

Welcome Speech by Professor Yeung Kwok-wing, Philip
School Manager
at the Speech Day of Lam Tai Fai College
Friday, November 20, 2009

Mr. Eric Hui, Supervisor Lam, Professor Au, Principal Wu, Parents, Teachers, Graduates and Students,

It is indeed our great honour today to have Mr. Eric Hui, Assistant District Officer of the Shatin District Office, officiating at our Speech Day. On behalf of Supervisor Lam and the Incorporated Management Committee of Lam Tai Fai College, I would like to express our heart-felt thanks to Mr. Hui, and to the Shatin District Office for their continued support since the construction period before the College began to operate in 2004. I would also like to warmly welcome our distinguished guests and parents for their gracious presence this morning.

As we may notice, Hong Kong has come to a cross-road of its economic development, which is characterized by its integration into the economy of Mainland China, the further accelerated globalization of the world economy, increasing competitions from nearby cities, as well as the continuous quest for economic restructuring in Hong Kong. It is noticeable that social changes are therefore intensified, and the pace of change is surely beyond our anticipation. The future seems to be increasingly challenging because of its uncertainty. Of course, this is also a time of opportunity, if our graduates are able to identify clearly as what our community demands for a future leader.

In response to these challenges, a new dimension in our education is needed. We aim at cultivating our young people to be confident and healthy-minded individuals, and preparing them for their self-actualization in a rapidly changing world. Since its operation in 2004, our College has been endeavoring to formulate a school-based curriculum strategy by integrating Health Education, Sports Education, Fashion Design, and Innovative Technology into both of our formal curriculum and our Extended Curriculum, with due emphasis on students' whole-person development as well as fully developing their talents. Learning experiences which are largely related to the extensive and diversified learning opportunities as provided in the above-mentioned "Four Focused Learning Areas" are enriched. Today, we are celebrating the graduation of our first cohort of S.1 intake and our second cohort of S.6 intake. Whether or not will individual graduates be involved in a profession which is relevant to any of the Focused Learning Areas in their future careers, the learning experience they gained in these years shall be equally valuable in broadening their horizon and inspiring them for any future opportunities that may arise.

In actualizing our educational commitments and further sustaining school development, we see the launch of New Senior Secondary Curriculum as a natural extension of our four school-based Focused Learning Areas. Our formerly School Management Committee acknowledged the increasing needs for creating more space to cater for curriculum implementation and multi-dimensional learning. I would like to extend my deepest appreciation to our Supervisor, Dr. Lam, for his unreserved support and generous donation, the School Extension Project will be completed in early next year, most probably by the end of February 2010.

The self-financed billion-dollar project will end up with an eight-storey new annexe, together with a series of additional alterations and renovations to be carried out in the existing school building. To develop our students to become deep thinkers and self-motivated learners by equipping them with collaborative learning and information processing skills, a new library will be located at the second floor of the new annexe, making it more accessible as compared with the existing library at the seventh floor. With an external reading area, exhibition lobby and a spatial indoor area well-fitted out with a discussion room, project room and a computer room, the new library shall be able to support not only reading and individual study, but also interactive learning areas for project-based learning as well as group learning. Sports facilities like Indoor Swimming Pool, enlarged Fitness Center, the second indoor Multi-function Gymnasium which can accommodate a standard basketball court with spectator stands, are designed to meet the needs of the rapid growth of sports development of our students. Considering the provision of healthy school life and community-like relationship in the school, there will also be a student canteen, a staff canteen, a parents' resource center, an open area for multiple functions, and a roof garden.

The above highlights of the School Extension Project can best describe how a mission oriented school is driven under the determination of the School Sponsoring Body and Dr. Lam Tai Fai. With the professional support and active input from all members of the Incorporated Management Committee of the College, the leadership of Principal Wu, and the whole-hearted efforts from our committed teachers and staff, the completion of the project will definitely create ample space for quality learning and student development.

Dear graduates, to cope with newly emerging challenges that result in a more demanding need in education, the College has to strive for continuous growth and sustainable development. It is equally true for individuals. As I have said, if you are able to identify clearly as how our community demands for a future leader, and if you are determined to strive for continuous growth and sustainable development, you shall be able to grasp the best opportunity in front of you. New paths are opening up to you and your life will be well-spent.

I would like to share with you some golden rules which I hope will guide you through your lives: First and foremost, know who you are, identify values and meaning in your life. Be open to new knowledge and appreciate the beauty of individual differences. Develop a sense of values founded on a clear understanding between right and wrong. Accept positive suggestions and acknowledge constructive comments. Take criticism and failures as learning experiences if they are genuine and constructive. You also need to acquire the wisdom to know whether criticism has a positive impact on you or it is derived from misconceptions. Finally, you need to have, of course, the determination to put your well-considered ideas into action. To strive for excellence, I believe, the most important of you will always be continuous efforts in acting according to your self-reflection, as well as your passion for fulfilling your dreams.

I sincerely wish you, our graduates, all the best in your future endeavours. I earnestly hope that you can be well equipped with a reflective mind and a tolerant heart to meet the complex challenges ahead, and that you will turn every criticism into an opportunity, overcome every obstacle with optimism, and create a bright future for you, for your family, and for Hong Kong and our country.

Thank you.