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

Representative of New Postgraduate Students

Kou Qingjia

(Doctor of philosophy in Teaching Chinese as a Foreign Language)

September 7, 2024

Honorable Ms. Ao Ieong U, Representative of the Chief Executive of the Macao S.A.R. and Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture,
Honorable 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.,
Honorable Dr. Liu Chak Wan, Chancellor and Chairman of the University Council, Macau University of Science and Technology,
Honorable Chair Professor Joseph Hun-wei Lee, Vice-Chancellor and President of Macau University of Science and Technology,
Distinguished members of Senior Management, guest, teachers, students, ladies and gentlemen, Good morning!

My name is Kou Qingjia, and I am a new Ph.D. student majoring in Teaching Chinese as a Foreign Language from the University International College (UIC). I am greatly honored to speak on behalf of all the new

postgraduate students today.

When I first arrived in Macao, I was amazed by the broadcast on the bus in four languages: Cantonese, Mandarin, English and Portuguese. Linguistic diversity is in fact a manifestation of cultural diversity. Multilingualism and multicultural environment are not only the unique characteristics of Macao, but also its competitive advantages. To me, Macao is a treasure trove and a precious place for international Chinese education research.

Macao has been opened for more than four hundred years, and the MUST has been established for more than two decades. This uniquely traditional city has nurtured a vibrant cradle for young talent. I remember that before my application to MUST, a fellow student described like this, “MUST is a university that works harder than its students”, which contains the highest compliment from a student towards their alma mater. Well, not to mention her youth, she has risen to the top and managed to be ranked among the top three hundred universities in the world by Times Higher Education! MUST is based in Macao, backed by its motherland, with an eye on the world. It is a place where East meets West, where the ancient and the modern converge, and where literature and science permeate; where the teachers are learned in both the East and the West, and they are highly respected and talented. Here we will receive an intercultural, interdisciplinary, more

international and diverse education in her embrace.

I studied at the University of Nottingham in the UK for my masters, and graduated with distinction. However, my short master's experience did not explain many of my doubts. "How can Chinese culture maintain cultural self-confidence in an era of great cultural impact?" "What are the characteristics of learners that are related to the acceptance of Chinese culture?" All these questions urged me to embark on the path of further academic research. Through my research, I hope to let more people understand Chinese culture through the Chinese language and to help all Chinese language teachers, Chinese language volunteers, and even Chinese people to build up a strong cultural confidence. A few days ago, I attended a symposium of the International Society for Chinese Language Teaching (ISCLT) at MUST and made a presentation at the seminar. During this academic event, I felt what is "the convergence of the East and the West" and what is "the convergence of all schools of thought". MUST's International Chinese Education can be regarded as prestigious. I am also confident that, with this platform, we can achieve greater stability and go even further!

The English poet Eliot once said that we shall not cease from exploration. And the end of all our exploring, will be to arrive where we started, and know the place for the first time. From an elementary school teacher,

middle school teacher to a university teacher, from China to the United States to engage in the practice of Chinese language teaching, from the United Kingdom to Macao in our motherland to conduct research on international Chinese education, my heart is pounding with excitement. Like all the new students here, I have chosen MUST, a rising institution of higher education that is constantly striving for progress, in pursuit of a better self, and in the hope of contributing my share to the society.

What can bring about immortality it's reputation of noble and the good act! Dear fellow students, let's walk with faith, soar high with the dust and clouds of MUST, pursue excellence and contribute to the society! Thank you all!