

Professor Xie Heping
Response Speech

Chairman Yang, President Tong, Guests and Friends,

I am deeply honoured to be here today to receive this honorary degree of Doctor of Engineering, *honoris causa*, from The Hong Kong Polytechnic University. As I stand here today, I cannot help but recall that four years ago I was honoured at this University at the special presentation ceremony of the “Distinguished Chinese Visiting Scholars Scheme”. I am very delighted to be here again and I would like to take this opportunity to express my heartfelt gratitude to President Tong as well as to all of you here today.

This honorary doctoral degree not only represents a recognition of my past academic achievements, but it will also give impetus to my future scientific research. Scientific research is a never-ending journey, and I will continue to explore and strive for excellence along the way.

I have a special connection to and an emotional link with PolyU. In the aftermath of the Wenchuan earthquake in 2008, members of the PolyU family, including the President, professors and subject experts, provided full and extremely timely support to

quake-relief and post-disaster reconstruction work. In less than a month, PolyU and Sichuan University jointly established the “Sichuan Post-disaster Reconstruction Support and Research Centre”, which clearly demonstrates PolyU’s national spirit and sense of social responsibility. Over the past two years, we have partnered PolyU in establishing the world’s first “Training Institute on Disaster Management and Reconstruction”. Our two universities have made the necessary contributions to provide mitigation solutions in the face of major disasters.

Today, upon being awarded the honorary doctoral degree, I become an alumnus of PolyU. I will strive to fulfill my duty as a PolyU alumnus to foster deeper friendship and enhance collaboration between the two universities.

This year marks the 75th anniversary of PolyU. I sincerely wish PolyU even greater success in the years ahead. May I wish you all good health and all the best in your endeavours.

Thank you very much!