

**Grand Opening Ceremony of  
OUHK Jockey Club Institute of Healthcare (IOH)  
8 January 2021**

**Welcoming Remarks by Mr Michael Wong Yick-kam, MH, JP  
Chairman of OUHK Council**

The Chief Executive of the Hong Kong SAR **The Honourable Mrs Carrie Lam**,  
Chairman of The Hong Kong Jockey Club **Mr Philip Chen**,  
Pro-chancellor **Dr Charles Lee**,  
Former Council Chairmen **Dr Philip Wu** and **Dr Eddy Fong**,  
Deputy Council Chairman **Dr Conrad Wong**,  
President **Prof. Yuk-Shan Wong**,  
Council and Court members, distinguished guests, colleagues and students,

It is my great pleasure to warmly welcome all of you to the Grand Opening Ceremony of the OUHK Jockey Club Institute of Healthcare. On behalf of the University, I would like to express our deepest gratitude to you for your gracious presence at this difficult time.

In particular, we wish to extend our heartfelt appreciation to our Guest-of-Honour, The Honourable Mrs Carrie Lam, Chief Executive of the Hong Kong SAR; as well as Mr Philip Chen, Chairman of The Hong Kong Jockey Club, for officiating at this memorable occasion via video recordings. Although they could not join us in person, I'd like to sincerely thank them for their tremendous support, without which we could not have realized this important campus development project of our University.

The completion of this new building, OUHK Jockey Club Institute of Healthcare, represents a very significant milestone in the history of the University. With the Institute in place, we are able to expand our campus considerably and create synergy together with the Main Campus and the Jockey Club Campus, providing a much improved teaching and learning environment for all students and staff members.

With more than 30 years of development, the Open University has evolved from a distance learning institution to become a full-fledged university, providing a wide array of full-time and part-time undergraduate and postgraduate programmes in various disciplines.

Over the years, the University has upheld its mission of nurturing students to meet the society's talent needs and making remarkable contributions toward the sustainable development of our society. In view of Hong Kong's ageing population and the surging demand for healthcare professionals, the OUHK has embarked on the IOH project since five years ago and it will house all of the University's health-related facilities under one roof. Today, this new campus building has come into reality, and I am sure all of us at the OUHK take great pride to witness this precious moment.

This magnificent 13-storey new building features a contemporary architectural design and elegant curtain wall outlook, with special green features to the highest standard. It is well equipped with state-of-the-art modern teaching and learning facilities, professional laboratories and centres, as well as a wealth of spacious and contemporary amenities for the OUHK community.

More importantly, the IOH campus provides cutting-edge facilities and equipment to deliver high-quality healthcare programmes for nursing and physiotherapy students. Special facilities include: Digital Virtual Dissection Laboratory, Clinical Simulation Wards, Virtual Reality Education Laboratories, and Physiotherapy Labs encompassing various areas.

I must take this opportunity to thank various parties for their tremendous contributions for helping us realize this long-awaited new campus. First, my heartfelt gratitude goes to the Hong Kong Government for the land grant and the interest-free construction loan. Besides, we are grateful for the generous donation from The Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust, which has given us strong impetus to embark on this ambitious initiative. My sincere appreciation must also be extended to many other donors and supporters who have made invaluable contributions towards this project, as well as to our former Council Chairman, Dr Eddy Fong, and all members of the project's Steering Committee, chaired by Dr Silas Yang and Dr Conrad Wong at different stages. And I must thank the President and all colleagues involved, who have dedicated their expertise and knowledge for helping us make this dream come true.

Looking forward, the University would certainly continue to make our greatest efforts to provide professional and quality education to our students. To tie in with this long-term commitment, the Council has initiated the University's retitling exercise a while ago in order to fade the perception that OUHK is a distance education institution. As you may know, we have just released our new title, Hong Kong Metropolitan University, and we truly believe that this will better reflect our unique characteristics and strategic focuses and to further the University's development in the years ahead.

With our shared vision and commitment, we sincerely invite you to join hands with us to bring the University to new heights in the years to come. Thank you.