

THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG

香

港



大

學

THE ONE HUNDRED AND SIXTY-THIRD CONGREGATION



Message from Dr Nelson Mandela

Vice-Chancellor Davies and members of the Honorary Degrees Congregation,

I am sorry that I am unable to be with you all today and let me begin by congratulating the university on its 90th anniversary.

Thank you for this honour, which is being awarded to me on a day when millions of South Africans are celebrating their human rights. Giving a person, no matter their age, access to an education is a fundamental human right.

I have always believed that education is one of the main building blocks of any society. It is a way for people to move forward and to take their destinies into their own hands.

As we steam ahead into the 21st century, education will become key, if millions of people, especially in developing countries, are to participate in a world that is changing every day. Education has become the most important way for us to fight poverty and the scourge of HIV/AIDS. Without education we will not be able to stop new infections, condemning millions of people around the world to die.

We have to continue with and intensify our efforts to educate people about the disease. We have to educate ourselves about caring for those people already living with HIV/AIDS, so that we can offer them the best possible quality of life without any stigmatism.

Let me again express my sincere gratitude for this honour and thank not only the people of Hong Kong but also the whole South East Asia region for the support that they have continued to show my country.

N.R. MANDELA



THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG

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第 一 百 六 十 三 屆 學 位 頒 授 典 禮



曼德拉博士賀辭

(中譯本)

戴校長、各位來賓：

我十分抱歉今天未能與各位一同參與今次盛典。今年是香港大學九十周年紀念，我首先要向大學衷心恭賀。

我非常感謝 貴校今日授予本人名譽法學博士這項榮譽。這天剛是數以百萬南非人民慶祝他們得享人權的日子。有機會接受教育，而不受年齡限制，正是每一個人應享有的基本人權。

我堅信教育是社會進展的磐石，它讓人民得以向前邁進，使他們能夠掌握自己的命運。

踏入二十一世紀，數以百萬計處身在發展中國家的人，無不盼望成為這個瞬息萬變的世界一分子；因此，教育就決定能否達到這個目標。教育是幫助我們對抗貧窮，擺脫愛滋病折磨的極重要的方法；沒有教育，我們將無法停止新的感染，全球數以百萬人民將要面對死亡。

我們必須繼續及加強教育人民認識愛滋病，我們更要教育大眾關懷患有愛滋病的人士，讓他們盡可能享有優質的生活，亦不會受到歧視。

讓我再衷心感謝港大授予這項榮譽，同時也感謝香港及整個東南亞地區的人民一直以來對我的國家的支持。

尼爾遜·曼德拉

