



澳門科技大學  
MACAU UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

**Speech at the Opening Ceremony 2025/2026**

**Vice Chancellor and President of Macau University of Science and Technology**

**Chair Professor Joseph Hun-wei LEE**

**September 6, 2025**

Distinguished Guests, Teachers, and Students,

Good morning!

Today, we gather on the shores of the South China Sea to jointly embark on a new chapter of the Macau University of Science and Technology (MUST). On behalf of the University, I would like to extend my warmest welcome to all new UG/PG students – as you start a new journey of learning and life.

**A university on the move**

MUST is a young and dynamic university – we just celebrated our 25th Anniversary in March. From very humble beginnings we have developed into an international university with 9 Faculties and over 24,000 students – with over 100+ academic programs in a wide range of disciplines. Currently we have five national research platforms – including the SKL in Mechanism and Quality of Chinese Medicine, SKL in Lunar and Planetary Sciences, and a National Observation and Research Station of Coastal Ecological Environments. Along with 20+ research institutes and centers. MUST space scientists have actively participated in ground breaking projects in collaboration with mainland and international scientists: since May 2023 the Macao Science I satellite has been making the most accurate measurements of the earth's magnetic field – the first of its kind in the world. MUST scientists have won the first ever First-Class Technology Invention Prize in biomedicine awarded by the Macao SAR – for developing small RNA-based novel drugs in Chinese Medicine. We have also established a China-Portugal AI and Public Health Technologies Joint Laboratory with Guangzhou Medical University and INESC-ID in March 2025. This year also saw the completion of internship of our first cohort of MBBS graduates from our Faculty of Medicine – who have met international standards of rigorous external professional examinations. Our Faculty of Innovation Engineering also developed brand new programs in Nanoscience and Nanotechnology, and Space Science and Technology.

And we were extremely honored by the visit of President Xi Jinping on December 19, 2024 – who highly affirmed our achievements in scientific research and education, and gave encouraging guidance for our future development.



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### **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. We live amidst a new wave of generative AI which affects everything we do. Just as the Internet transformed our lives 20 years ago, today's AI is reshaping the methods of research and education, and even our perspectives on understanding the world. AI is also a new battleground for the fierce global competition for scientific leadership.

Here I wish to offer some advice on study and learning.

#### *First, Cultivate good habits of critical thinking*

Knowledge is power. It is critically important to develop critical thinking in the AI era. 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 AI era raises demands on all of us. It is not enough to simply master existing knowledge; there is a need to innovate and propose new ideas and solutions. In the face of vast amounts of data and complex black-box systems, critical thinking is vital for understanding the limitations of information. While AI innovations generate immense opportunities, they also raise concerns about safety, security, and equality. At MUST we have developed a University Policy on AI applications and ethical governance for all students, to provide general guidelines for teaching, learning and research.

#### *Second, Cultivate an open mind for inter-disciplinary education*

AI demands Interdisciplinary integration. Both knowledge discovery and the way we learn are becoming 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 cultivate inter-disciplinarity. This is best seen in a signature AI-MUST course taken by ALL undergraduate students – team taught by our passionate teachers, with the objective of building a good introductory foundation on the power and limitations of AI. Besides the fundamentals, we introduce students to different fields: for example, AI in health – how early diagnosis through image analysis can make precision medicine more accessible to patients; AI in art – how AI can collaborate with artistic creators to generate works of aesthetic expression; AI in science – how AI can predict climate change and disasters using big data, providing decision support for sustainable development. And AI in business analytics and Law.

#### *Third, Embrace Diversity and Connect to the World*

Diversity is about learning and respecting other cultures and views. Diversity is also a source of innovation. 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



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other parts of the world before we can become competitive. In my recent international travels, I observed numerous opportunities for you 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 – and I can foresee many jobs would need young talents who possess a deep cultural understanding of China and the global landscape. To help you to develop a global perspective, some modules of our AI-MUST course are fully taught in English. This will help to improve and perfect your English proficiency – as well as exposing you to cutting-edge international case studies of AI applications.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I believe personal qualities and core values will remain the most important factors of success. In this age of increasingly available digital intelligence, we must not forget the basics: to cultivate intellectual discipline, hold on to common sense, have sound judgment, and develop a healthy physique. Only by preparing ourselves well can we contribute to President Xi's ambitious national goal of becoming a scientifically leading country by 2035.

Albert Einstein once said: "Education is what remains in you when you have forgotten everything that you have learned". The value of education lies not in transient facts but the enduring intellectual capacities that it fosters – critical thinking, character, and learning how to learn. I believe that - working with you together – MUST will provide you with this kind of education.

I wish you every success in your studies at MUST. Thank you.