Chairman of Top Spring International Holdings Limited, will receive an Honorary Doctor of Social Science. Mr Wong, a visionary and resolute business leader, has accomplished a great deal in real estate, finance and retail across Hong Kong and mainland China. He has been actively involved in public and community services, particularly in education and services for the underprivileged.

Throughout their careers, all five recipients have balanced a passion for knowledge with a strong commitment to administration, policy and leadership, all in the spirit of the same values that we cherish at CityU.

We believe strongly in the pursuit of excellence in all aspects of performance, giving space to students and faculty to explore their own ideas, interact with people from all over the world and share experiences in a mutually harmonious environment.

This guiding set of ideas has resulted in our successes in terms of new technologies developed through home-grown research, world-wide recognition for our faculty members, the continuous refinement of our academic structure, our subject and overall rankings, increased donations from our supporters in the community as well as the drive and passion of our students.

And so it is with great personal delight that I can welcome all five recipients of our 2019 and 2020 Honorary Doctorates to the CityU family.

Thank you.
