澳門科技大學
MACAU UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

**Speech at the Opening Ceremony 2024/2025 and**
**Ceremony for the Conferment of Honorary Doctoral Degrees**
**Vice Chancellor and President of Macau University of Science and Technology**
**Chair Professor Joseph Hun-wei LEE,**
**September 7, 2024**

Your Excellency Ms. Ao Ieong U, Representative of the Chief Executive of the Macao S.A.R. and Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture,
Distinguished Mr. Li Xuefei, Director of the Education and Youth Affairs Department of the Liaison Office of the Central People's Government in the Macao S.A.R.,
Distinguished Dr. Liu Chak Wan, Chancellor and Chairman of the University Council, Macau University of Science and Technology,
Distinguished Professor Zhang Tao,
Distinguished Guests, Teachers, and Students,

Good morning!

On behalf of Macau University of Science and Technology (MUST), I would like to welcome all esteemed guests and new students. Today marks a joyous and celebratory moment. First of all, Congratulations to our freshmen as you embark on a new journey of learning and life. It is also our distinct honor to bestow upon Professor ZHANG Tao an 2024 Honorary Doctoral degree to recognize his extraordinary contributions to society and to humankind.

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Professor Zhang Tao is an international expert who has made outstanding contributions to catalytic materials science research which led to numerous applications in China's aerospace, aviation, and petrochemical industries.

Ladies and Gentlemen, the lifelong honorary doctorate is regarded as the highest honor bestowed by the University, and serves as a recognition of the exceptional accomplishments and contributions of individuals who have made a significant impact in their respective fields or in society as a whole. Welcome Professor Zhang to the MUST family!

**A university on the move**

MUST is a young university on the move, and we have steadily made progress over the past year. In May we celebrated the anniversary of the launch of the Macau Science 1 (MSS1) satellite – and the encouraging congratulatory letter of President Xi Jinping to MUST staff and students who participated in the project. MSS1 has been receiving the world's first accurate measurements of the earth's magnetic field in the lower latitudes for an entire year. Our young space scientists have also been interviewed by the New York Times for their knowledge of the Chang'e-6 mission – first time in the history of Macao. We have recently established the *Institute for Translational Medical Research* to facilitate technology transfer and collaboration between our material scientists and top mainland experts in medicine. Last September the University established the city's first Clinical Trial Center to further enhance the level of clinical scientific research and support our ventures in precision medicine. The MUST LIU's Innovation and Technology Center opened last October is a platform that serves as a bridge between the innovative research on campus and our technology demonstration bases in the Guangdong-Macao In-depth Cooperation Zone in nearby Hengqin, Zhuhai. We have also established a new Institute of Development Economics as well as a collaborative

research center with Peking University on International Chinese Language Education, supported by the Ministry of Education.

Last year, our Faculty of Innovation Engineering also launched four new undergraduate degree programs that are highly sought after. And we also saw the first batch of MBBS medical students entering clinical internship after completion of the 5-year curriculum- benchmarked against rigorous UK standards.

**Study in the AI era**

Dear Students: Your coming years will be a time to gain knowledge and understanding, and to develop strengths and talents. In this cyber age of AI (Artificial Intelligence) and ChatGPT4, where machine generated information and reality are increasingly blurred, we need human ingenuity more than ever. In an age of algorithms, we must not forget the basics: to cultivate intellectual discipline, hold on to common sense and creativity, have sound judgment, and develop a healthy physique.

Here I wish to offer some advice on study and learning in the AI era.

*(i) Cultivate good habits of critical thinking*

Knowledge is power. AI should be guided by wisdom in order to serve humanity well, while wisdom is founded on the basic knowledge and values imparted in a MUST education. Knowledge without wisdom can indeed be dangerous. The first step to wise knowledge is being humble and bold enough to admit one's ignorance when facing the vast expanse of knowledge. Ask questions – ask *why* and *why not*? The famous scientist Albert Einstein once said: "I have no special talent. I am only passionately curious.". When facing challenges and setbacks, hold on to your values and

beliefs. There will be difficult times when you may feel nothing is going right - believe in yourself, stay focused, work hard, and you will succeed. In this technological era, it is more important for you to grasp the fundamentals, to cultivate an inquisitive mind, and to learn how to learn.

*(ii) An open mind for inter-disciplinary education*

Today, AI technology is significantly changing the world and the lives of humans in various ways. It has revolutionized the way we communicate, access information, conduct business, and even entertain ourselves. While these innovations generate immense opportunities, they also raise concerns about safety, security, and equality. There is a need to develop AI systems that people can use with peace of mind and trust, while keeping humans in the center.

In future, both knowledge discovery and the way we learn will be more inter-disciplinary and cross-disciplinary. MUST aims to create an environment where students can try new things. We have stepped up our efforts to build an innovative educational platform, and empower our students to embrace the Big Data era. Examples include the new Bachelor of Engineering in Interdisciplinary Engineering (Technology and Management) degree program, and the Inter-disciplinary Science and Engineering Seminar Series. To promote diversity and foster interdisciplinary, the Faculty of Humanities and Arts introduced new degree programs in Master of Innovative Music and Doctor of Philosophy in Musicology.

In this age of ChatGPT, I believe personal qualities and core values will

remain the most important factors of success. So focus on developing strengths not easily replaced by AI in the university – including mathematics, complex problem solving, language, culture and art, quality control and entrepreneurship – all required to unleash creativity.

*(iii)* *Embrace Diversity and Connect to the World*

Diversity is about learning and respecting other cultures and views. Macao is an international city. Make use of every opportunity to learn to master English well. In this globalized and fast changing world, we need to understand cultures and developments in other parts of the world before we can become competitive. In my recent visits to the United States and Singapore, I observed numerous opportunities for you, our graduates, to serve as ambassadors for China. By promoting intercultural understanding and people-to-people connectivity, you can play a vital role in the success of the Belt and Road Initiative. I can foresee a wealth of job prospects that would greatly benefit from young talents who possess a deep cultural understanding of China and the global landscape. I am confident that MUST graduates are uniquely equipped to excel in these roles, given the comprehensive education we provide.

Ladies and Gentlemen, Macao has a special position in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (GBA). In the coming years, we envision a Macao of increasing strategic global importance. And MUST would have an increasingly important role to play in contributing to the innovation and technology development of the GBA. Like many cities across the country, Macao has been actively formulating talent recruitment policies to diversify its economy. And there will be boundless opportunities for you.




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Dear students, the future belongs to you. I wish you all every success, and a very happy and fruitful university life.

Thank you.